

Resolution to Repeal the USA PATRIOT Act

Whereas the ALA Council passed a resolution on January 20, 2003, calling for the repeal of the USA Patriot Act; and whereas IFLA's Board of Directors passed a resolution on January 20, 2003, calling for the repeal of the USA PATRIOT Act;

And whereas several bills are pending in the US Congress to amend or repeal the USA PATRIOT Act;

And whereas at its August 2003 meeting in Berlin, IFLA passed a strong resolution condemning national security legislation which violates fundamental human rights to privacy and unhampered access to information in the name of national security, and calls for the repeal or amendment of all such legislation in order to protect these rights; (Resolution 3 attached)

And whereas the IFLA Resolution 3 calls upon member organizations to respond on this matter to the IFLA Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAFE) Office;

Therefore be it resolved that IFLA urge its member organizations to support the USA PATRIOT Act;

And resolved that this resolution be presented to IFLA FAFE Office for further discussion.

Introduced by Al Kagan
Seconded by Mitch Freedman

IFLA Resolution 3, passed in Berlin, August 2003

Whereas IFLA understands the importance of national security legislation in accordance with international conventions to fight terrorism;

And whereas almost all national security legislation in the United States, and elsewhere, specifically includes provisions for libraries,

And whereas IFLA has drawn attention to the negative consequences for libraries, librarians, and library users of the USA PATRIOT Act;

And whereas national security legislation should not infringe existing civil and privacy rights;

Therefore be it resolved that IFLA deplores national security legislation which violates fundamental human rights to privacy and unhampered access to information in the name of national security, and calls for the repeal or amendment of all such legislation in order to protect these rights;

And be it resolved that this resolution be disseminated worldwide, and specifically to all national library associations, and that they respond on this matter to the FAFE Office of IFLA."