



Bibliotekarforbundet

The Norwegian Librarians' Union stands together with colleagues in the USA

The land of dreams is turning into a nightmare an entire world. In the United States, we are witnessing a serious weakening of the public sector and pressure on free knowledge institutions. The Trump administration's dismantling of the knowledge sector is a threat to democracy. We must do something — we must speak out!

In the US, the public sector is being destroyed, and there is serious pressure on academia. The Archivist of the United States has been dismissed, and at the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) – which includes their version of our National Library – nearly all employees have been laid off. Research on topics such as diversity, ethnicity, and gender is under pressure and has already led to significant layoffs in the research and education sector.

Democracy requires resilience

The Norwegian Librarians' Union is an association with deep roots in values such as freedom of expression, knowledge, equality and independence. Library workers all over the world fight for rights such as equality, freedom and access to knowledge, literature and culture. We act independently and counteract censorship. We support democracy and defend freedom of expression. When librarians and researchers are affected by political processes that undermine these values, we are obliged to react!

The Norwegian Librarians' Union wants an end to the indiscriminate dismantling of public administration and the threats to academia and free research. Public institutions, higher education, and research constitute a control mechanism in a democratic society. When decisions are made based on knowledge and professional assessments, society's ability to meet challenges with insight and accountability is strengthened. What is happening in the USA now challenges democracy and the right to free access to information.

Library workers are the guardians of knowledge. We fight for access to art, literature, and culture – regardless of political guidelines. Libraries and archives are society's collective memory. When public funding is weakened and knowledge production becomes selective, citizens' ability to live out their democratic rights is threatened.

Hands Off, Trump!

In solidarity with our colleagues in the United States, we want to speak out clearly: We see what's happening and recognize the fear you live under. We recognize the gravity of the situation and stand with you – in solidarity, not in silence.

At the same time, we must not forget the importance of safeguarding our own structures. Norway has a strong public administration, academic freedom, and a well-functioning tripartite cooperation model. This provides a secure framework for individuals and businesses, and for democracy and development. We must defend this – and never take it for granted.

When democracy is challenged in one place, it concerns us all. That is why we speak out – in solidarity and with strength. Shout out with us: Stop the dismantling of democracy, Trump!