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**If you would like to sign this letter - thank you!**

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**An Open Letter to The Women's Prize and Good Housekeeping Magazine**

**Re: The Women's Prize/bid for a win in a bit more Good Housekeeping Magazine Futures  
10 new prize force in a Women writers under the age of 35.**

(as reported in The Bookseller on 9th August 2021:

[https://www.thebookseller.com/news/womens-prize-fiction-launches-under-35-initiative-good-housekeeping-1274952?utm\\_source=Adestra&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=&utm\\_content=&utm\\_campaign=Morning%20Briefing%20-%20090821](https://www.thebookseller.com/news/womens-prize-fiction-launches-under-35-initiative-good-housekeeping-1274952?utm_source=Adestra&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=Morning%20Briefing%20-%20090821))

Wednesday 11th August

We were delighted to hear about the new prize for women writers in the UK and Ireland, co-created by two beloved institutions: The Women's Prize, which has revolutionised the literary landscape for women writers since the 1990s, and Good Housekeeping Magazine, a champion of older women in all walks of life. Your national and international reputations mean that your prize will surely contribute to the success of many emerging authors.

However, we are deeply troubled by the age limit you have set on your award.

The Women's Prize, founded in response to the statistic that The Booker Prize had, before 1992, featured no shortlist of more than 10% women, is well aware that many women lacked the support and encouragement to begin a writing career in the 1990s. Those who are emerging now, deserving belated support, will not, at present, be eligible for your prize.

Age is a feminist issue. Though the climate for emerging women writers has improved considerably since the 1990s, it is still not even. Older women suffer from a greater imbalance in free time, education, and financial parity with men, when compared to their counterparts in younger generations. These are all factors that affect their ability to commit to regular writing practice.

Support for entry to creative practice at any age is particularly relevant to women whose ability to commit to writing is slowed or interrupted by care responsibilities. A 2021 UK survey by Price Waterhouse Coopers reports that "Women now spend 7.7 more hours per week on childcare

than men. This 'second shift', adding up to 31.5 hours per week, equates to almost an extra full-time job." The average age of a first time mother in the UK was, in 2019, 28.2 years old. During the crucial years before your prize's age limit, women writers with children are likely to have less time to commit to writing, especially if they cannot afford to pay for childcare.

Whatever any individual woman's care responsibilities, having the time to put aside to pursue a writing project is linked to financial capacity. In 2020, the gender pay gap among all UK employees was 15.5% in favour of men. Though it was close to zero for full-time employees aged under 40 years, it was over 10% for older age groups. In addition, Price Waterhouse Coopers reports that "More women than men are employed in the sectors hardest hit by COVID-19; women's job losses outpaced men's in 2020."

Many women beginning writing careers later in life have experienced not only sexism, but intersectional obstacles due to gender, class and racial prejudice, disability and illness. It is the most culturally marginalized women who face the most obstacles, and are often slowed in establishing a writing career.

An age barrier, separating younger from older women, sadly echoes received perceptions of women in society. The association of "exciting, boundary changing, authentic, inspirational, heartbreaking fiction writing" with younger writers plays into notions of marketable younger women, and invisible older women, ideas we're convinced you would not want to perpetrate.

An upper age-limit is a common feature of writing awards open to all genders, part of a literary climate that affects women disproportionately for the reasons given above. National and international respect for The Women's Prize and Good Housekeeping Magazine may encourage other prizes to set an age-limit. It would be gravely sad to see two such champions of women put into place a rule that particularly disadvantages the most disadvantaged emerging women writers and favours those with the cultural confidence, time and money to commit to a writing career while young. However, if you took the opportunity to remove this limit, you would set a worldwide example in support of excellent women writers from more diverse backgrounds in terms of class, race, gender and ability.

We write as women writers and their allies, as older people and as younger. We hope you will read and acknowledge our letter, and we call on you to remove the age limit from this award and expand your generosity to a wider and more diverse community of emerging women writers.

(Please scroll to the base of the list, click, and add your name - thank you!)

1. 1 Joanna Walsh writer, founder [@noentry\\_arts](#) and [@read\\_women](#)
2. 2 Sian Norris, writer, journalist and Bristol Women's Literature Festival

3. Carmen Levick, lecturer at University of Sheffield and leader of Creative Lives [@lives\\_creative](#)
4. 4A N Devers, writer and owner of The Second Shelf bookstore
5. 5 Jarek Adams, freelance writer and leader of Written Off Women project
6. 6 Martin T Brooks, Historian, Writer, Author and Lecturer
7. 7 Susie Maguire, writer, editor, broadcaster
8. 8 Josephine Corcoran, writer
9. Paula McGrath, writer, lecturer at University College Dublin, and member of Contemporary Women's Writing Association (CWWA) Executive Committee
10. 10 Jessica Munna, actor/writer/filmmaker
11. 11 David Collard, writer
12. 12 Amanda Bell, writer and editor
13. 13 Natasha Randall, literary translator and novelist.
14. 14 Rachel Andrews writer and journalist
15. 15 C.D. Rose, writer and teacher
16. 16 Stephen Mulraney, editor and translator
17. 17 Lucy Holme, writer and soon to be UCC MA student
18. 18 Cristín Leach, freelance writer, art critic and broadcaster
19. 19 Maeve O'Lynn, writer and adult education lecturer
20. 20 Jonathan Mayhew, artist
21. 21 Inigo Purcell, writer and PhD student.
22. 22 Oona Frawley, writer and Assoc. Prof. Maynooth University
23. Madeline Beach Carey, writer
24. Maggie Humm, writer

25. 25 Kate Brown, writer
26. Sheenagh Geoghegan, artist
27. Clare Archibald, writer/artist
28. Jennifer Redmond, Artist, writer, critical theorist, educator re-emerging from the wasteland of unwaged caring duties.
29. Kate Arthur, poet
30. Chris Murray, poet and essayist, archiving at [RASCAL](#)
31. Mhairi Ledgerwood, Writer.
32. Alison Wells, Writer, mother, library assistant
33. Sarah Farman, Writer - postgraduate University of Strathclyde, artist, grandmother
34. Wendy Sinnamon, Writer and mother.
35. Catherine Marshall, artist and writer
36. Dr. Carol Ballantine, researcher and writer
37. Ginni Manning, playwright and writer
38. Jane McCourt, aspiring writer, mother, teacher.
39. Emma Lee, writer and reviewer
40. June Caldwell, writer
41. Kimberly Campanello, writer and lecturer
42. Antonia Honeywell, writer
43. Sonya Blanck, writer, mother of 3
44. Virginia Moffatt, writer
45. Catherine Gander, academic & writer.
46. Ellen Dillon, writer and teacher

47. Jo Weston, poet and writer
48. Louise Walters, writer and publisher
49. Sarah Fairbairn, festival producer
50. Sheila Armstrong, writer and editor
51. Elizabeth Gageby Bell, student
52. Daniel Fraser, writer
53. Linda Mannheim, writer
54. Sarah Gilmartin, writer and journalist
55. Juliet Conlin, writer
56. Alison Layland, writer
57. Penelope Shuttle, poet
58. Rennie Parker, poet
59. Hannah Linden, poet
60. Zoe Tuck, writer
61. Vron McIntyre, poet
62. Kathy Pimlott, poet
63. Jo Lloyd, writer
64. Nicole Rudick, writer and editor
65. Lisa Doyle, writer and library assistant
66. Diane Shipley, journalist and writer
67. Margaret E. Ward, journalist and writer
68. Catherine Walsh, writer

69. Rhonwen McCormack, playwright / theatre director / mother
70. Dan Bradley, writer
71. Jess Gulliver, publicist
72. Debbie Taggio, Freelance Writer
73. Paul Dornan, Writer
74. Fiona O'Connor, writer and lecturer
75. Jo Verity, writer
76. Linda Thompson, writer
77. Paula Wharton, actor and writer
78. Rosanna McGlone, writer and journalist
79. Lauren Foley, writer and editor
80. Niamh Mac Cabe, writer
81. DimitraXidous, writer / Research Fellow, Trinity College Dublin
82. Valerie O'Riordan, writer and Lecturer at the University of Bolton
83. Jenny Lindsay, writer and poet
84. Emer Fallon, poet
85. Nicola White, writer
86. Liz Houchin, writer
87. J.A. Jablonski, PhD, MLIS, MA | University Educator, Librarian, Writer
88. Neil Griffiths, founder of the Republic of Consciousness Prize for Small Press, novelist, and co-founder of Weatherglass Books
89. Mirabel Lavelle, Lecturer and Writer

90. Suzanne Joinson, Writer and Lecturer
91. Jane V Adams, Writer
92. Cath Pound, freelance journalist
93. Dr Isabella Streffen, writer and artist
94. Christina Tudor-Sideri, writer and translator
95. Nicholas Royle, writer, editor & publisher
96. William Nicholas Gomes, Freelance Journalist and Human Rights Activist
97. Lucie McKnight Hardy, writer
98. Martha Sprackland, publisher and writer
99. Amy L. Blaney, writer, PhD student, and lecturer
100. Claire Dean, writer
101. Jendi Reiter, novelist, poet, and editor of WinningWriters.com
102. Sophie Buchaillard, writer, PhD student, teacher and mother
103. Ginny Saunders, writer
104. Dr Ruth Lang, writer and lecturer
105. Lee Prosser, poet and musician
106. Wendy Brandmark, writer
107. Lorna Martin, writer
108. Charlotte Turnbull, writer
109. Róisín Moriarty, writer, administrator, nascent proof-reader
110. Davena O' Neill, writer
111. Eleanor Hooker, poet & writer

112. Joanna Whitehead, journalist
113. Megan Bradbury, writer
114. Lorraine Haigney, student at Maynooth University
115. Francesca Ashurst, Academic and writer
116. Jill Crawford, writer
117. Alix Beeston, writer and academic
118. Kara Hartz RVT, writer
119. Jessica Traynor, writer
120. Katy Ewing, writer and artist
121. Mairi McCurdy, writer and teacher
122. Maria McManus, poet and playwright
123. Susanne Stich, writer and curator
124. Özgecan Kesici, writer
125. Jane Alexander, author and lecturer
126. Sara Levy, poet
127. Elissa Soave, writer
128. Lora Davies, writer
129. Bríd McGinley, writer
130. Evalyn Lee, poet and writer
131. Kaddy Benyon, Poet
132. Catherine Taylor, writer, editor and critic
133. Rachel Cattle, artist, writer, co-editor of [@JOANpublishing](#)

134. Pamela Ball writer, literary and equalities activist
135. John Leman Riley, writer and editor
136. Susana Medina
137. David Torrans. Bookseller and Publisher
138. Margaret O'Brien, 'Writing Changes Lives'
139. Roseanne Lynch, artist and lecturer
140. Freya Gowrley, writer and academic
141. Denise Mina, writer
142. Marjorie Brennan, journalist
143. Eavan Aiken, artist / film-maker
144. Niamh Boyce, Writer
145. Rose Ruane, writer
146. Cornelius Prior, editor / writer
147. Noelle Kelly, writer
148. Emma Flynn, writer
149. Claire Frost, journalist and writer
150. Jenna Collins, artist, writer, researcher
151. Naomi Frisby, writer and academic
152. D.L. Lang, Poet Laureate emerita, Vallejo, California
153. Maria C Henry, writer
154. Breege Phelan, musician and writer

155. Lucy Furlong, writer and teacher
156. Keren Dibbens-Wyatt, writer and artist
157. Alyssa Harad, writer
158. Jacqueline Gittens, writer
159. Maggie Vaughan
160. Brigid Mahoney, writer
161. Heidi James, writer
162. Palma McKeown, writer
163. Róisín Curé, artist and writer
164. Eley Williams, writer and lecturer
165. Sarah Elizabeth Cox, writer and literary prize PR
166. Nicola Pitchford, academic and writer
167. Dr Matthew Fogarty, academic and writer
168. Cath Barton, writer
169. Victoria Manifold, writer
170. Shannon Smith, writer, editor, museum worker
171. Alison Smith, writer
172. Cathy Farr, writer
173. Georgi Gill, poet and health in social science researcher
174. Lynda McMahon, writer
175. Caroline Ambrose, founder The Bath Novel Awards
176. Fionn Petch, translator and editor

177. Katie Faulkner, academic and writer
178. Sarah Ireland, reader, theatre professional
179. Grace Kelley, writer and editor
180. Claudine Bulpitt, bookseller
181. Christopher Guyver, historian
182. Abigail Sawyer, reader
183. Dr Caroline Shenton, writer
184. Emma Fielding Actress
185. Lisa Frank, publisher, writer
186. Rachel Burton, writer
187. Gaynor Kane, poet
188. Marianna Patané, discrimination lawyer & writer
189. Kelley Costigan, Actress, poet, writer
190. Michelle Bailat-Jones, writer and literary translator
191. Ruth McKee Editor of Books Ireland, writer, reviewer
192. Linda McKenna, poet
193. Isla Gray, writer
194. Jenni Nuttall, academic and writer
195. Morgan Giles, translator and writer
196. Rachel Genn Writer
197. M John Harrison, writer
198. Linda McGrory, journalist and writer
199. Sue Terry academic, writer, Director of women's cultural events company

200. Sally O'Reilly, writer
201. Liam Harrison, editor
202. Imogen Reid, writer/artist
203. David Wakely, writer and literary festival co-ordinator
204. Susanna Crossman, writer
205. Emma Devlin, writer
206. Annick Yerem, teacher & writer
207. Vlatka Horvat, artist and writer
208. Madeleine Watts, writer
209. Vanessa Peterson, editor
210. Róisín Kelly, writer
211. Kristina West, writer
212. Mariel Deegan, publisher
213. Catherine Sadler, writer/programmer
214. Catriona Nicholson teacher, lecturer, writer, reader
215. Aea Varfis-van Warmelo, writer and actor
216. Deborah Cooper, writer and mature MA student
217. Natasha Lehrer, literary translator, editor and writer
218. Amanda Lees, writer
219. Orla Russell-Conway, Writer
220. Kate Randerson, writer-for-wellbeing, communicator
221. Taylor Allgeier-Follett, PhD student

- 222. Sarah Smith, writer
- 223. Olivia Fitzsimons, writer
- 224. Rachel Sloan, curator and writer
- 225. Niall McArdle, writer
- 226. Dr Sara Keating, writer
- 227. Lucy Carolan, Creative Practice PGR
- 228. Kate Bentley, writer
- 229. Jane Yeh, writer and lecturer
- 230. Angela T. Carr, writer and architect
- 231. Rachel Roth, writer, editor, organizer
- 232. Elisabeth Donnelly, writer
- 233. Joanna Barnard, writer
- 234. Dawn Raffel, writer and editor
- 235. Ross Walsh, journalist and writer
- 236. Vik Shirley, Poet, Editor, PhD student
- 237. Mary Morrissy, writer
- 238. Sean Gregory, writer and lecturer
- 239. Anne-Marie McNamara, writer
- 240. Sarah Jaffray, art historian, educator and writer
- 241. Charlotte Whittle, literary translator and editor
- 242. Louise Hare, writer
- 243. Alison May, writer

244. Guy Le Jeune, playwright
245. Carolyn Jess-Cooke (CJ Cooke), writer
246. Eleanor Pender, writer
247. Ruby Speechley, writer
248. Tracey-Anne Plater, writer
249. Helga Jensen, journalist and author
250. Heather Peck, writer
251. Julie Owen Moylan, author
252. Victoria Scott, journalist and author
253. Lucille Grant, writer
254. Rachael de Moravia, writer and lecturer
255. Judson Hamilton, writer
256. Andō McDonnell, writer and poet
257. Maureen Ross, writer
258. Joanne Stapley, bookseller
259. Tor Udall, writer
260. Tracy Hope, writer, anthology editor, parent and teacher
261. Sadie Maskery, writer
262. Ali Isaac, mature student and emerging writer
263. Janet Smith, historian and writer
264. Jennifer Bew Orr, writer and editor
265. Timothy Thornton, writer and musician

- 266. Iva Yates, writer and lecturer
- 267. Carol Atherton, writer
- 268. Julia Wainwright, writer, reader, designer
- 269. Victoria Kaye, artist/writer
- 270. Ann Lawlor, creative producer, programmer and writer
- 271. Ruth Khan, commercial and creative writer
- 272. Leire Barrera-Medrano, lecturer
- 273. Anna Shelton, writer
- 274. Ryan Ruby, novelist and critic
- 275. Octavia Stocker, editor
- 276. Susanna Forrest, writer.
- 277. Penny Goring, artist, poet
- 278. Marie Gethins, writer
- 279. Andrea Mann, screenwriter
- 280. Charlotte O'Leary, playwright and journalist
- 281. Angela Cleland, poet and novelist
- 282. Lesley Capitanich Stewart, teacher and writer
- 283. Dr Róisín Á Costello, writer and academic
- 284. Jonathan Ruppin, literary agent
- 285. Jane Harris, writer
- 286. Antoinette Tyrrell, Novelist and Business Writer
- 287. Tracy Dawson, screenwriter and author
- 288. Geraldine Mitchell, poet and writer

289. Emily Beecher, writer and playwright
290. Francesca Comyn, journalist
291. Victor Schonfeld, writer and filmmaker
292. Brian Eley, writer
293. Carol-Ann Farkas, researcher and writer
294. Lydia Hounat, writer and photographer
295. Rhonda Browning White, MFA -- Author, poet, educator, medical worker, mother, daughter, and wife. Age 55.
296. Anne Summerfield, writer and tutor
297. Sharni Wilson, writer, translator, mother
298. Kathy D'Arcy, poet academic and feminist activist
299. Lucy North, translator and editor
300. Paula Cunningham, writer
301. Emmaleene Leahy, teacher, writer, mother.
302. Ingrid Ruthig, poet, writer, artist
303. Jenny Alderton, writer, artist
304. Ben Pester, writer
305. Dr Catherine Menon, academic and writer
306. Julia Robinson, Writer, HR Professional, #ActuallyAutistic
307. Alex Davies, writer
308. Sonya Gildea, writer
309. Richard A Carter, academic and writer

310. Anna Sayburn Lane, novelist and journalist
311. Elizabeth Thompson, writer
312. Jody Franklin, writer
313. Sue Reed, writer (age 59)
314. Professor Claire Monk, writer and academic
315. Janet Hunter, writer
316. Stephen Baird, founder of @IndieBookshopUK
317. Natalie Ryan, writer
318. Sheereen Khan, Writer
319. Lauren Elkin, writer and critic
320. Lottie O'Connor, writer
321. Maria Farrell, writer and speaker
322. Sophie Parker Segura, writer
323. Lucy Tunstall, writer
324. Catherine Cleary, artist and writer
325. Emma Bolland, writer / artist / occasional publisher
326. Sarah Davy, writer / facilitator / lecturer
327. Ilqbal Hussain, writer
328. Wendy Erskine, writer
329. Emma Baird, writer and editor
330. Andria (Rachel) King, writer
331. Marsha Coupe, Feminist Socialist Enthusiast

- 332. Helen Barrell, writer and librarian
- 333. J L Hall, writer and academic
- 334. Sarah Myers, writer
- 335. Caroline Barretto, teacher and writer
- 336. Charlotte Wassermann, Reader
- 337. Martine McDonagh, writer
- 338. Eli Lee, writer
- 339. Poppy Alexander, writer
- 340. Mary Moore, writer and editor
- 341. Penny Batchelor, writer
- 342. Roz Watkins, writer
- 343. Susan Flory, veteran broadcaster
- 344. Professor Alexandra Wilson, academic and writer
- 345. Olivia Smith, academic and writer
- 346. René Ostberg, writer
- 347. Louisa McDonnell, mature student, emerging writer, copy editor
- 348. Catrina Davies, author
- 349. Elizabeth McCarthy, new poet - too old for some
- 350. Valerie Vogrin, writer
- 351. Fiona Walker, author
- 352. Lori Miller Barrett, crone, writer
- 353. Cara Diaconoff, writer

- 354. Ailsa Cox, writer and critic
- 355. Amy Wilkinson, writer
- 356. Michele Sheldon, writer
- 357. Jack Heath, student, poet
- 358. Charlotte Stretch, sub editor and writer
- 359. Lyndsay Wheble, writer
- 360. Bev Veasey Walshe writer
- 361. Kathleen Devereaux, writer and translator
- 362. Nat Newman, writer
- 363. Emma Makarova, writer
- 364. Jane Rikermann, co-founder, Bath Short Story Award
- 365. Victoria Briggs, writer and editor
- 366. Sara Crowley, writer and editor
- 367. Jane Roberts, writer