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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY ASSOCIATION RELEASES 2024 EDITION OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS TO READ ADVOCACY MANUAL

NEWARK, Del. (September 9, 2024) — In recognition of International Literacy Day, the International Literacy Association (ILA) announced today the next phase of its Children's Rights to Read campaign, an initiative that continues ILA's mission of promoting equitable access to literacies among individuals of all ages and diverse communities as a basic human right and a matter of social justice.

Children's Rights to Read—which advocates for every child, everywhere, to have access to the education, opportunities and resources they need to read and be successful—was first launched in 2018. The list of 10 rights, including the right to diverse texts that offer opportunities for students to see authentic versions of themselves and others and the right to extended time set aside for reading, has been translated into 16 languages and has inspired similar campaigns around the world (such as the [European Declaration of Digital Literacy as a Basic Right of Children](#)).

This new phase—anchored by a 2024 edition of ILA's Advocating for Children's Rights to Read manual—aims to reignite global engagement with an emphasis on small-scale advocacy efforts. The manual provides actionable strategies for a range of audiences—everyone from classroom teachers and reading specialists to librarians and policymakers. The included "Take Action" planning templates encourage literacy partners at all levels to look at what steps they can take to become even more effective advocates for children's rights in their communities.

"The Children's Rights to Read initiative underscores our commitment to literacy as a fundamental human right and also empowers communities to take meaningful action in support of every child's right to read," said J. Helen Perkins, president of ILA's Board of Directors and professor emerita of literacy at University of Memphis in Tennessee. "I am deeply committed to strengthening ILA's advocacy efforts, and the Children's Rights to Read campaign is a perfect example of how we can make a significant impact."

In addition to the manual, ILA has reintroduced a pledge to support Children's Rights to Read, inviting educators, policymakers, literacy advocates and community members to reaffirm their commitment to the 10 fundamental rights. To expand the campaign's reach, signers are also invited to take the pledge and manual directly into their schools, communities and professional networks. Activating these signers as volunteers will play a crucial role in advocating for and protecting Children's Rights to Read at the grassroots level.

"We are thrilled to bring new energy to our Children's Rights to Read campaign," said Nicola Wedderburn, executive director of ILA. "Literacy is the cornerstone not only of education but also of equity and social justice, and our renewed efforts will empower educators and advocates to work toward a world where every child can exercise their right to read."

To learn more about Children's Rights to Read or how to get involved, visit: literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread

About the International Literacy Association

The International Literacy Association (ILA) is a professional membership organization of literacy educators, researchers and experts spanning 128 countries. For nearly 70 years, ILA has set the standard for how literacy is defined, taught and evaluated, connecting research and practice to improve the quality of literacy learning across the globe. Through its Standards for the Preparation of Literacy Professionals, ILA 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, which include three peer-reviewed and edited journals—The Reading Teacher, Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy and Reading Research Quarterly. Learn more at literacyworldwide.org.

About Children's Rights to Read

The Children's Rights to Read initiative, launched by the International Literacy Association (ILA) to ensure every child has access to the education, opportunities and resources needed to read, focuses on 10 rights essential for individuals to reach full personal, social and educational potential. The global campaign asserts and affirms ILA's commitment to its mission of literacy for all and offers a framework for partnerships and action. To learn more and sign the pledge to support the rights, visit literacyworldwide.org/rightstoread.

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