

# WALTIC Resolution

Writers' and Literary Translators' International Congress  
29 June – 2 July 2008, Stockholm, Sweden

Literature is a source of knowledge with the strength to empower entire populations. WALTIC underlines the *Value of Words* by stating the fact that human rights are profoundly associated with the growth of literacy and to the creation and dissemination of literature of all kinds.

**Literacy, freedom of expression and authors' rights** are keys to the never-ending pursuit of truth, for the development of societies based on democratic and humanitarian values as well as for the individual aspiring to express his or her unique knowledge and experience.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted and proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 10th, 1948, states that:

**Article 19:** Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

**Article 26 (1):** Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory.

**Article 27 (2):** Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

**Increasing literacy** is essential to improvement of welfare and democratic processes, and to the safeguarding of human rights. The right to education and access to a rich flora of literature for children are important tools in the struggle against illiteracy. WALTIC urges all the countries of the world to initiate and support national and international efforts to increase literacy.

**Safeguarding freedom of expression** makes it possible for both the ordinary citizen and decision makers to better understand the world around them and thus to make informed decisions. WALTIC demands that writers and translators, in carrying out their professions, must be actively protected by national and international law.

**Strengthening authors' rights** in the digitalized world is a new challenge. Digital tools provide writers and translators with the means to overcome censorship and to find new ways of making their literature available. In order to make it possible for the free and independent author to remain in control of his or her text, WALTIC demands that authors' rights be upheld and developed nationally and internationally.

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**We demand of ourselves and everyone, including organizations, institutions, enterprises, authorities and governments, to take an active stand to:**

**Increase literacy | Safeguard freedom of expression | Strengthen authors' rights**

**Let us make the tale of the world available to all.**