



# THE IPA FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION DEFENDERS AWARD



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## The IPA Freedom of Expression Defenders Award

Founded in 1896, the International Publishers Association is the largest federation of publishers' associations with 105 members in 84 countries. Since its founding the IPA has been built on two pillars, the promotion of copyright and the protection of the freedom to publish. In 2006, the IPA created a freedom to publish prize for brave publishers who put themselves at risk to publish the works of others – the prestigious *IPA Prix Voltaire*.

The freedom to publish sits alongside the freedom of expression and the freedom to read as an essential trinity of freedoms. To recognize those from the broader book sector who strive to secure these freedoms for future generations, the IPA decided to launch *the Freedom of Expression Defenders Award* in 2025.

### What is the IPA Freedom of Expression Defenders Award?

*The IPA Freedom of Expression Defenders Award* recognizes companies or organisations related to the book sector who have demonstrated their commitment to the freedom of expression, the freedom to publish and the freedom to read in their activities. An example might be a coalition who fought against restrictive laws, or an association that organises an event to raise awareness about the above-mentioned freedoms.

### How is the IPA Freedom of Expression Defenders Award different from the Prix Voltaire or the Prix Voltaire Special Award?

*The Prix Voltaire* recognizes individual publishers who put themselves at risk to uphold the freedom to publish through their publishing work.

*The Prix Voltaire Special Award* is a posthumous prize that recognizes individuals from the book sector more broadly who have demonstrated bravery in upholding the freedom to publish or freedom of expression.

### Who can be nominated?

Publishing houses, publishers' associations, trade fairs or forums, civil society organisations/institutions, international organisations are examples of possible nominees. Nominees must be connected to the book sector and have demonstrated a commitment to promoting or defending the freedom to publish, the freedom to read and the freedom of expression. Individuals may be nominated for work they have done promoting the trinity of freedoms but not for, for example, books they have authored.

### Who can nominate?

Only publishers and publishers' associations can submit nominations for the award. This will be reviewed after three years to consider whether a broader scope for nominators is appropriate.

### Who is the jury?

The IPA's Freedom to Publish Committee is the Jury for the prize.

### Is this a monetary prize ?

No

### What is the nominating period?

The call for nominations opens in January and closes 2 months later. Evaluation and due diligence is conducted over the next 3 months. Ceremony preparations over the final 3-4 months.

### When will the winner be announced?

The winner will be announced at an annual ceremony at, or on the fringes of **Frankfurt Book Fair**.

### Differentiation of IPA Freedom to Publish Prizes

	Prix Voltaire	Special Award	IPA Freedom of Expression Defenders Award
<b>Eligible</b>	- Publishers	- Individuals	- Book sector, NGOs, International organisations
<b>Who nominates</b>	- Anyone	- Anyone	- Publishers - Publishers' associations
<b>Criteria</b>	- Publisher - Demonstrated bravery - Upholding Freedom to Publish	- Posthumous - Book sector - Commitment to freedom of expression and freedom to publish	- Support for the trinity of freedoms (freedom of expression, freedom to read, freedom to publish)
<b>Frequency</b>	Annual	Occasional	Annual