

DECLARATION FROM LITERARY TRANSLATORS

AN APPEAL TO WRITERS

from the Literary Translation Committee of the International
Federation of Translators
(FITLIT)

Through literary translation national literatures become international and writing trapped in a single language can be released and read throughout the world across linguistic and cultural borders.

The art of literary translators is a unique act of communication that demands a creative and scholarly knowledge of at least two languages and cultures and the ability to write in the language of translation in the voices of many different writers. It is an art which requires proper time, remuneration and professional recognition.

Too often in the publishing industry, translation is seen in terms of keeping costs down or of marketing deadlines. This ignores the professional needs of translators if they are to produce translations of high quality.

In many countries translators translate novels or plays in too short a time, without proper contracts, copyright on their translations, royalties or pay that gives a semblance of a living wage.

It is in the interest of writers (and of their agents and publishers) to ensure translators have professional conditions to carry out their translations. Support for the art of translators helps them to write translations that carry over the qualities of the original.

This is also in the interest of readers and will promote reading and literacy throughout the world. In many countries over fifty per cent of what is published is translated. The quality of these translations depends on the writing abilities of translators and their professional conditions.

We ask you as writers to support this declaration which will be presented at Book Fairs and cultural events and to governments throughout the world.

*Professional contracts with copyright and proper remuneration for translators

*Deadlines which give translators the time to research and create their translations

*Writers - with their agents and publishers- to do their best to enforce the above.

>I support the FIT Literary Translators Declaration

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>Signature

>Address:

>Country:

>Email:

>Name (Block Letters)

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