President:
Sandi Toksvig

Chair:

Lisa Holdsworth

General Secretary: Ellie Peers

First Floor

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**Tel: 020 7833 0777**

20 November 2023

**WGGB Annual General Meeting**

Wednesday 29th November 2023

From 10.30am online via Zoom

**Final Agenda**

1. Standing Orders Committee report
2. Draft minutes of the 2022 AGM
3. Chair’s report
4. General Secretary’s report
5. Treasurer’s report
6. Presentation and adoption of audited accounts
7. Appointment of auditors
8. Motions (see Appendix 1)
9. Results of Executive Council elections (see Appendix 2)
10. Annual report: section by section
11. Election of Standing Orders Committee for 2024
12. Any other business
13. Closing remarks

The Rule Book of the Writers’ Guild of Great Britain is available by email or on the WGGB website, <https://writersguild.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WGGB-Rulebook-2022.pdf> A paper copy will be sent on request. **For voting purposes, please have your WGGB membership card to hand during the AGM.**

**Appendix 1 – Motion(s) to WGGB AGM 2023**

1. **Palestine Israel**

We continue to be deeply concerned by the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza and Israel. We send solidarity to all Israelis and Palestinians who have been affected by this appalling violence and extend our condolences to those who have lost family and friends. We urge our union to join the call from across the international trade union movement for an immediate ceasefire and the immediate and safe release of all hostages.

We are deeply concerned about the impact of the current situation on writers’ freedom of expression, with instances of book readings and theatre performances being cancelled, and writing awards being rescinded. Writers have been killed in the violence alongside thousands of other civilians, including Gazan novelist and poet Heba Abu Nada. This week two young members of Freedom Theatre in Jenin have been killed. At least 36 journalists have been killed in Gaza.

We are concerned by the increasingly censorial atmosphere in the UK and stand ready to support all writers whose freedom of expression is being curtailed. We condemn those who seek to frame Palestinian solidarity as extremist, and recognise that there can be no apologism for antisemitism or Islamophobia.

**Motion:** The AGM calls upon the WGGB Executive Council to deepen existing relationships and foster new ones with our sister unions in the region, and with writers working in Palestine, Israel and the diaspora, who have faced significant attacks and intimidation in their pursuit of cultural resistance to the occupation. We ask the WGGB to work with organisations such as Freedom Theatre, Jenin and MENA (Middle Eastern and North African) Arts to this end.

Proposer: April De Angelis

Seconder: Hannah Khalil

**Appendix 2 – Valid nominations for President, Officers, and Executive Councillors**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Single and Co-chair Candidates | WGGB office/position | Nos of Candidates |
| Emma Reeves |  | Chair | One |
| William Gallagher |  | Deputy Chair | One |
| Gail Renard |  | Treasurer | One |
| Stephen Keyworth |  | East Anglia | One |
| Ewen Glass |  | East Midlands Chair | One |
| Lisa Gifford |  | Merseyside Chair | One |
| PJ Hart |  | Northern Ireland Chair | One |

Notes: In the event that only one candidate is nominated for any office or position, that person shall be declared duly elected forthwith. Co-chairs are considered one candidate as they occupy one seat with one vote on the Executive Council.

The remaining vacant seats on the Executive Council will be announced, and the General Secretary will seek further nominations after the AGM.