

Your School Board
Your School District
Local State Representative
Town/City Mayor

Dear (insert proper title),

I am writing in response to the alarming book bans that have recently been enacted in public libraries and schools across the United States. These bans represent a grave threat to the freedom to read and to learn, much to the detriment of students in our community.

Widespread efforts throughout the U.S. that permit state and municipal-sponsored censorship through book bans on content related to race, gender, sexuality, and LGBTQIA+ subject matter restrict the right to freedom of expression. They also deny equal access to all, jeopardizing community members' right to education and right to health, among other rights.

Removing and banning books from public libraries is a slippery slope to government censorship and erodes the U.S. government's obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the right to freedom of expression.

Under human rights law, governments have obligations to set a framework for conduct that enables people's enjoyment of their rights.

We urge you to resist these dangerous bans, and instead pledge your support for additional resources to enrich the quality and variety of educational materials in our libraries and classes.

Further, Amnesty International is concerned about the targeting of librarians and teachers in light of the publications they use to support their professional responsibilities, including elevated incidents of threats & harassment as well as police reports filed against library staff regarding books available for circulation. These reports mirror serious challenges to freedom of expression found in authoritarian regimes elsewhere in the world.

Sincerely yours,