



ALIA Statement on the IFLA World Library and Information Congress 2024

The Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) has today written to the IFLA Governing Board to request IFLA review the decision to host the World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) 2024 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

ALIA is committed to upholding its Values which include:

- Promotion of the free flow of information and ideas through open access to recorded knowledge, information, and creative works
- Respect for the diversity and individuality of all people

Should the conference proceed as a face-to-face event in Dubai, ALIA has significant concerns that ALIA Members, especially members who identify as LGBTQIA+, will not feel able to participate safely in the congress. ALIA also has concerns about the ability of the Congress to uphold intellectual freedom.

Upholding our values, ALIA has informed IFLA that if the Congress proceeds as announced, ALIA will not fund participation by ALIA staff or ALIA members at WLIC 2024 in Dubai.

In requesting IFLA review the decision, ALIA recognises the need for IFLA to be a geographically inclusive global organisation and acknowledges the historical biases towards Western countries as hosts and barriers this has placed to full international participation. ALIA encourages IFLA to consider innovative ways that geographical representation can be recognised without excluding IFLA volunteers and while upholding freedom of expression.

ALIA appreciates that the IFLA Governing Board has acknowledged the strong reaction to this announcement and is taking this feedback seriously. ALIA supports the IFLA Governing Board's intention to take steps to gather views from all IFLA Members to review the decision.

30 June 2023