

Resolution Ensuring Intellectual Freedom and the Right to Peacefully Assemble at ALA Conferences and Meetings

Whereas, ALA is widely known as a strong advocate for intellectual freedom and “i states, “Freedom of express government [and] Freedom assembly, and association;” (<http://www.ala.org/advoca>

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Whereas, the establishment of any policies governing internal free speech and assembly during ALA conferences and meetings must uphold the values of intellectual freedom, free expression, and peaceful assembly;

Whereas, any policies restricting freedoms of expression during ALA conferences and meetings should be implemented only after wide consultation throughout the Association;

Whereas, the ALA Conference Services Office recently posted additional language in the “Statement on Appropriate Conduct at ALA Conferences” establishing a free speech zone called “The Square” during ALA conferences and meetings;

Whereas, the additional language about “The Square” had not been widely shared across ALA before being added to the “Statement on Appropriate Conduct at ALA Conferences;”

Whereas, the “Square” language was quickly removed due to membership opposition to such an abruptly imposed and restrictive policy;

Resolved, that the American Library Association Council:

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