

Item #1. Based on action proposed in the International Relations Committee Report (CD#18.4), approved by Council, add new Policy 58.4.1 (Human Rights & Freedom of Expression): "The ALA shall work with other associations and institutions that belong to IFLA to develop positions and programmatic plans of action in support of human rights and freedom of expression. The president or the member officially representing the Association at IFLA conferences shall be directed to support and carry them out; and, in the absence of such specific direction, the president or the member officially representing the Association at IFLA conferences is empowered to vote on new IFLA resolutions related to human rights and freedom. Their votes shall be guided by ALA's adoption of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the good of the Association."

*Adopted by Council, 1997 Annual Conference
Codified by Council, 1998 Minutes Mtg.*

See 1996-97 CD# 18.4

**RESOLUTION
IFLA, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION**

- Whereas, the American Library Association has endorsed Article 19 of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Whereas, ALA policy 53.1.12 states that "The American Library Association believes that freedom of expression is an inalienable human right, necessary to self-government, vital to the resistance of oppression, and crucial to the course of justice, and further, that the principles of freedom of expression should be applied by libraries and librarians throughout the world;"
- Whereas, IFLA (the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) has endorsed Article 19 and it appears as part of IFLA's long-term policy;
- Whereas, in a resolution, "The importance of freedom of expression and free access to information," adopted by the IFLA General Council, August 1995, IFLA has resolved that "the IFLA General Conference is deeply concerned about increasing infringements on free expression and the free flow of information in many parts of the world, and the mounting cases of abuse and even killing that are being recorded;"
- Whereas, IFLA has further reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring freedom of expression by plans to forming a committee on Access to Information and Freedom of Expression;
- Whereas, matters concerning human rights and freedom of expression are central to the ability of librarians and libraries to serve the needs and interests of their users world-wide;
- Whereas, periodically, the IRC is requested by ALA members that ALA go on record at IFLA conferences opposing the abridgement of human rights and freedom of expression in various countries and
- Whereas, the American Library Association, six other library associations (ALISE, SLA, AALL, MLA, ARL, and ARLS/NA) and many US institutions are members of IFLA;
- Therefore, be it resolved that ALA work with other associations and institutions that belong to IFLA to develop positions and programmatic plans of action in support of human rights and freedom of expression; further
- be it resolved that the IRC receive information regarding issues concerning human rights and freedom of expression; further
- be it resolved that whenever appropriate the IRC shall develop for adoption by the ALA Council positions and specific actions in support of those positions;
- and resolved that the president or the member officially representing the Association at IFLA conferences be directed to support and carry them out and
- be it further resolved that in the absence of such specific direction, ALA Officers or official representatives participating at IFLA conferences are specifically empowered to vote on new IFLA resolutions related to human rights and freedom; their votes shall be guided by ALA's adoption of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the good of the Association.

International Relations Committee

ALA Policies 53.1.12, 58.4

Attachment: IFLA Resolution on Freedom of expression and free access to information, Istanbul, 20-26 August 1995.

MOTION PROPOSED FOR
IFLA Council and General Conference, Istanbul 20.-26. August 1995

THE IMPORTANCE OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND
FREE ACCESS TO INFORMATION

The 1995 IFLA General Conference in Istanbul affirms its commitment to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as stated by the 55. IFLA General Conference 1989.

The IFLA General Conference is deeply concerned about increasing infringements on free expression and the free flow of information in many parts of the world, and the mounting cases of abuse and even killing that are being recorded. Attacks are often directed against writers, journalists, publishers and editors, and those responsible may be governments, groups or parties representing extreme political or religious views.

The IFLA General Conference firmly condemns all violent and other restrictions on freedom of expression, access to information and free debate. These are fundamental rights that enable people and societies to protect and enhance democracy and culture.

The IFLA General Conference recognizes that restrictions on freedom of expression and access to information limit the ability of libraries and librarians to serve the needs and interests of their users and therefore, calls upon all governments to ensure the right to freedom of expression and the free flow of information for their citizens and to protect them from violence, intimidation and threat of punishment in pursuit of these rights.

Proposed by:

- Danmarks Forskningsbiblioteksforening (Danish Research Library Association)
- Bibliotekarforbundet (Union of Danish Librarians)
- Suomen Kirjastoseura (Finnish Library Association)
- Norsk Biblioteksforening (Norwegian Library Association)
- Sveriges Allmänna Biblioteksforening (Swedish Library Association)
- DIK Association, Sweden
- The Association for Documentation (TLS), Sweden
- The Association for Swedish University and Research Librarians (SBS)

Seconded by:

- The Library Association, UK