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## INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION'S CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO READ PLEDGE HITS 1,000 SIGNATURES

### *Supporters Represent More Than 175,000 Students Across the Globe*

Newark, Del. (December 14, 2018) — Over 1,000 individuals and organizations, representing more than 50 countries; 30 organizations; 20 schools, districts and universities; and 175,000 students, have pledged support to the International Literacy Association's Children's Rights to Read initiative. The global movement focuses on making sure that every child has access to the education, opportunities and resources needed to read.

Supporters have pledged to enact ILA's Children's Rights to Read—ten fundamental rights ILA asserts that every child deserves. The yearlong campaign will focus on activating educators, policymakers and literacy partners to join ILA in their efforts to raise awareness of these Rights, with the long-term goal of ensuring every child has access to the education, opportunities and resources needed to read.

"Exceeding one thousand supporters demonstrates the momentum and unity around our vision of literacy for all," says ILA Executive Director Marcie Craig Post. "Now we're focused on channeling this momentum into action."

Organizations that have signed the pledge include Child Smile Liberia, Kids Own Australian Literature Awards Inc., Poetry Ireland, Taiwan Reading Association, American Eagle Institute, DisruptED and British Virgin Islands Reading Council. Individual supporters span a wide spectrum of ages, backgrounds, professions and expertise. More than 50 countries are represented overall.

"I commend the efforts of ILA for igniting the flame of such a critical movement," says Stephen G. Peters, superintendent of Laurens County School District 55 and current ILA Board member. "[It] will create multiple pathways for success for millions of children across the world."

As part of the ongoing campaign, ILA will be developing and distributing practical resources that educators can use to enact these Rights in their classrooms, schools and communities. The first, [The Case for Children's Rights to Read](#), is available now.

Visit [literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread](http://literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread) to download the Children's Rights to Read, available in eight languages, and sign the pledge in support.

### ***About the International Literacy Association***

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a global advocacy and membership organization dedicated to advancing literacy for all through its network of more than 300,000 literacy educators, researchers and experts across 146 countries. With over 60 years of experience, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated. ILA's Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals 2017 provides an evidence-based benchmark for the development and evaluation of literacy professional preparation programs. ILA collaborates with partners across the world to develop, gather and disseminate high-quality resources, best practices and cutting-edge research to empower educators, inspire students and inform policymakers. ILA publishes *The Reading Teacher*, *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* and *Reading Research Quarterly*, which

are peer reviewed and edited by leaders in the field. For more information, visit [literacyworldwide.org](http://literacyworldwide.org).

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