
The International Literature Festival Berlin [ilb] calls upon individuals, schools, universities, the media, and cultural institutions to join a Worldwide Reading on September 11, 2019

Recommended by Alena Makouskaya, Board Member and responsible for the topic Freedom of Expression in the EWC Board

People of the European Union share their thoughts, comment on different events, write articles and books. When depicting their ideas on paper or voicing their opinions, most people do not think that they can be persecuted, get imprisoned or even lose their lives. The openness and freedom of societies where freedom of speech is regarded as one of the most important values, differ from a real threat these simple notions bear in other states. »Worldwide Reading« is one of the most prominent calls for support of the freedom of expression for writers. That is why I highly recommend participating in the event (more information in the paper attached, and in the summary at the end of this letter).

EWC and the Freedom of Expression – Activity Plan 2019/20
The restrictions on the freedom of expression have also many other forms and faces. The existing and strengthening hate-speech against writers in social media discourages them and silences their voices. The so-called »Self-censorship of the market« is also an invisible, but grave problem. More than ever we also need a strong base of facts that would undermine the fake ones in the era of disinformation. It is required to support educational books. Together with EWC members, the EWC Board under the direction of Alena Makouskaya, will develop a strategy to tackle these challenges that European writers have to deal with. More information and an invitation to join the new EWC Working Group will follow after the Board Meeting in Prague (14/15.2019).

Alena Makouskaya
EWC Board Member

WORLDWIDE READING – the Appeal:
The International Literature Festival Berlin [ilb] calls upon individuals, schools, universities, the media, and cultural institutions to join a Worldwide Reading on September 11, 2019 to support freedom of expression. These readings are especially intended to draw attention to the fate of imprisoned or disappeared authors, writers and human rights activists who are denied these rights due to their respective political circumstances. More than 100 authors from 40 different countries have supported this call so far.

If your Association or Union wants to participate at the Worldwide Reading Action, please note the information provided by the initiators in the attached appeal:
»We thus call for participation in the global reading. This can be done privately in a small circle, in a school, in a theater, or through a radio station. For the reading, we will send you a selection of texts by the aforementioned detainees promptly. http://www.worldwide-reading.com/archiv-en/11-09-2019-worlwide-reading-for-freedom-of-expression/aufruf
On 1st of August we will publish them on this website first http://www.worldwide-reading.com/
Please send information about your reading to worldwidereading@literaturefestival.com so that we may communicate the events on our websites, www.literaturfestival.com and www.worldwide-reading.com «