

Declaration

of unity amongst Independent Publishers

Economic & financial globalization affects all human activity and daily widens the gap between the rich and the poor. The publishing sector is equally concerned with the logics of this dominance, although its essential responsibility is to disseminate ideas, analyses and proposals that help us to face the main challenges of our time.

Independent publishers are at present suffering from heavy economic pressures, in the context of financial concentration in their sector, which is increasingly being dominated by monopolistic groups resulting in predatory effects for local markets. Such pressures hamper their capacity to disseminate and debate ideas, values and proposals. Moreover, in many countries, their freedom of expression, of creation and of diffusion is limited.

We, sixty independent publishers coming from 35 countries across the world, gathered in Dakar from December 1st to 4th, strongly affirm that the book is a common, public good, and not a mere commodity, and that regulations different from only those of the market are necessary.

We commit ourselves to sharing and pooling together our knowledge & professional expertise and behaviour based on the principles of solidarity, social justice, peace and rejection of prejudice. We affirm that the book has an essential role in enriching imaginative and educational processes, social development and in building citizenship.

Declaration

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Independent Publishers*

As independent, committed and fraternal publishers, we wish to unite in action on the basis of a common ethics, and at the same time to promote cultural diversity.

We affirm our will to defend and promote independent publishing. Against the spirit of concentration, we resolve to promote the spirit of association. We wish to contribute together to democratizing access to the book, to the free circulation of ideas and publications.

We are committed to collectively promoting, among ourselves, solidarity-based commercial agreements, especially by initiating and developing co-publishing, translation and dissemination between and among publishers of the South and the North.

We want to reinforce local production and creation, and achieve a better balance and dialogue between different cultures. We believe in the necessity of « bookdiversity ».

We commit ourselves to act in solidarity, together with other professionals in the area of publications, to influence the international negotiations concerning cultural diversity, and on the development of public policies for books & reading.

We strongly affirm our solidarity with publishers in countries where freedom of expression is limited.

We are conscious of our responsibility, and we want to take an active part, at our level, to help create a world civil society, for an alternative, humane and solidarity-based globalization.

Dakar, December 4th, 2003

GÉRARD AIMÉ, Alternatives Publishing House (FRANCE)
MARIE-AGATHE AMOIKON FAUQUEMBERGUE, Éburnie Publishing House (IVORY COAST)
FALAMAK BARDAEI, Nashre-e Baztabnegar Publishing House (IRAN)
NOUREDDINE BEN KHADER, Cérés Publishing House (TUNISIA)
BICHR BENNANI, Tarik Publishing House (MOROCCO)
MERCEDES CALERO, Editorial Laboratorio Educativo (VENEZUELA)
NICOLAS CALVÉ, Écosociété Publishing House (CANADA)
INDU CHANDRASEKHAR, Tulika Publishing House (INDIA)
ANNA DANIELI, Trilce Publishing House (URUGUAY)
MAGGIE DAVEY, Jacana Publishing House (SOUTH AFRICA)
OSCAR DE SOUZA, Flamboyant Publishing House (BENIN)
ABOUBAKAR DIOP, Xamal Publishing House (SENEGAL)
SERGE DONTCHUENG KOUAM, University Presses of Africa (CAMEROON)
IÑAKI EGAÑA, Txalaparta Publishing House (SPAIN)
MOHAMED ELGUINDI, Dar Al-Alam Al-Tahlit Publishing House (EGYPT)
MARC ETSÉ, Haho Publishing House (TOGO)
HAMILTON JOSÉ B. FARIA, Polis Publishing House (BRAZIL)
MÜGE GURSOY SOKMEN, Metis Publications (TURKEY)
RICARDO HERRERO-VELARDE, Popular Publishing House (SPAIN)
LEYLA HOSSEINKHANI, Agah Publishing House (IRAN)
HAMIDOU KONATÉ, Jamana Publishing House (MALI)
MAGDA KOTZIA, Exandas Publishing House (GREECE)
BÉATRICE LALINON GBADO, Ruisseaux d'Afrique Publishing House (BENIN)
JOÃO LEAL, Moçambique Editora (MOZAMBIQUE)
XIAOYAN LIANG, coordinator for the Chinese speaking network (CHINA)
EDMOND VII MBALLA ELANGA, Akoma Mba Publishing House (CAMEROON)
ANNE-MARIE MÉTAILLIÉ, Métailié Publishing House (FRANCE)
AUGUSTE MOUSSIROU MOUYAMA, Du Silence Publishing House (GABON)
JEAN-CLAUDE NABA, Sankofa and Gurli Publishing House (BURKINA FASO)
FATH-EL-RAHMAN OSMAN, Khadamat al Moustaqbal Publishing House (SUDAN)
EDDY PENNEWAERT, Colophon Publishing House (BELGIUM)
LIDIO PERETTI, Vozes Publishing House (BRAZIL)
LUC PIRE, Luc Pire Publishing House (BELGIUM)
MARGARITA PIZARRO, Aldus Publishing House (MEXICO)
JOSÉ ANTONIO QUIROGA, Plural Publishing House (BOLIVIA)
CLAUDE RABENORO, Tsipika Publishing House (MADAGASCAR)
BLAKE RADCLIFFE, Other Press (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
JEAN RICHARD, en bas Publishing House (SWITZERLAND)
GARY ROSENBERG, The Human Sciences Research Council Publishers (SOUTH AFRICA)
SHARON ROTBARD, Babel Publishing House (ISRAEL)
RADKO SHOPOV, Sema-RSh Publishing House (BULGARIA)
ABDULAI SILA, Ku Si Mon Publishing House (GUINEA-BISSAU)
PAULO SLACHEVSKY, Lom Publishing House (CHILE)
MAMADOU ALIOU SOW, Gandal Publishing House (REPUBLIC OF GUINEA)
BERNARD STEPHAN, L'Atelier Publishing House (FRANCE)
GUERRIVALDO TOMÁS, Chá de Caxinde Publishing House (ANGOLA)
MOHAMED UMAR, Zed Books (UNITED KINGDOM)
BENOÎT VERDEAUX, Charles Léopold Mayer Publishing House (FRANCE)
CRISTINA WARTH, Pallas Publishing House / association LIBRE (BRAZIL)
MUNA ZIAD, Cadmus Publishing House (SYRIA)

The Alliance of Independent Publishers is a non-profit-making association governed by French legislation, set up in spring 2002 on the initiative of a small group of book professionals. By gradually setting up an international network of publishers, working independently of the major publishing groups, who meet regularly and work together on publishing projects, the Alliance of Independent Publishers is contributing to the circulation of ideas and the building of an international civil society.

The Alliance is committed to promoting solidarity-based commercial agreements between its members, in particular by inspiring and developing co-publishing processes. Linguistic networks (French-speaking, English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, Arabic-speaking etc.) have been set up for some aspects of our work. Many publishing projects have got off the ground, including international co-published collections : Global Issues, Near and Far, Keywords.

The Alliance of Independent Publishers coordinates these projects, leads the linguistic networks and organises meetings with its members.



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