Defend the Right to Read!
Creating Book Events in Response to the Supreme Court Case *Mahmoud v. Taylor*
April 22, 2025

Resources for Calls to Action for Book Events

Inspiring Action and Young Activists

Events are the perfect place to help people find ways to take action. Event planners can create activities to be done at the event itself, as well as resources for future action.

- **Activities to do with kids**
  - **Create thank-you cards for librarians or teachers** who make reading fun and use inclusive books.
  - **Create postcards for principals, superintendents, school board members and representatives** about what reading freedom means personally. Respond to current bills and policy questions.

- **Book lists** of favorite inclusive and intersectional books. Find recommendations here:
  - National Education Association here
  - Human Rights Campaign here.

- **Local action guides**
  - **Provide information about local school board meetings or elections.**
  - **Provide contact information for officials and current bills or concerns.**
  - **Tips for supporting inclusive books**
    - Request and check out books from the library.
    - Write online reviews.
    - Highlight inclusive books online.
    - Use and donate books to Little Free Libraries (map here).
    - If possible, buy books and enjoy them!

  - **Action tips!**
    - **Register to vote–and VOTE!** Including for school board elections.
    - **Send a letter to local principals, superintendents, or school board members** urging them to make a proclamation in support of *all* students. Host postcard parties with friends and neighbors to boost your efforts! Use this letter as a template,

    - **Report censorship**: Most censorship goes unreported. You can help track trends, identify targeted titles, and develop support materials by submitting a confidential censorship report.
    - **Petition the person or group responsible for deciding whether a challenged book will stay on the shelves.** This can be a school administrator or board, a library board, a town council, or elected leaders. Learn more here.
    - **Make a plan to attend library or school board meetings. Check out Unite Against Book Bans guide to get started.** Don't forget to bring your friends to show up in support of students!
    - **Support local libraries.** Consider volunteering, joining (or starting) a Friends group for your library, becoming a trustee, or even running for your local library board. More ideas here.
    - **Write a Letter to the Editor** in support of the freedom to read. Suggestions here.

- **Organizations that donate and distribute inclusive books**
    - First Book: https://firstbook.org/
    - Kind Cotton: https://kindcotton.com/
    - Pride and Less Prejudice: https://www.prideandlessprejudice.org/
    - We Are Stronger Than Censorship: https://wearestrongerthancensorship.org/
    - We Need Diverse Books: https://www.diversebooks.org/

- **Resources for community action**
    - African American Policy Forum: Truth Be Told Campaign
    - ACLU: Right to Learn Toolkit
    - Coalition for Inclusive Schools and Communities: Rally Social Media Toolkit
    - Fight for the First
    - PEN America: Don't Censor America
    - PFLAG: Fighting Anti-LGBTQ+ Censorship
    - Red Wine and Blue: Book Ban Busters
    - Unite Against Book Bans Toolkit
    - Unite Against Book Bans Action Items