



1 - LLJ Conference, July 17-18, 2019. FILGUA 2019 / IBBY Manifesto

KAWOK Manifesto

Reading takes you far

Read to grow

DAER upside down ...

This is how IBBY GUATEMALA was born

July 18, 2019. Freedom, prosperity and the development of society and people are fundamental human values; and social equity and tolerance, essential elements for human development. That is why we consider that reading, its promotion and teaching, should be a fundamental part of the process of formation and learning of any child:

- Human intelligence is linguistic, so our ontological development is inescapably linked to the development and improvement of that capacity;
- human culture is based on symbols made of words, human culture is inevitably symbolic and, therefore, linguistic, so that we need words to build our world, to improve it, and sometimes pitifully also to destroy it;
- our coexistence needs words, our peaceful coexistence is made of debate and discussion, of reasonable disagreements and agreements; Our democracy needs the words and, consequently, the activities that promote, stimulate and advise its use.

What we have learned so far

Reading is childhood and youth

because children and young people are also people. Because we know that they should be treated with respect as human beings and recognized for their universal human rights and responsibilities. This means that children and young people must have an active participation in decisions that affect their learning, experiences and development, and in all other areas of daily life. This is a real inclusion.

Reading is freedom

Reading is one of the few actions that the imperative mode does not support (maybe it happens at school on occasion (but that doesn't count).

We read aloud, muttering or silently. And it can be done at any time and place: in the library, at home, at recess, in the park, waiting for the bus, under a tree, in bed, in the armchair, on the lounge table, with your legs crossed ... in the bathroom.

Reading is being, being and growing

Children's and youth literature are essentials in the formation of personality, promoting creativity and transmitting values of children and adolescents; Books and reading are essential to promote curiosity, the spirit of discovery, the capacity for critical thinking and self-learning.

Reading is community

Children's and youth literature not only unite readers; also, to professionals: authors, illustrators, mediators, librarians, teachers, researchers, specialists and interested in children's and youth literature. And to mothers and fathers. We want to read at school, libraries and at home.

Reading is democracy

Children's and youth literature are essential in citizenship education. They guide the learning of the rights and duties of citizens, respect for democratic values and human rights, and the importance of solidarity, tolerance and participation in a democratic society. And Guatemala is thirsty for a quality democracy.

Reading is revolution

If literature in general promotes ideals and consciences, children's and youth literature promote social cohesion and the more active participation of citizens in social and political life.

Reading is diversity

We appropriate the inspiring principles of ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We are inspired by our current Political Constitution of Guatemala, especially in its article 58, referring to the cultural Identity and by which the right of people and communities to their cultural identity is recognized according to their values, their language and their customs. Likewise, of article 66, referring to the Protection of ethnic groups.

Reading is discovering

Being curious and imaginative, valuing self-learning and free expression. It is an attitude that causes an individual transformation that encourages



the desire to know more. The discovery gives hope, encourages critical judgment, and inspires action.

Reading is not having prejudices

It helps us to go against the hegemony of the immediate, in favor of diversity and the disappearance of stereotypes that do not correspond in any way to children and young people.

Reading is reading

We read books. Those that open or turn on and off; With many or few images. But we also read images, verses, thoughts We read with our fingers; We read ideas, gazes and lips. We read people.

Reading is magic

Kęstutis Kasparavičius said in his manifesto of the children's and youth book, dated April 2, 2019: “Yes, yes, the books can also read. They read your forehead, your eyebrows, the corners of your lips, which now go up, now go down; Above all, of course, they read your eyes. And by the eyes they understand ... guess ... Well, you yourselves know what! That is why literature for children and young people is magical.

Reading is democracy

Reading brings us together as a group; It encourages us to participate and comment. Strengthens our rights of free expression, equity, equality and tolerance. It creates a sense of belonging and community.

Read saves lives

Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, as well as some regions of Mexico, are witnessing the reactivation of their conflicts with a mortality rate that has reached numbers of the 80s. The repercussions of corruption, extreme inequality, police precariousness and the breakdown of social structures has caused governments to be virtually unable to protect their citizens. As in most conflict zones, children and young people suffer the most painful consequences. The avalanche of minors alone who seek refuge from violence is a direct result of the last 45 years of war in the area. That is why Guatemala joins the efforts of the International Board on Books for Young People (in English, IBBY, its US subsidiary (USBBY), IBBY Mexico /A LEER, REFORMA, the American Association of Libraries (American Library Association) and the Texas Library Association.

Reading is not forgetting

Guatemala bled out in a war, years ago and today, we continue with open wounds. Wounds that remind us of our differences. Reading will allow us to understand that our differences make us unique and strong. Child and youth reading will help us to allow a new generation of Guatemalans to born and grow without hatred and fear. So that the brutality of the past is not repeated.

Read is FILGUA and FILGUA is Guatemala

We wish that the XVI edition of the International Book Fair of Guatemala (FILGUA) be the ideal stage to give life to IBBY Guatemala and that the poet Humberto Ak'abal be our godfather of honor, because we know that his poems will always be by our side.

Some will say that these principles require a revolution. Others, that we need a massive innovation to make our future positive in the field of education.

This is our noble mission: to evolve and revolutionize not only with our ideas, but also with concrete and planned actions aimed at achieving our objectives of what we have learned in our individual efforts and what we have learned together; to generate new learnings that allow us to evolve and revolutionize Guatemala.

Signatory Organizations:

KAWOK. Meaning: The family, the community, the group, the associations, the whole.

Polarity: East

Element: Fire

Body: Spiritual

