

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 11 2016

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**pen**  
SOUTH AFRICA

**Write!**  
Africa,  
**Write!**

Issue 11  
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### **Announcing the PEN South Africa Student Writing Prize Winner**

PEN South Africa is very excited to announce the winner of the PEN SA Student Writing Prize. We ran this competition because we believe in the power of writing to effect change and inform the way we see the world and ourselves. We also believe in the talent and power of young South African writers. As PEN SA President Margie Orford said when the shortlist was announced, "These clear and welcome and articulate new writers distil and give form to the student movement that is changing and shaping a generation."

Click on the titles of the pieces to read them and click on the names of the writers to read their Q&As:

**Winner: Koleka Putuma** for "Water"

**Second place: Sithembiso Khalishwayo** for "The Forgotten"

**Third place: Puleng Lange-Stewart** for "A love poem to the 'Problematic' Black Womxn"

[...read more](#)

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## Suzanne Nossel: To fight 'hate speech,' stop talking about it

*Suzanne Nossel, executive director of **PEN America**, has written an article interrogating the term "hate speech", which references the proposed South African Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill:*

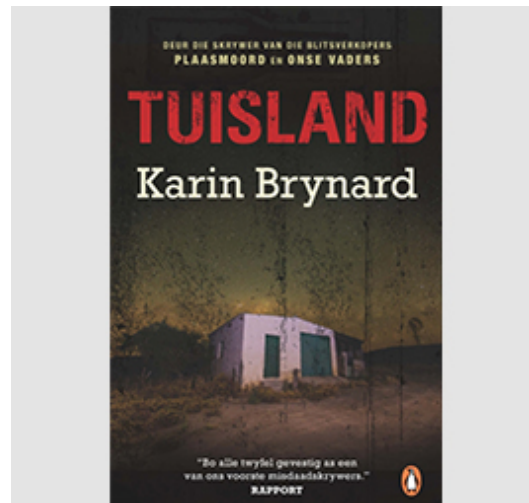
Hateful speech is a real thing. But "hate speech" is an incoherent concept that confuses more than it clarifies. In recent weeks, pundits, critics and pols have found ways to label all of the following "hate speech": anti-vaccination trolls on a California state senator's Facebook **page**; racist, homophobic and anti-Semitic **tweets** in France that are the subject of a lawsuit aiming to get Twitter and YouTube to take down the offensive materials; a **reference** to "Japs" by U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-N.Y.) during a talk-show interview; and Republican anti-Muslim and anti-Mexican **sentiments** called out by former first daughter Chelsea Clinton. A viral hashtag this week, **#IStandWithHateSpeech**, held that mainstream media companies were censoring readers' views.

We should forever fight the phenomenon of hateful speech in its many forms, but it's time to retire the term "hate speech." Its meaning is inexact, elastic and often misunderstood. If we want to combat the harms of distasteful, denigrating and dangerous ideas, we need precise tools and precise terms...[read more](#)

## PLEASE SEND IN AGM RESPONSES

The electronic AGM was sent out on Tuesday 31 May. Please take the time to look through the documents and respond. If you didn't receive the email let us know at [communications@pensouthafrica.co.za](mailto:communications@pensouthafrica.co.za).

## NEW MEMBERS' TITLES



Recent titles from PEN SA members include [Tuisland](#) by Karin Brynard, [The Peculiars](#) by Jen Thorpe, [Questions for the Sea](#) by Stephen Symons, [South](#) by PEN SA member Diane Awerbuck and

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Several PEN SA members have book launches coming up this month, including Stephen Symons, Don Pinnock and Karin Brynard. PEN SA Board Member Mike van Graan's satirical revue *Pay Back the Curry!* will have two preview shows in Cape Town before its official premiere and Christine Coates will be the guest poet at Poetry@Central...[read more](#)

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Etisalat Prize For Literature 2016...[read more](#)

2016 Wasafiri New Writing Prize...[read more](#)

Troubadour International Poetry Prize 2016...[read more](#)

2016 Ledbury Poetry Festival Poetry Competition...[read more](#)

'Noem My Skollie' Writing

Alex Latimer (written under the pen name Frank Owen). Colleen Higgs' first short story collection, [Looking for Trouble](#), has recently been translated into Croatian as [Tražeći nevolju ...read more](#)

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## WELCOME!

Welcome to new Professional members Stephen Symons and Jennifer Thorpe and new Supporter member Levison Kabwato.

Competition...[read more](#)

2016 Sir Peter Ustinov Television Scriptwriting Award...[read more](#)

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Diane Awerbuck, Anton Krueger and Kobus Moolman have been shortlisted for the 2016 Short Sharp Stories Awards...[read more](#)

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## Send us your news

Had a book published recently? Attended or participated in a festival? Won an award? Achieved a personal milestone of note? We welcome any news of your activities for future issues of the PEN SA newsletter.

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