

Item 7: Election of trustees to the board of English PEN

Can Yeğinsu is a barrister practising from 4 New Square Chambers in London, where he is recognised as one of the country's leading lawyers practising in civil liberties and human rights, commercial dispute resolution, and international law. He has acted in numerous cases for journalists and writers, as well as free speech organisations, before a range of courts, including the English Court of Appeal, the UK Supreme Court, the European Court of Human Rights, and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Can teaches two seminars at Columbia Law School on the right to freedom of expression and is Senior Fellow at the Human Rights Institute. He also teaches international law at Georgetown University Law Center and is a member of the High-Level Panel of Legal Experts on Media Freedom, convened at the request of the UK and Canadian Governments by Lord Neuberger, former President of the UK Supreme Court. Can is an occasional contributor to *Areté*, *The TLS*, *The New York Review of Books*, and *Just Security*.

Arifa Akbar is the chief theatre critic for the *Guardian*. She previously worked at the *Independent* for 15 years and served as the paper's literary editor as well as arts correspondent and news reporter, covering news events including the 7/7 London tube attacks, the Kashmir earthquake of 2005 and the annual pilgrimage to Mecca.

Akbar has been the head of content at the publisher, Unbound, and arts editor on the slow news site, Tortoise Media. Her writing has been published in the *Observer*, *Financial Times* and *London Evening Standard*, as well as various anthologies. Her first book, *Consumed*, is published in June. She is currently on the board of trustees of the Orwell Foundation.

Joanna Stocks is a senior investor who has worked in financial services for the last twenty years, specialising in the portfolio management of multi-asset and alternative investment funds. She has worked for large investment firms such as Standard Life Aberdeen and M&G Investments. Joanna started her career at Reuters where, amongst other responsibilities, she worked in the news function focussing on editorial standards.

As an arts and languages graduate, Joanna has a keen understanding of the importance of freedom of expression and has spent time researching the role of literature in periods of political repression. She has lived in Switzerland, Germany and France, taught English in Tanzania and volunteered in Tibet. Joanna takes a strong interest in fostering diversity and inclusion and promoting change through social engagement. She has worked as Co-Chair of a diversity network in the investment industry and is also a mentor for the Social Mobility Foundation.

Aki Schilz is the Director of The Literary Consultancy, the UK's longest-running editorial consultancy for writers, providing editing services, mentoring and literary events. In 2020 she launched the Being A Writer platform, which focuses on the importance of cultivating creativity and building resilience.

Aki is a judge for various literary awards including the Bridport Prize First Novel Award and appears regularly at conferences and events to talk about the value of editing, about publishing, and the importance of building inclusive cultures in the creative industries. She regularly campaigns for systemic change, including as

founder of the #BookJobTransparency campaign for which she was shortlisted for the Kim Scott Walwyn Women in Publishing Award. In 2020, Aki was named as one of the Bookseller 150, a list of the most influential people in UK publishing. She is also the founder of the Rebecca Swift Foundation, a registered charity that celebrates and advocates for women poets in the UK and is home to the Women Poets' Prize and the Women Poets' Network.