Be Prepared!
The GNCRT Guide to Addressing Comic Book Bans, Censorship, and Challenges in Libraries

Full ‘Be Prepared!’ Toolkit Available: www.al.org/rt/gncrt/
Be Prepared! “What to do when a challenge comes” checklist:

**BEFORE a challenge:**
- Do you have a SELECTION POLICY? Is it transparent and accessible? Does it include comics?
- Do you have a separate CHALLENGE POLICY in place? If not, create one
- IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS in your library system--who are the deciders on book bans?
- COMPARE POLICY MODELS. Are your policies the best they can be?
- PAY ATTENTION to those books that are being challenged around the nation; build advocacy

**AFTER a challenge:**
- Win, lose, or draw, make it a point to THANK the people who helped you - you may need them again.
- UPDATE your policies where needed to strengthen them against future challenges
- Many challenge policies have a “COOLING OFF” period, where the same book cannot be challenged again for # of years. Is this in place for your library?
- PREPARE by asking - are there books similar to your challenged comic that may also trigger a challenge?
- LIVE to library another day. You are not alone.

**DURING a challenge:**
- What are the REVIEWS of the book?
- For schools, are there CURRICULUM connections?
- For both school and public libraries, does this comic book FILL A NEED? Is it an award winner?
- Is your CHALLENGE PROCESS being followed?
- What COMMUNITY SUPPORTS are available to you?
- REPORT the challenge to the ALA Office of Intellectual Freedom: [https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report](https://www.ala.org/tools/challengesupport/report)

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**We want to know more!**

Please take our short 5 min survey to tell us about your training in and knowledge of comic book bans

[QR Code Link]