

PEN South Africa newsletter / Issue 02 2017

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PEN SA Submission on the Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill

The South African Department of Justice and Constitutional Development published the draft **Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill** in October 2016. PEN South Africa, under the guidance of Vice-President Raymond Louw and with carefully debated contributions from members of the PEN South Africa Board, has been hard at work formulating a considered and nuanced response to this proposed legislation. As you will see in the submission, we are cognisant of and concerned with the social problems that this Bill seeks to address,

however, we are not convinced that the deep divisions in our society will be redressed by this legislation. We are deeply concerned by the implications for free speech and artistic expression.

You can read [our comments on the Bill here](#) and click through for further reading on the topic...[read more](#)

Ashraf Fayadh and Malini Subramaniam Received 2017 Oxfam Novib/PEN Awards

The Oxfam Novib/PEN Award for Freedom of Expression exists to honour the courage of writers committed to freedom of expression despite facing countless challenges and risks. This year's recipients are Palestinian poet Ashraf Fayadh, currently serving an eight-year prison sentence in Saudi Arabia, and Indian journalist Malini Subramaniam, who was recently forced to leave her home due to threats in connection to her work as an investigative journalist...[read more](#)

"Freedom of expression means the freedom to disagree, to be controversial, to sit in a grey area and acknowledge the complexity of conflicting human perspectives. It means being courageous enough to face our own mistakes and privileges, to know when our voice is not the one that should be speaking, when it's time for us to listen and absorb, to elevate and magnify the voices of others." - Read [PEN International President Jennifer Clement](#) and [Russian novelist Mikhail Shishkin's](#) keynote speeches from the awards ceremony.



RIP Peter Abrahams and Buchi Emecheta

South African-born Jamaican novelist Peter Abrahams passed away on 18 January at the age of 97. PEN SA Student Writing Prize judge Panashe Chigumadzi has written an obituary for Abrahams, "[a]n ardent pan-Africanist whose work as a journalist and novelist narrated with deep sensitivity and conviction the plight of black people in South Africa and the wider world" [...read more](#)

Nigerian-born British author Buchi Emecheta passed away last week at the age of 72. *The Guardian* has published [an obituary detailing her career](#) and Otosirieze Obi-Young has paid tribute to Emecheta and her "indelible impact on

World Writers to Turkey's Imprisoned Writers: You Are Not Alone

As a high-level PEN International mission ended in Istanbul, Turkey last Friday, leading world writers joined PEN in a message of solidarity to fellow writers protesting the heavy-handed crackdown against free expression in the country [...read more](#)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Literary journal Type/Cast calling for submissions for its third issue [...read more](#)

Bath Flash Fiction and Novella-in-Flash

the feminist discourse" on literary website *Brittle Paper*.[...read more](#)

(Images courtesy of [Caribbean Beat](#) and [Goodreads](#))

PEN SA AFRICA PULSE #2

PEN SA Africa Pulse is a new feature that we will be running this year. It's a weekly round-up of news concerning cases of freedom of expression and the freedom of the press in Africa. This week we have stories from South Africa, Nigeria, Gambia, Cameroon and Kenya.[...read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Take a look at the literary events happening in February, including Zakes Mda's play *The Mother of All Eating*, Allan Kolski Horwitz's play *Book Marks* and a writing workshop by Niq Mhlongo.[...read more](#)

NEW MEMBERS' TITLES

Awards[...read more](#)

2017 Writers' & Artists' Yearbook Short Story Competition[...read more](#)

Time of the Writer Schools Short Story Competition[...read more](#)

amaBooks calling for submissions for Zimbabwean short story collection[...read more](#)

For Books' Sake calling for anthology submissions[...read more](#)

South African State Theatre's Indiespotlight 2017/2018 Program[...read more](#)

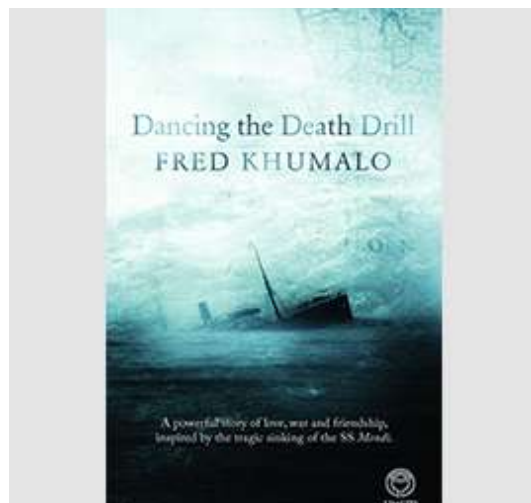
2017 Montreal International Poetry Prize[...read more](#)

2017 / 2018 Writer-in-Residence at The Kerouac Project[...read more](#)

2017 Dundee International Book Prize[...read more](#)

2017 Maskew Miller Longman Literature Awards[...read more](#)

uHlanga is holding its first open submissions period for original



PEN SA member Fred Khumalo has a new novel out this month: [Dancing the Death Drill](#), and two PEN SA members who joined this year had books published last year: [The Girl Without A Sound](#) by Buhle Ngaba and [To The Black Women We All Knew](#) by Kholofelo Maenetsha...[read more](#)

CONGRATULATIONS!

Petina Gappah has been named a finalist for the PEN Open Book Award...[read more](#)

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chapbooks and collections of poetry from South African poets, or poets living in South Africa from 1 February to 28 February 2017...[read more](#)

Modjaji Books, which publishes southern African women writers, will be open for manuscript submissions from 1st March to the end of April 2017...[read more](#)

WELCOME!

Welcome to new PEN SA Professional members Emmaleen Kriel.

MEMBERSHIP FEES REMINDER

A reminder to please pay any outstanding membership fees. Contact PEN SA Secretary Deborah Horn-Botha if you have any questions on secretary@pensouthafrica.co.za.

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.

Please email your contributions
to communications@pensouthafrica.co.za



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