

Writers, Beware

Document-in-Progress (Latest Update: October 16, 2024)

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Sadly, too often within our literary and literary-adjacent communities, expressions of concern for the welfare of innocent Palestinians—concern that I, as well as the vast majority of Jewish and Israeli writers of my acquaintance, share—are compromised by both distortions of the historical record and ongoing demonization of the state of Israel, Israelis, and/or the vast majority of Diaspora Jews who are *not* anti-Zionists. Too frequently, such expressions cross the line and traffic in misinformation, disinformation, and outright antisemitic rhetoric and tropes. Elsewhere, a pointed absence of concern for Israeli/Jewish welfare—discernible in complete erasure of Israeli/Jewish experience—is equally problematic. All of this is upsetting and dangerous when it happens in any environment; it's particularly painful for those of us who inhabit writing- and publishing-focused spaces where we esteem prevailing values of both allyship and, importantly, *accuracy*.

Alas, for many of us, encountering these toxic tendencies in literary communities is hardly new. But since October 7, these patterns have been particularly pronounced. Anyone who is troubled by their presence and amplification can choose to address them in [a variety of ways](#).

Some may seek to attempt constructive one-to-one dialogue, privately—especially where a friendship or productive professional relationship already exists. Some, noting not only the organizational statements but also the masthead and other literary leadership positions that many open-letter signatories have opted to disclose, may simply—even silently—reconsider their own individual choices to submit work to or otherwise participate in supporting, even indirectly, certain journals, presses, or projects. And of course, as writers, we all have the capacity to share our own research, experiences, and perspectives in our own words: on social media, within our own newsletters or blogs, or within work that we pitch and publish more broadly.

Whatever your choices may be, they should be informed ones. Please consider the following publicly-available information a resource to help you as you make them.

NB: For additional background and insights into what makes the materials shared below so problematic, please consult another document-in-progress: [“After October 7: Readings, Recordings, and More.”](#) Note especially Rabbi Toby Manewith’s [“Is It Antisemitism? If It Is, Now What? Guidance for a Post-October 7th World”](#) and the Jewish Book Council’s [“Reporting Antisemitism in the Literary World.”](#)

Collective Statements

- Independent Publishers Caucus [“Resolution in Support of a Ceasefire in Gaza.”](#) (Per *Publishers Weekly*, ratified July 16.)
- [“To the Giller Foundation: Cut Ties with Genocide.”](#) July 10.
- [Announcement of “Initiation of an Academic and Cultural Boycott of Columbia University and Barnard College.”](#) Spring 2024.
- [Open Letter to PEN America](#). March 13. (Related: [a subsequent letter.](#))
- [Open Letter to SCBWI](#). Noted as open for signatures late February.
- [“Open Letter to PEN America.”](#) February 3.
- [KidLit4Ceasefire](#). (Received signatures until January 28.)
- [“An Open Letter in Support of the Scotiabank Protestors at the Giller Prize Ceremony.”](#) (No specific date; followed the November 13 ceremony.)
- [“Publishers for Palestine: Statement of Solidarity.”](#) November 3.
- [Writers Against the War on Gaza](#). October 26. (See also [this undated list](#) of presses, journals, and other organizations identified as having endorsed the Palestinian Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel [PACBI].)
- [“Stop the Genocide in Gaza/Artists Against Apartheid”](#) (*Overland Literary Journal*). October 21.
- [“An Open Letter on the Situation in Palestine”](#) (*London Review of Books*). October 18.
- [“An Open Letter from Participants in the Palestine Festival of Literature”](#) (*New York Review of Books*). October 14.
- [Booksellers for Palestine](#). n.d.
- [“2023 Statement on Gaza”](#) (Librarians and Archivists with Palestine). n.d.
- [“Taking Sides: To the Board of the Poetry Foundation and the Editors of Poetry”](#). N.d. (Related: [“Against Genocide: An Update on Boycott of the Poetry Foundation, and Holding Cultural Institutions Responsible”](#))
- [Writers in Solidarity with Palestine](#). n.d.

From Individual Literary (or Literary-Adjacent) Journals/Presses/Groups/Organizations/Agencies

- [Black Warrior Review](#). (n.d., but the linked call specifies that work will be published in issue 51.2 [Fall/Winter 2025].)
- [Bookish Brews](#). August 9.
- [The Second Shelf](#). July 10.
- [Disability Visibility Project](#). June 30.
- [CRIT Awards](#). June 14.
- [The Arrow](#). June 3.
- [Brawl](#). Launched late May/early June. (Of relevance: note co-founders/EICs’ inclusion of “zionism” among the -isms that “neither of [them] like”)
- [Fragments](#). May 30.
- [About Place](#). May 29.
- [The Miramichi Reader](#). May 20.

- [The Shipman Agency](#). May 12
- [Headwater Literary Management](#). May 8.
- [South Asian Avant-Garde](#). May 7.
- [The New Inquiry](#). May 7.
- [Immigrantly Media](#). May 3.
- [Phoebe](#). April 29.
- [Left Voice](#). April 25.
- [Mason Jar Press](#). April 11.
- [Lunate](#). April 10.
- [Poetry Northwest](#). April 5.
- [Parenthesis](#). April 2.
- [Anomalous Press/Anmly](#). April. (Of note, among other items: the EIC's introduction to the poetry in that issue.)
- [Air/Light](#)'s "Gaza Diaries" project. Spring 2024. (Of note: "Editor's Introduction" and "Messages of Concern: An Introduction.")
- [Writers Resist](#). March 27.
- [Alien Buddha Press](#). March 25.
- [Atmospheric Quarterly](#). March 19. (Of relevance: end of editors' note.)
- [Sixty Inches from Center](#). March 22.
- [ONLY POEMS](#). March 14. (Of relevance, in order: the editor's note appended to the winning poem on the site; the journal's requests for "solidarity" in the face of critique on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#); and [this tweet](#).)
- [The Offing](#). March 11. (Of relevance: "align[ment] in practice" with [PACBI](#).)
- [Southern Review of Books](#). March 7.
- [Invisible City](#). March 2024. (Of relevance: editors' introduction to Issue 8.)
- [The Normal School](#). February 28.
- [Joyland](#). February 27. (Of relevance: the "[underlying guidelines](#)" referenced within their statement.)
- [The Markaz Review](#). January 21.
- [Asymptote](#). January 12. (Of relevance: blog entries, beginning this date, tagged "Gaza genocide".)
- [The Blunt Space, Inc.](#) January 9.
- [The Tiny](#). January 8.
- [Broadkill Review](#) (guidelines for January/February 2024 submissions).
- [Feminist Press](#) (guidelines posted late 2023/early 2024).
- [Worlds of Possibility](#). December 25. (Of relevance: [editor's note](#) explaining solicitation of the linked essay.)
- [Hospitalfield](#). December 22.
- [Ugly Duckling Presse](#). December 21.
- [Gutslut Press](#). December 17.
- [So to Speak](#). December 15.
- [Electric Literature](#). December 14.
- [The Boiler](#). December 7.
- [Poetry Bulletin](#). December 6.

- [Lampblack Lit](#). December 1. (Note [full statement](#).)
- [The Capilano Review](#). November 30.
- [The Suburban Review](#). November 29.
- [Rising Phoenix Review](#). November 22.
- [Sine Theta](#). November 20.
- [Poetry Birmingham](#). November 21.
- [Agni](#). November 21.
- [Sine Theta](#). November 20.
- [Metatron Press](#). November 19.
- [Verso Books](#). November 18.
- [Meridians](#). November 17.
- [FlowerSong Press](#). November 17.
- [Querencia Press](#). November 16.
- [Winning Writers](#) (consult editor Jendi Reiter's "Last Word" column at the conclusion of the November newsletter). November 15.
- [Nightboat Books](#). November 15. (Of relevance: adherence to [PACBI](#).)
- [Full Stop](#). November 14.
- [Poetry London](#), November 13.
- [Comma Press](#), November 13.
- [Essay Press](#), November 12.
- [Bell Press](#), November 10.
- [Skin Deep](#). November 9.
- [Just Femme & Dandy](#). November 9.
- [A Velvet Giant](#). November 8.
- [Best of the Net](#) (Sundress Publications). November 7.
- [Augur](#). November 7.
- [Scalawag](#). November 6.
- [Daraja Press](#). November 3.
- [Tin House](#). November 2.
- [Recesses](#). October 31.
- [Ethel. a Micro Press](#). October 29.
- [Annulet: A Journal of Poetics](#). October 28.
- [Foglifter Press](#). October 24.
- [Diode Editions](#). October 23.
- [Crip News](#). October 23.
- ["A statement of solidarity with Palestinian people that Joy Priest shared while hosting the Fellows Reading from the 2023 Ruth Lilly and Dorothy Sargent Rosenberg Poetry Fellows."](#) October 21.
- [Split This Rock](#). October 20.
- [Apogee](#). October 20.
- [Parapraxis](#). October 19.
- [the87press](#). October 18.
- [Room magazine](#). October 18.
- [Fifth Wheel Press](#). October 18.

- [Steamy Lit Con](#). October 17. (Note also [this post](#)—which would have seemed to indicate an improvement—and [this one](#), which, as the targeted author [has explained](#), does not.)
- [Mizna](#). October 17.
- [Brooklyn Poets](#). October 17.
- [Storm Cellar](#). October 15.
- [Protean](#). October 15.
- [Lambda Literary](#). October 14.
- [Kundiman](#). October 13. (Note also [this May 2024 information](#).)
- [Haymarket Books](#). October 11.
- [Game Over Books](#). October 9.
- [Adi](#). October-December.
- [The Amazine](#). n.d. (Of relevance: message on the site sidebar.)
- [Belladonna* Collective](#). n.d. (Of relevance: Homepage announces adherence to BDS/PACBI.)
- [Black Warrior Review](#). n.d. (Of relevance: bottom of the guidelines page.)
- [Canthus](#). n.d.
- [manywor\(l\)ds](#). n.d. (Of relevance: “Things to note” section announces that they “don’t tolerate...zionism.”)
- [Real Time and Space](#). n.d.
- [Speakeasy](#). n.d.
- [The Turning Leaf](#). n.d. (Of relevance: Guidelines announce that they “do not tolerate writing that is or contributors that are...zionist, or otherwise harmful and will not consider such submissions.”)
- [Jas Perry \(KT literary\)’s manuscript wish list](#). n.d.
- [Beth Phelan \(Gallt & Zacker\)’s official Manuscript Wish List \(MSWL\) page](#). n.d.
- [Larissa Melo Pienkowski \(Jill Grinberg Literary Management\)’s official Manuscript Wish List \(MSWL\) page](#). n.d.
- [Guernica](#) has redoubled its anti-Israelist emphasis, notably (but not only) by re-packaging earlier content in [an e-book released November 6](#). Note also [this March 2024 episode](#).
- [Jewish Currents](#). Multiple dates/overall coverage.
- [Literary Hub](#). Multiple dates/overall coverage.
- [Chrome Baby](#). (A correspondent brought this one to my attention in April 2024; you’ll note the statement regarding exclusion of Israeli writers dates from 2016.)

Hard-to-Classify

- [“On #AWP25, Zionism, and Israel.”](#) October 8.
- [“Global Inclusive Representation in Independent Bookstores.”](#) August 19.
- [“is your fav author a zionist?” spreadsheet](#) (evidently a work-in-progress; subsequently removed after it was deemed to have violated terms of service).