

# ALA Council Committee Report Form

TO: ALA Council

DATE: June 21, 2024

RE: *(select one)*

ACTION REQUESTED

INFORMATION **Includes a Statement from ALA COSWL**

REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED/INFORMATION/REPORT: *(add below)*

Report from the [Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship](#)

In alignment with COSWL's [charge](#), members discussed issues related to women in librarianship and sent top three issues to ALA President, President-Elect, and Past President as well as to the ALA Interim ED.

COSWL page with charge:

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/committees/ala/ala-coswl>

## Issues related to women in librarianship:

1. Many women don't want to travel to some states state (for a conference or event) where they can't receive care if they experience an emergency due to restrictions placed on women, e.g. pregnant women, etc.

NOTE COSWL members voted YES to take action related to the following issue "about ALA continuing to host conferences in states where a large portion of our attendees, if in a medical crisis, may not be able to receive appropriate emergency medical care."

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## **ALA COSWL Statement Endorsed by the ACRL-Women and Gender Studies Section Executive Committee and the Social Responsibilities Round Table**

***The ALA Committee on the Status of Women in Librarianship calls on the ALA Executive Board to take expeditious action in support of women and people who are pregnant related to the matter of ALA continuing to host conferences in states where a large portion of our attendees, if in a medical crisis, may not be able to receive appropriate emergency medical care.***

***While the committee understands contractual obligations to have conference sites booked far in advance, we request that the conference committee explore considering the location of a conference site with local limitations on women's rights, when selecting future locations to ensure that all ALA members have equal access to emergency medical care if needed.***

2. Cities and states trying to separate from ALA. For example, Georgia is attacking credentialing librarians. Since women represent about 87% of librarianship, this situation can affect a large part of our profession leaving women outside of the equal playing field.

3. Supporting women - librarians- harassed by ideologies that do not respect autonomy of women. For example: librarians facing book bans, facing city councils, town halls, harassment online, harassment at their workplaces, attacks on their families, etc.

### **Web event:**

COSWL members worked as a team to present one event about Salary Equity and to review resources. At the beginning of the work year, members conducted an internal survey to identify issues of interest to

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women in librarianship. COSWL's resources and webinars' themes are based on the survey.

COSWL Webinar:

“Salary Equity and Library Workers: Experiences from the Field on How to Make it Happen”

Presented in conjunction with the ALA-APA Standing [Committee on the Salaries and Status of Library Workers](#) (SSLW) which also designated a representative to speak during the event. Big thanks to ALA Staff Liaison Beatrice Calvin for her support.

The recording of the webinar is available here:

<https://www.ala.org/aboutala/committees/ala/ala-coswl>

Speakers:

Moderator: Loida Garcia-Febo, Chair ALA COSWL, ALA Past President

Opening Remarks: ALA President, Emily Drabinski

Elizabeth Langley, Managing Librarian, Sahuarita Library, [Pima County Public Library](#) (Arizona)

Nicollette Davis, Kinesiology, Social Work, and Health Sciences Librarian, [Louisiana State University Library](#), Research and Instruction Services Department

Hong Yao, Director of Technical Services, [Queens Public Library](#) (New York)

Anna Troberg, President of [DIK](#), the Swedish Union for Librarians

Sasha Eastwood (Immediate Past President) and Clare Forrest (Executive Board), [School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa](#) (SLANZA);

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from the team that successfully secured Pay Equity for Aotearoa New Zealand school librarians and library assistants

COSWL Resources:

[“Important Women’s Sites”](#) reviewed and updated. It includes resources about: Pay equity and worker’s rights, Public Policy and Advocacy, Professional Development and Educational Support, Resources for Youth, and Women’s Studies.

Submitted by Loida Garcia-Febo, COSWL Chair

COSWL Members:

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