



● SVERIGES FÖRFATTARFÖRBUND



Brussels, 29 October 2020

## To the Presidents and Chairs of EWC and CEATL member organizations: Invitation to take part in the video reading campaign #freewordsbelarus

Dear Colleagues,

It is with horror we follow the current situation in Belarus. Our neighbours, the Belarusian people, are being deprived of fundamental rights such as freedom of speech and freedom of opinion and are being victims of inconceivable actions of oppression and violence in the efforts from the Lukashenka regime to maintain in power. We sympathize deeply with the Belarusian people and with our Belarusian colleagues.

Many EWC and CEATL member organisations expressed their solidarity with Belarusian writers and translators, with own statements, actions and reports (an overview can be found [here](#)). To make this community of authors even more visible, we would like to invite you to a joint action: **On the initiative of The Swedish Writers' Union together with EWC we invite You, Presidents and Chairs of EWC and CEATL member organizations, to participate in a digital solidarity manifestation for our fellow writers and translators in Belarus.** We will do this by reading a piece out of the book "Frescoes" by Barys Pjatrovitj, Chair of The Union of Belarusian Writers; "The Border", translated into English by a translator who prefers to stay anonymous – because of safety reasons. "The Border" will be read sentence by sentence by at least 28 chair-persons and recorded by video. The project costs are funded by the German Writers' Union, whom we expressly thank for their support.

As all of you represent numerous members this reading will contain all their voices as well, and it is our belief that it will make a powerful choir of support for those affected by the injustices. We also count on public media in each free country to support this action by dissemination of information about our solidarity manifestation for our colleagues in Belarus.

Each of the participants will be assigned a snippet of "The Border" to read in a video recording and send to our IT-technician, who will assemble the 28 snippets into one piece that can be streamed and widely shared. Detailed instructions will be sent to all participants after having registered until **5 November 2020** under the link you find below.

If you have any questions beforehand, please let us know through [danielcristeaenache@gmail.com](mailto:danielcristeaenache@gmail.com).

We hope for lively participation - because together we are stronger. With warmest regards:

**Nina George**  
EWC  
President

**Grethe Rottböll**  
Swedish Writers' Union  
President

**Morten Visby**  
CEATL  
President

**Daniel Cristea-Enache**  
EWC  
Vice President

**Viveka Sjögren Bangoura**  
Swedish Writers' Union  
President - Head of International Council

**Alena Makouskaya**  
Union of Belarusian Writers  
EWC Board Member

**IF YOU WANT TO TAKE PART AS ONE OF 28 READERS, PLEASE REGISTER UNTIL  
5 November 2020 under the link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/freewordsbelarus>**