**The New Mexico Library Association’s statement condemning books bans.**

The New Mexico Library Association is dismayed at the current state of political attacks aimed at libraries, library workers and those who move forward the inalienable right to read. These attacks have focused on books and other sources of information that reflect the experience of communities of color and the LGBTQIA+ community. These objections are solely rooted in a discriminatory ideology.

**Therefore, we acknowledge:**

Materials that are frequently challenged in Libraries typically are items that represent LGBTQIA+ people as well as minority populations.

New Mexico’s readers and information seekers deserve libraries with materials that fully represent them and the world around them.

Regardless of intent, those who seek to ban information provided to the public by libraries perpetuate a white supremist, racist and bigoted agenda.

Representation of people of color and the LGBTQIA+ community in both literature and within the ranks of our professional community matters.

Library workers who fight against censorship may face job insecurity, alienation, threats of violence and discrimination.

ALA’s position that challenges do not simply involve a person expressing a point of view; rather, they are an attempt to remove material from the curriculum or library, thereby restricting the access of others.

**Therefore, we reaffirm:**

The ideals and ideas of the American Library Association including the Library [Bill of Rights and the Freedom to Read Statement](https://www.ala.org/aboutala/offices/oif/LBOR-FTR-statement-pamphlet).

The American Library Association’s [Code of Professional Ethics](https://www.ala.org/tools/ethics) for Librarians (B.1.2). Specifically, items 1, 2, 5, and 8:

1. We provide the highest level of service to all library users through appropriate and usefully organized resources; equitable service policies; equitable access; and accurate, unbiased, and courteous responses to all requests.
2. We uphold the principles of intellectual freedom and resist all efforts to censor library resources.

5. We treat co-workers and other colleagues with respect, fairness, and good faith, and advocate conditions of employment that safeguard the rights and welfare of all employees of our institutions.

8. We strive for excellence in the profession by maintaining and enhancing our own knowledge and skills, by encouraging the professional development of co-workers, and by fostering the aspirations of potential members of the profession.

The American Library Association’s [Policy.](https://www.ala.org/aboutala/governance/policymanual) Specifically, items B.2.1.12 Diverse Collections, B.2.1.16 Access to Library Resources and Services Regardless of Sex, Gender Identity, Gender Expression, or Sexual Orientation, and B.3.3 Combating Prejudice, Stereotyping, and Discrimination.