

IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO READ

Get Involved!

Banned Books Week offers an opportunity for readers to voice censorship concerns, celebrate free expression, and show their communities the importance of intellectual freedom.

Here's what you can do to fight censorship, keep books available in libraries, and promote the freedom to read:



STAY INFORMED

Find out your library's policy for reviewing challenged materials. Stay updated about intellectual freedom by signing up for the free [Intellectual Freedom News](#) newsletter, or reading the [Journal for Intellectual Freedom and Privacy](#).



READ THE BOOKS

Exercise your reading rights. Check out a banned book. Encourage your book club to discuss challenged books. Many challenges to materials are the result of isolated passages taken out of context, so understanding the material is crucial. After reading the material, you will better understand the literary merits of the book as well as the concerns of the challengers, which will prepare you to counter any objections to the material you are trying to defend.



SHARE BOOKS

Purchase a banned book from [Bookshop.org](#) or your local bookstore and give it to someone in need or put it in a [Little Free Library](#) near you! [HarperCollins Children's Publishing is sending out 1000 of our banned books](#) to Little Free Libraries around the country. You can explore more banned books on [LFL's Bookshop page](#) and find registered Little Free Libraries near you on their app – [available for free download](#).

SPEAK OUT & SPREAD THE WORD

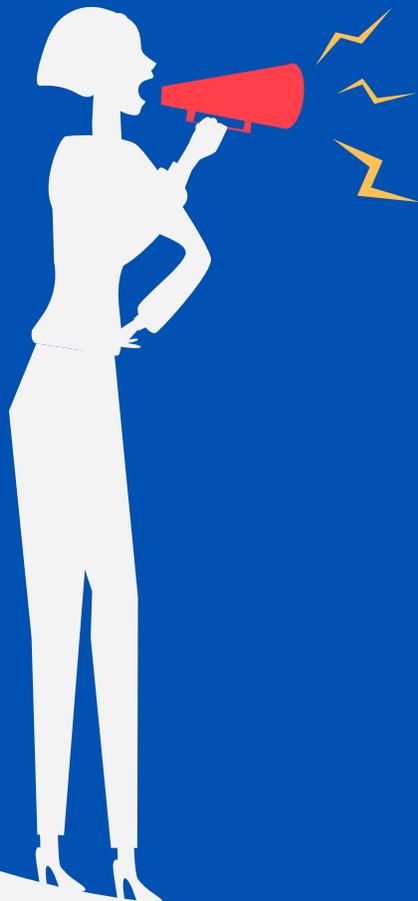
Use the hashtag **#BANNEDBOOKSWEEK** to declare your right to read.



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Knowing your rights when it comes to certain materials being banned is important because it will lend weight to your argument when speaking to people of authority. Nearly all libraries in the US function under the Library Bill of Rights as set by the American Library Association (ALA). [The Library Bill of Rights](#) supports the First Amendment of the US Bill of Rights and protects your right to read materials from all points of view. To fully understand your right to read, take some time and explore the ALA website:

- ✓ [First Amendment and Censorship](#)
- ✓ [The Freedom to Read Statement](#)
- ✓ [Schools and Minors' Rights](#)



REPORT CENSORSHIP

The [ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom \(OIF\)](#) reports that though they receive information about numerous bans/challenges, they estimate that the numbers are lower than reality because many challenges are not being reported. Censorship thrives in ignorance. The best way to prevent it is to make sure that free expression advocates know it's happening, even if an official challenge hasn't been made yet. If a book is challenged at your school or public library, please report it.

REPORT CENSORSHIP TO:

- ! The American Library Association at <http://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report>
- ! The Comic Book Legal Defense Fund at <http://cblddf.org/report-censorship/> or emailing info@cblddf.org
- ! The Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression at <https://www.thefire.org/resources/submit-a-case/>
- ! The National Coalition Against Censorship at <https://ncac.org/report-censorship>
- ! The National Council of Teachers of English at <https://ncte.org/report-censorship-incident/> or by emailing intellectualfreedom@ncte.org



[Little Free Library](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries. Little Free Library believes all people are empowered when the opportunity to discover a personally relevant book to read is not limited by time, space, or privilege. Through Little Free Library book exchanges, millions of books are exchanged each year, profoundly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds.



[HarperCollins Children's Books](#) is one of the leading publishers of children's and teen books. Respected worldwide for its tradition of publishing quality, award-winning books for young readers, HarperCollins Children's Books is a division of HarperCollins Publishers, which is the second largest consumer book publisher in the world, has operations in 17 countries, and is a subsidiary of News Corp. You can visit HarperCollins Children's Books at www.harperkids.com and www.epicreads.com and HarperCollins Publishers at corporate.HC.com



[Bookshop.org](#) connects readers with independent booksellers all over the world. They believe local bookstores are essential community hubs that foster culture, curiosity, and a love of reading, and they're committed to helping them survive by offering ecommerce tools and financial support to help them maintain their presence in local communities.



[The Banned Books Week Coalition](#) is an international alliance of diverse organizations joined by a commitment to increase awareness of the annual celebration of the freedom to read. The Coalition seeks to engage various communities and inspire participation in Banned Books Week through education, advocacy, and the creation of programming about the problem of book censorship.



[United Against Book Bans](#) is a national initiative to empower readers everywhere to stand together in the fight against censorship. Although book bans are nothing new, there were more censorship attempts in 2021 than at any time since the American Library Association began tracking more than two decades ago. Together, we will raise a voice for everyone's freedom to read.