

# HANDBOOK

## Banned Books Week UK

### KEY INFORMATION



**DATES:** 22 - 28 September 2019

**WEBSITE:** [www.bannedbooksweek.org.uk](http://www.bannedbooksweek.org.uk)

**TWITTER:** @BannedWeekUK

**PARTNER HANDLES:** IndexCensorship  
@BAbooksellers @britishlibrary @englishpen  
@FreeWordCentre @Islingtonlibs  
@libsconnected @PublishersAssoc  
@RSLiterature @HachetteUK @vintagebooks

**HASHTAGS:** #BannedBooksWeek  
#fREADom #censorship



22-28 September 2019

[www.bannedbooksweek.org.uk](http://www.bannedbooksweek.org.uk)  
@BannedWeekUK

## In a nutshell

Banned Books Week UK is a nationwide campaign for radical and rebellious readers of all ages to celebrate the freedom to read.

Between 22 - 28 September 2019, **bookshops, libraries, schools and publishers** will be hosting events and making noise about some of the most **sordid, subversive, sensational and taboo-busting** books around.

## about

Banned Books Week was initiated by the **American Library Association (ALA)** in 1980 in response to an increasing number of challenges in the US to books in schools, bookshops and libraries. **Index on Censorship** is the UK partner to the US coalition, and leads the UK coalition of literary and free expression organisations including:

- Booksellers Association
- British Library
- English PEN
- Free Word
- Islington Library and Heritage Services
- Libraries Connected
- Publishers Association
- Royal Society of Literature
- Hachette UK
- Vintage



# aims & objectives

The aim of Banned Books Week UK is to develop a **bold, surprising** and **imaginative** nationwide campaign that captures the imagination of a UK-wide audience, inspiring people of all ages and backgrounds to "celebrate the freedom to read" while at the same time **educating** and **informing** them about key issues relating to book **censorship** - from outright banning of books to more subtler forms of silencing, such as traditional publishing structures or taboo topics.

Banned Books Week UK is a chance for free expression advocates - **publishers, booksellers, librarians, educators, journalists, readers** - to publicly shine a light on censorship past and present, and make some noise about why we must defend the freedom to read and write.

As part of this, Banned Books Week aims to take a **global literary view** to promote unheard voices and highlight specific topics, themes or groups such as **academic freedom, BAME & LGBTQ+, disabled, female, non-Western** and other unheard voices.

## AUDIENCE

In 2019, Index aims to engage:

- **100+** independent bookshops
- **75+** library services
- **20+ state** schools
- all major and independent UK publishers

in Banned Books Week activity - through hosting events and making noise either online or in person.

# get involved

## bookshops, libraries & schools



### displays

start a conversation in your shop, classroom or library by making an eye-catching display:

- wrap censored books in yellow **warning tape**
- wrap challenged or banned books in **brown paper**, and write a label with the author, title and reason why it was banned / challenged
- create a "mugshot" **photo wall** using cardboard, posters, post-it notes and **tweet photos** of your customer, pupils or library-goers reading a banned book.

Tweet us your pictures: [@bannedweekuk](https://twitter.com/bannedweekuk)

### get social

Tweet us: [@bannedweekuk](https://twitter.com/bannedweekuk)  
[#BannedBooksWeek](https://twitter.com/BannedBooksWeek)

request a social media pack:  
[anna@indexoncensorship.org](mailto:anna@indexoncensorship.org)

### events

why not have a get together?

- **read excerpts** of banned books, plays or comics out loud. why not ask a local author(s) to come along?
- **host** a discussion on censorship with a local journalist or writer
- **write** to a banned author. check out: [www.englishpen.org](http://www.englishpen.org)
- run a banned books **quiz night**

# get involved

## publishers & booksellers

### make some noise

engage directly with new and existing audiences:

- **pledge your support** - go online and let everyone know that you are taking part in [#BannedBooksWeekUK](#)
- **create a reading list** - check your back list, new or forthcoming publications for anything that might have challenged, censored – or is even just taboo-busting or promoting unheard voices – in the UK or abroad and promote on your **social media, website** and **newsletter**
- **request a bookmark.** we have a limited number of free bookmarks, or you can purchase for a small price



### get social

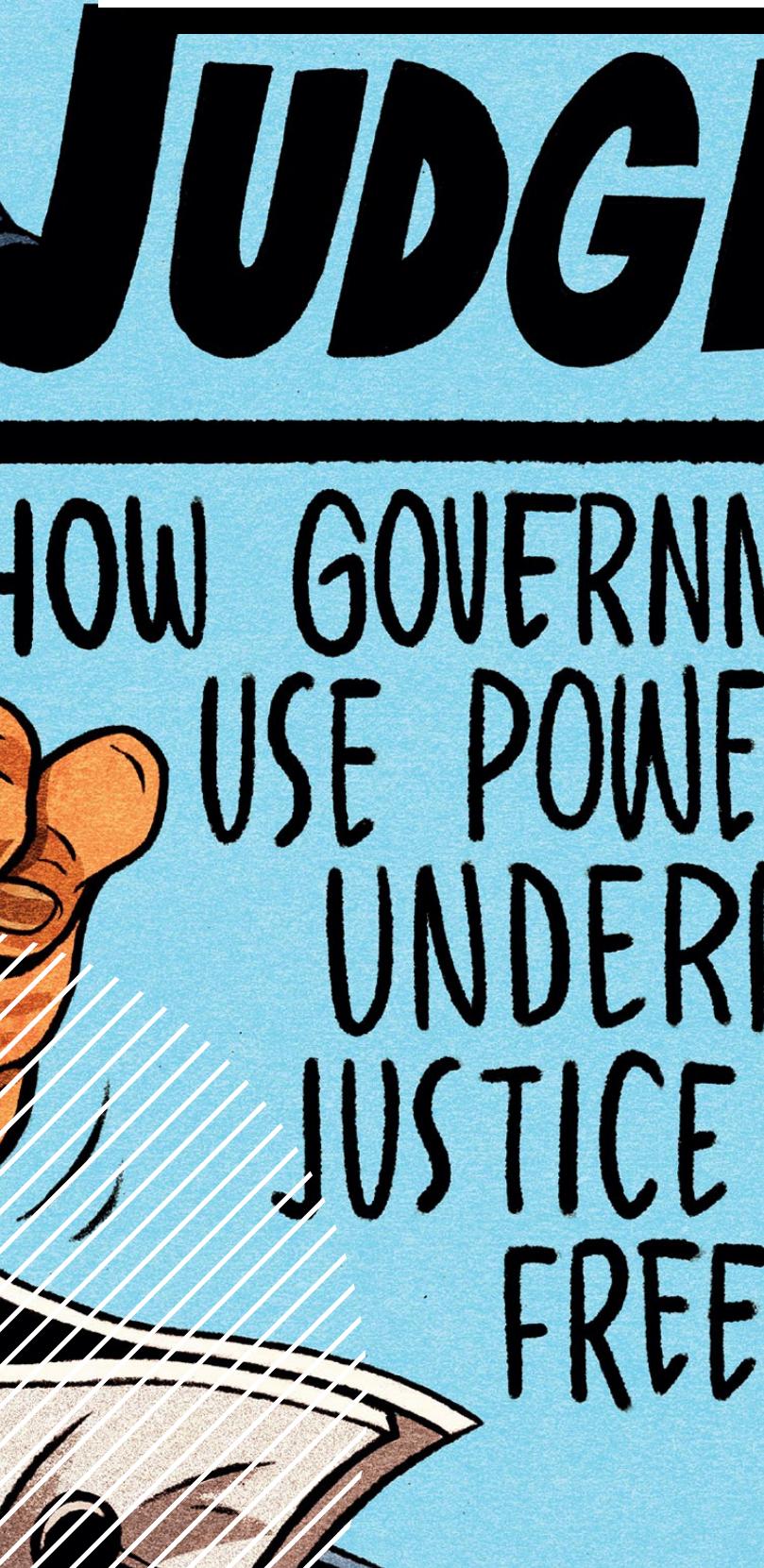
Tweet us: [@bannedweekuk](#)  
[#BannedBooksWeek](#)

request a social media pack:  
[anna@indexoncensorship.org](mailto:anna@indexoncensorship.org)

### authors

working with some amazing poets, novelists, non-fiction writers or playwrights? ask them to become a banned books week **champion** and **send us a quote** about why the freedom to read is so important to them

# about Index on Censorship



*"Freedom of expression is not self-perpetuating, but rather has to be maintained through the constant vigilance of those who care about it.*

- INDEX ON CENSORSHIP MAGAZINE, 1972

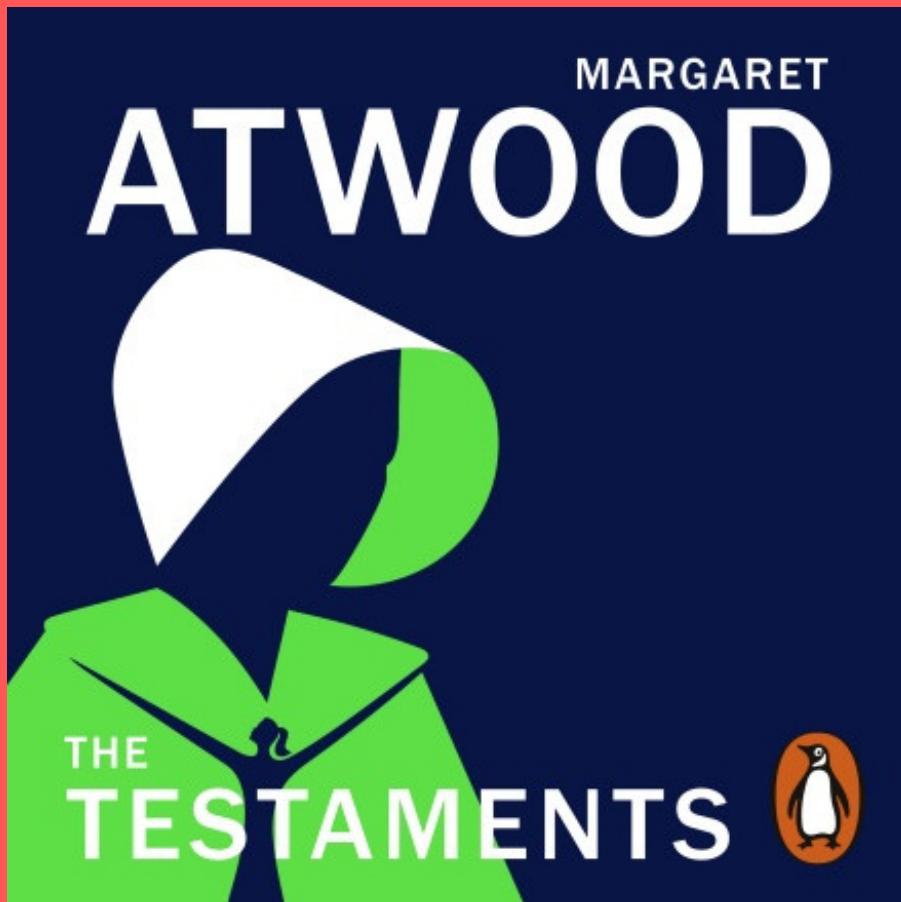
Index on Censorship is a nonprofit organisation that **fights against censorship** and defends the free expression of **writers, artists, journalists** and **campaigners** worldwide through events, advocacy and an award-winning quarterly magazine.

Our Patrons include **Margaret Atwood, Simon Callow, Michael Palin, Tom Stoppard, Alexandra Pringle** and **Steve Coogan**.

We currently receive no funding or sponsorship for Banned Books Week. If you are interested in sponsorship or partnership opportunities, contact:  
[anna@indexoncensorship.org](mailto:anna@indexoncensorship.org)

# vintage partnership

Inspired by our friends *Book-ish* in Crickhowell, Index on Censorship and **VINTAGE** are coordinating a nationwide series of **publication-day celebrations** and **midnight openings** at **independent bookshops** across the UK as part of Banned Books Week UK to celebrate the publication of **Margaret Atwood's** highly anticipated *The Testaments* (sequel to *The Handmaid's Tale*) on 10 September.



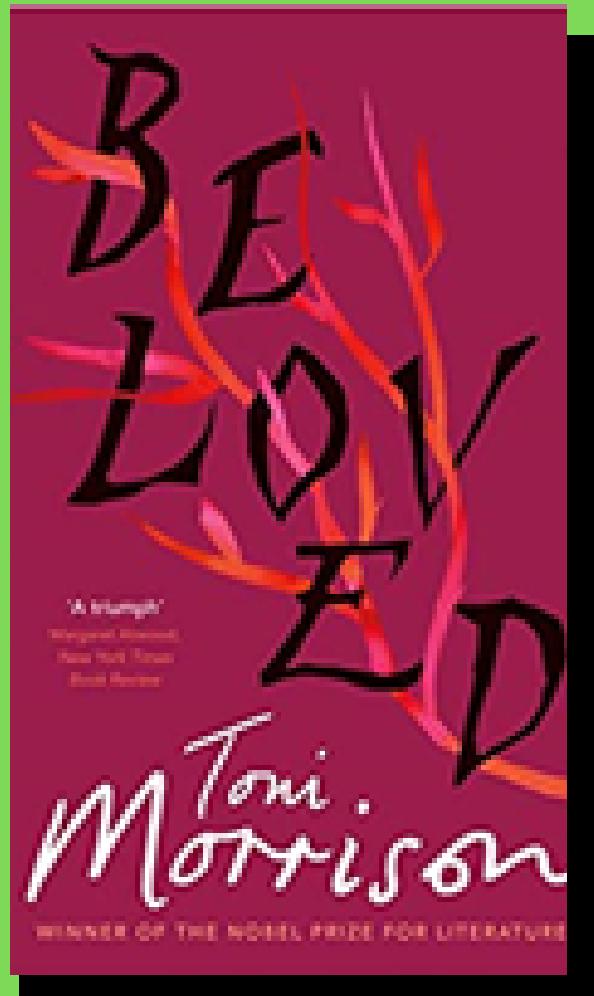
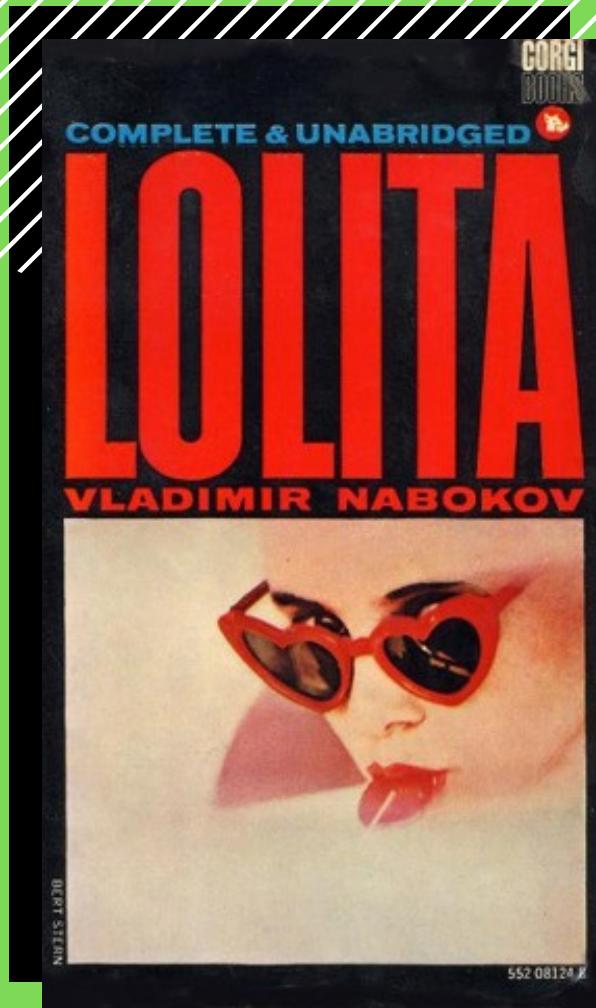
**VINTAGE**

[more information?](#)

contact:

[anna@indexoncensorship.org](mailto:anna@indexoncensorship.org)

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on censorship



# questions?

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@BannedWeekUK

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