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The IBBY EC is very aware of the issues raised by Dr. Robert Bittner and has actively been in discussion to address the concerns expressed. For every IBBY World Congress IBBY International and the organizing National Section work together to ensure the safety of not only our LGBTQ+ members, but of all members at the Congress.

IBBY is an NGO that works in 81 countries around the world with many different types of governments. Our reason for existing for the past 67 years is to bring children and books together. Our willingness to work everywhere we can find committed individuals who share our goal is what has led to our success, even in countries where other groups are not able to function.

Our members' ability to share experiences and best practices is enormously enriched by our biennial gatherings at IBBY World Congresses. These congresses are organized by our members and their content is approved by local NGOs and the elected IBBY Executive Committee. The congresses are also where the membership assembly debates and votes on the business matters of the organization, including the election of the IBBY international officers.

Sharing and learning from each other in person is how we influence, negotiate and work to ensure every child's unassailable right to access high quality and diverse literature. We work consistently to uphold the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Non-Discrimination by making space for the growth of humane perspectives through an international body of stories.

On behalf of the IBBY Executive Committee

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