

# Translators Association

## End of Year Review – 12 November 2025

### Report from the Chair

*Prepared by Ian Giles*

#### Background and Objectives

A Special Interest Group (SIG) of the Society of Authors (SoA), the [Translators Association](#) (TA) was founded in 1958. The TA provides a source of expert advice for individual literary translators and is also a collective voice representing the profession as a whole. Any member of the SoA who is a translator or otherwise holds an active interest in translation may become a member of the TA on joining the SoA. The interests of TA members are represented via the elected TA Committee.

#### What Does the TA Committee Do?

The TA Committee ensures that the TA's advocacy reflects the needs of the wider TA membership. It ensures a good flow of communication between TA members and the team at the SoA who work on the TA's behalf. It also works to address issues raised by the membership and respond on the membership's behalf to relevant issues in the wider literary and cultural landscape.

The Committee meets on a quarterly basis either virtually or on a hybrid basis, and communicates by email in intervals between meetings. The TA Chair is appointed by the Committee from among their own number. The TA Chair attends SoA Management Committee meetings (in a non-voting capacity) to represent the interests of TA members. The current TA Chair is also a member of the SoA's Finance Sub-committee and the SoA's Policy and Campaigns Sub-committee, and previously served on the Author Communities Review working group.

The TA is a founder member of the European Council of Literary Translators' Associations (CEATL) and sends at least one delegate to the organisation's AGM, in addition to contributing to CEATL's research and policy work through participation in its working groups.

#### Who Is On the TA Committee?

Following the 2024 AGM, the TA Committee had 7 elected members. These were: Ian Giles (Chair); Isabel del Rio; Paul Russell Garrett; Kathy Saranpa; Nichola Smalley; and Fiona Sze-Lorrain. The TA's CEATL delegate, Roland Glasser, was also a full member.

Roland Glasser announced his intention to retire from his role as the TA's CEATL delegate at the end of the 2025 calendar year. The TA extends its heartfelt gratitude to Roland for his efforts on our behalf over almost the last decade. As a result, a small working group was formed to draft a role description for the position of CEATL delegate and to draft appropriate selection criteria, which were duly approved by the TA Committee. A selection process was initiated with notes of interest in the position from eligible TA members sought. Subsequently,

the TA Committee unanimously approved the selection of Paul Russell Garrett as the TA's new CEATL delegate. Paul and Roland are currently in a handover phase and Paul will officially become the TA's lone delegate from January 2026.

Nominations were sought for two TA Committee vacancies in September 2025 and six nominations were received, which meant a poll of TA full members was held. Voting closed in early November. Members Josephine Murray and Cecilia Rossi will formally join the TA Committee for a two-year term beginning on 1 January 2026. Congratulations to them on their successful elections and many thanks to all candidates for putting themselves forward.

[Further details about the current TA Committee can be found here.](#)

## TA Governance

TA members may recall the section on the Author Communities Review (ACR) that was included in the written report shared with members in November 2024. Since then, the TA Chair has attended two workshops as part of this process (December 2024 and March 2025) and the Committee devoted considerable time and effort to the review of its own governance processes within the remit of the ACR.

Following this work, the TA Committee voted to adopt the following draft documents:

- TA Terms of Reference
- TA Chair Role Description
- TA Committee Member Role Description

The TA's revised governance documents are available [here](#). General resources relating to SoA SIGs are also available [here](#).

During the TA Committee's work as part of the ACR, the role of TA members who are only Associate members of the SoA was the topic of much discussion. Approximately 15% of TA members are only Associate members of the SoA. Under the existing arrangements applicable to SIGs, Associate members are not eligible to put themselves forward as candidates or vote in elections pertaining to the TA Committee. The TA Committee's view was that this was not equitable or sustainable to Membership voting. A proposal by the TA Committee to enable Associate members to stand and vote in SIG committee elections was endorsed by the SoA's Membership Sub-committee in the autumn of 2025 and will (provisionally) be implemented prior to the TA's 2026 Committee elections.

The SoA has an honorary body of up to 60 prominent members, who are known as Fellows. Membership is an accolade conferred by the SoA Management Committee. Over the last year, the TA Committee has been working to encourage the Management Committee to increase the number of translators represented among the Fellows in order to better reflect the number of

translators in the SoA membership body. The TA is delighted that Vineet Lal has been proposed as a Fellow (subject to ratification by the SoA AGM on 20 November 2025).

[Further details about the SoA's Fellows is available here.](#)

## **What Resources Does the TA Have?**

The TA's SoA staff co-coordinators are Catherine Fuller and Ambre Morvan who spend an average of one day per working week on TA-related issues. work in the SoA's Contracts and Policy teams respectively also intersect at many points with the aims of the TA. Members are free to contact the co-ordinators at any time and they are always happy to answer questions. The TA is otherwise dependent on the staff and resources provided to its SIGs by the SoA, in addition to the time volunteered by members of its Committee.

## **Activities**

Activities undertaken and led by the TA Committee and TA Chair in the last year:

- *Virtual Afternoon Tea event with Arunava Sinha, November 2024*
- *Committee attendance at Warwick Prize for Women in Translation event, November 2024*
- *Engagement with campaign to enhance use of metadata in library catalogue software discovery layers*
- *Industry-based applicant in network-based doctoral application led by Heriot Watt University*
- *Chair and staff coordinator attended BCLT Sebald Lecture, December 2024*
- *Chair attendance at All Party Writers Group reception, House of Commons, December 2024*
- *Chair attendance at Human vs Machine event at Institut français d'Ecosse, Edinburgh, December 2024*
- *Involvement in the planning and delivery of translator-focused events as part of "French Week" to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scott Moncrieff Prize, January 2025*
- *Engagement with SoA's strategic review process, including day-long workshop in February 2025*
- *Committee attendance at Translation Prizes event at British Library, February 2025 (Chair was event compere)*
- *Engagement with ACR (since autumn 2023):*
  - *Chair served on SoA working group*
  - *TA committee has focused efforts on its own processes and documents*
  - *Drafting of guidance relating to the TA's membership of CEATL and its delegate selection criteria*
- *Issues around literary and translation prizes:*
  - *Involvement in discussions relating to the funding of the SoA Translation Prizes*
  - *Worked with SoA CEO to draft letter to organisers of Baillie Gifford Prize on behalf of two members relating to ensuring due credit and reward in the case of translated titles.*

- Committee working towards further campaign work on this issue re: other literary prizes.
  - Ongoing work and dialogue re: Translation Prizes awards ceremony event
  - Ongoing dialogue around submissions criteria for Translation Prizes
- Continued engagement with SoA Comms re: online members' directory, focusing on 'find a translator'
- London Book Fair:
  - Membership of London Book Fair's Literary Translation Centre steering group (ongoing), with responsibility for organisation and programming of two events, March 2025
  - Chair, committee and coordinators all in attendance at Olympia, March 2025
- Chair attendance at panel discussion on importance of translation networks, Norwegian Ambassador's Residence, May 2025
- CEATL delegate attended AGM in Kraków, May 2025
- Media:
  - The Chair, committee members and ordinary members of the TA have provided official comment to various articles as required in the national media, primarily on issues around AI.
  - The Chair co-authored an [op-ed for The Bookseller](#) together with SoA CEO on the issue of AI and translation.
  - Chair and members quoted in long feature in the [Financial Times](#).
  - Chair quoted in [Bookseller feature](#) on AI book translation services.
  - Chair quoted in [Guardian article](#).
- Committee attendance at ERBD Literature Prize event, June 2025
- Drafting of new best practice guide on readers reports (ongoing)
- Review of translator-publisher model contract and payment practices (ongoing)
  - This has included the exploration of the possibility of conducting translator rate survey
  - This has included the seeking of fresh legal advice on the TA's approach to its "observed rates"
- Two events programmed as part of the online "How I Translate" series in the SoA's at home event series (July & October 2025)
- Preparation and launch of [SoA campaign calling](#) for author solidarity with translators
- TA Late event hosted at Bedford Row, September 2025
- Chair featured as panellist in English PEN International Translation Day event, September 2025
- Public translation duel hosted at Bedford Row, October 2025
- Chair attended American Literary Translators' Association annual conference, November 2025

*Additional activities undertaken by the group's co-coordinators in the last year:*

- The coordinators write and produce a minimum of four email newsletters to TA members per annum.
- The coordinators provide technical support and moderation on the TA online events programme and events in 'French Week' and How We Translate events.

- *Ambre Morvan has been co-opted to the CEATL AI working group. (The presence of member organisation staff members on CEATL working groups is unusual and Ambre's inclusion is reflection of her expertise and that of the SoA in this area).*
- *Both coordinators have been meeting with industry stakeholders to discuss the issue of translators' agency representation and wider themes including the offsetting of translation grants against advances and royalties.*
- *Both coordinators gave a talk to mentees on the National Centre for Writing's Emerging Translator Mentorships programme, February 2025*
- *Catherine Fuller attended a meeting of the Translators in the West Midlands, April 2025*
- *Catherine Fuller attended the final day of the BCLT Summer School.*
- *Catherine Fuller talk on contracts at Bristol Translates summer school, 10 July 2025*
- *Additionally, SoA CEO Anna Ganley addressed attendees at the Bristol Translates summer school, 10 July 2025, on issues around translation and AI*
- *Ambre Morvan led the organisation of the translation duel hosted at Bedford Row by the TA and Policy team – which was aiming to underpin the solidarity with human translators campaign*

## **Membership Statistics (as at 1 November 2025)**

The current SoA membership is 12,494. 949 members are part of the TA. That is 7.6% of all members.

### **Types:**

<b>Associate</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Full Member</b>	<b>776</b>

### **Gender (taken from titles)**

<b>Female</b>	<b>559</b>
<b>Male</b>	<b>239</b>
<b>Other / Unknown</b>	<b>151</b>

### **Age:**

<b>24-29</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>30-39</b>	<b>134</b>
<b>40-49</b>	<b>142</b>
<b>50-59</b>	<b>159</b>
<b>60-69</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>70-79</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>80-89</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>90-99</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>133</b>

**Location:**

<b>UK</b>	<b>752</b>
<b>England</b>	<b>633</b>
<b>East Anglia</b>	<b>82</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>224</b>
<b>Midlands</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>North East</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>North West</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>South Central</b>	<b>70</b>
<b>South East</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>South West</b>	<b>60</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>80</b>
<b>Wales</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Abroad</b>	<b>197</b>

**How can you get involved?***Campaigning/events/ideas:*

The Committee is always open to ideas on both campaigning and events and the wider membership is encouraged to get in touch with the staff coordinators to share these.

*Advice and contracts:*

Ensure you use the SoA's contract vetting service and seek advice when you need it. If you encounter egregious behaviour, let us know. Likewise, if you encounter great publisher conduct, we'd like to know. Only by telling us and showing us what you are seeing in the wilds of the market can we know what is happening and advise our members to ensure they get the best possible terms.

*Talk to other TA members:*

Join the TA Forum by sending a blank email to [ta-members+subscribe@groups.io](mailto:ta-members+subscribe@groups.io) and respond to the automated request you receive by reply.

*Stand for election:*

The new governance arrangements for the TA mean that Committee terms now only last two years and there should be 2-3 vacancies each year. Join your committee and have your say!

**Any questions – or just want to say hello?***Please ask during the End of Year Review or get in touch by email:*

Catherine Fuller (TA Co-ordinator) [cfuller@societyofauthors.org](mailto:cfuller@societyofauthors.org)

Ambre Morvan (TA Co-ordinator) [amorvan@societyofauthors.org](mailto:amorvan@societyofauthors.org)

Ian Giles (TA Chair) may be contacted via the co-ordinators

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