



The New York Library Association Stands Firm in Commitment to Intellectual Freedom Amidst Backlash Towards American Library Association's President, Emily Drabinski

On November 18, 2021, the New York Library Association's Council adopted [the following position statement on Intellectual Freedom](#). In our statement, we reaffirmed our commitment to "...the rights of all patrons to access information on a variety of topics and viewpoints without restrictions, which is a fundamental act of participation in a democracy."

This commitment extends to any attempt to silence or censor our most marginalized communities that our libraries serve, including and not limited to the LGBTQ+ community. We cannot uphold our core values of democracy and intellectual freedom if we are challenged and threatened by individuals (or parties) who refuse to accept those who are different from them.

With the uptick of challenges to books and programs featuring the LGBTQ+ community, it is not surprising to hear the recent uproar of lawmakers across the country calling for the defunding of the American Library Association. We know clearly that their concerns are rooted in their discomfort at the power of an outspoken and public member of the LGBTQ+ community being exactly who she is without fear.

Libraries are rooted in our commitment to the freedom of information by providing materials and programming that represents perspectives from marginalized communities. We have a unique responsibility to empower our communities by providing these diverse viewpoints because diversity is the core, not the crux, of a strong democracy. We will not fall silent when our library community is threatened.

Therefore, we condemn the backlash towards the American Library Association's President, Emily Drabinski, and stand with all librarians and libraries who continue to uphold the core principles of our profession without fear.