

Resolution on the Selection of Dubai as the location for the IFLA 2024 World Library and Information Congress (WLIC)

Whereas, IFLA's core values include "the commitment to promote and value diversity and inclusion, notably as regards age, citizenship, disability, ethnicity, gender-identity, geographical location, language, political philosophy, race, religious beliefs, sex, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status, and actively pursue relevant policies and practices", and

Whereas, the American Library Association (ALA), as a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), recognizes that as a global organization with members in one hundred and forty countries around the world the desire of IFLA to bring the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) to regions, countries, and cultures where it has not been held before, and

Whereas, the meetings between librarians of different cultures and different countries strongly enriches the professional dialogue at the international level, and

Whereas, different cultures and countries have rich histories and have different values and viewpoints, and

Whereas, the selection of the location of WLIC as a global conference in a new region or country may make it possible for librarians from those regions and countries to attend a WLIC who never would have another opportunity, and

Whereas, the location of the WLIC might prohibit librarians from certain regions and countries to participate, such as in Jerusalem in 2000 and Havana in 1994, and

Whereas, the WLIC has been held before in countries where freedom of expression and human rights have been restricted, but IFLA has controlled the right of the content of the WLIC, and

Whereas, everyone must be given the opportunity to express themselves while respecting opinions and differences.

Whereas, ALA is a large library organization in a country with varying levels of protections and laws regarding LGBTQ+ people, and

Whereas, we understand the challenge of conference site selection and try to prioritize the safety of our members whenever possible, and

Whereas, the selection of Dubai, where homosexuality is outlawed, and the declaration that there can be no meetings or programming or even mention of the IFLA LGBTQ Users Special Interest Group in relation to the WLIC is deeply concerning, therefore

- 1) Resolved, ALA reaffirms its commitment to uphold its professional ethics, especially freedom of expression and individual rights, and
- 2) Resolved, that it is essential for IFLA to ensure that that WLIC is a safe and inclusive space for all members of our profession, and
- 3) Resolved, ALA strongly objects to the selection of Dubai