End of Year Review – 11 November 2026
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 staff 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 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. (TA staff coordinator Ambre Morvan is also currently a member of CEATL's AI working group).

The TA Chair attends SoA Management Committee meetings (in a non-voting capacity)[1] to represent the interests of TA members. In 2025/26, the TA Chair and the TA's CEATL Delegate also attended the SoA's Policy and Campaigns Sub-committee. The TA Chair also attended meetings of the SoA's SIG chairs.

Who Is On the TA Committee?

As of 1 January 2026, the TA Committee had 8 elected members. These were: Ian Giles (Chair); Paul Russell Garrett (CEATL delegate); Josephine Murray; Isabel del Rio; Cecilia Rossi; Kathy Saranpa; Nichola Smalley; Fiona Sze-Lorrain (Chair from 1 January 2027)

An online ballot of TA members was held in October 2026 to fill 3 committee vacancies,[2] with 8 candidates standing. The TA Committee is pleased to see such high levels of engagement among its members. The following candidates were duly elected: Jane Davis; Kotryna Garanasvili; Ecre Karadag

[1] The TA Chair until November 2026 was Ian Giles, who was elected to the SoA Management Committee as a full board member in November 2025. While he has been able to cast votes since then, these votes are cast in his capacity as an elected director of the SoA, rather than as TA Chair.

[2] Ian Giles, Isabel del Rio, and Nichola Smalley will be retiring from the committee at the end of 2026.

TA Governance

The TA's governance documents are available here. General resources relating to SoA SIGs are also available here.

TA members may recall from the discussion of the Author Communities Review (ACR) in previous years. As was noted in the TA Chair's 2025 report, the TA Committee devoted much discussion to the role of TA members who are only Associate members (approximately 15% of the TA membership). Under the previous arrangements applicable to SIGs, Associate members were not eligible to put themselves forward as candidates or vote in elections pertaining to the TA Committee. The TA Committee's held that this was not equitable or sustainable and is grateful to the SoA Membership Sub-committee for its swift action to remedy this once the situation was brought to its attention. As such, 2026 marks the first year in which Associate members have been able to stand and vote in the TA Committee elections.

The SoA has an honorary body of 60 prominent members, who are known as Fellows. Membership is an accolade conferred by the SoA Management Committee. Continuing its previous efforts, the TA Committee has been working to encourage an increase in 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 Peter Bush has been proposed as a Fellow (subject to ratification by the SoA AGM on 19 November 2026). 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. Their 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 Catherine and Ambre 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:

- Committee attendance at Warwick Prize for Women in Translation event, November 2025
- Continued 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 2025
- Chair attendance at All Party Writers Group reception, House of Commons, December 2025
- Chair attendance at Human vs Machine event at Institut français d'Ecosse, Edinburgh, December 2025
- Full committee attendance at Translation Prizes event at British Library, February 2026 (And committee member was event compere for evening)
- Continued engagement with TA member Christophe Fricker's campaign to enhance use of metadata in library catalogue software discovery layers, drawing on TA and SoA networks (winter 2025/26)
- Chair and coordinator attended BCLT Sebald Lecture, December 2025
- Industry-based applicant in network-based doctoral application led by Heriot Watt University (winter 2025/26)
- London Book Fair:
    - Membership of London Book Fair's Literary Translation Centre steering group (ongoing), with responsibility for organisation and programming of three events, March 2026
    - Chair, committee and coordinators all in attendance at Olympia, March 2026
- Chair invited to speak as part of online panel about AI in literary translation hosted by the Fine Arts Work Center in Massachusetts, March 2026
- Ongoing involvement since spring 2026 with Dr Peter Freeth (Warwick University) as part of a research project into the impact of #TranslatorsontheCover which proposes to draft guidance on negotiating translator cover credit
- Chair attended International Booker awards ceremony, London, May 2026
- CEATL delegate attended AGM in Oslo, May 2026

- The Chair and other committee members have provided official comment to various articles as required in the national media, primarily on issues around AI.
- Engagement with SoA Chair and CEO (ongoing)
- Chair attendance to Finance and Policy & Campaigns sub-committees (ongoing)
- Publication of new resource on best practices around readers reports
- Publication of new resource on the value of human translators
- Revision of TA guidance on rates following legal advice on competition law and how this impacts SoA advice on "observed rates" and fees
- Review of translator-publisher model contract and payment practices (ongoing)
- A translator rate survey was conducted in October 2026 (findings pending)
- Engagement with CEATL (ongoing)
- Online "Industry Insider" event on reading translations, April 2026
- Industry-based applicant in network-based doctoral application led by the University of the Highlands and Islands, May 2026
- Chair attendance at SoA Awards, Southwark Cathedral, June 2026
- Chair invited panellist in session at Oxford Translates on importance of translator unions, July 2026
- Online "How I Translate" event, July 2026
- Committee member chaired English PEN International Translation Day event, September 2026
- TA Late event hosted at Bedford Row, October 2026
- Chair participated in language technologies research stakeholder event at Heriot Watt University, October 2026
- Committee attendance at industry-led panel discussions on UK market for children's translated literature, Norwegian Ambassador's Residence, November 2026
- Preparations for TA End of Year Wrap event online (including social), November 2026

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

- Ambre Morvan writes and produces a minimum of four email newsletters to TA members per annum (although in recent years there have been 2–3 bonus issues as necessary).
- Ambre Morvan has served on the CEATL AI working group since mid-2025. (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).
- 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. (October 2025)
- Both coordinators met with Umair Kazi and Andrea Bronson of the Authors Guild (USA) to discuss future avenues for collaboration on helping translators on both sides of the Atlantic
- Both coordinators authored an article for the spring 2026 issue of *The Author* on translators' contracts
- Catherine Fuller attended CEATL's major multi-day conference in Strasbourg, October 2024
- 'John Calder Week' event series (run by Prizes & Events), February 2026
- Both coordinators gave an online talk on What the SoA Can Do For You to the National Centre for Writing's Emerging Translator mentees, February 2026
- Ambre Morvan gave a talk on contracts at the Oxford Translates summer school, July 2026
- Both coordinators were interviewed by Peter Freeth on translator cover credit, September 2026
- Catherine Fuller attended English PEN's International Translation Day "Editorial Slam", September 2026
- Catherine Fuller attended the CIoL's webinar on Translating Graphic Novels, October 2026
- *Jolyon Leavesley has done a lot of work to update the TA web pages on the SoA website, for which we are very grateful.*

Report from the TA's CEATL Delegate (Paul Russell Garrett):

After seven years, Roland Glasser stepped down from his role as the Translators Association's CEATL delegate, with Paul Russell Garrett elected to replace him, after the committee's careful consideration of the role, duties and term of the delegate. Paul joined in time for his first AGM in Oslo in May, where unsurprisingly AI was the dominant issue. CEATL continues to actively look for new partners and strategies to defend its members against the unwanted proliferation of AI in the publishing industry. A comprehensive survey among member associations found that the vast majority of members reject the growing use of AI, and CEATL is a strong voice in Europe and the EU, with their campaign: No-one left behind, no language left behind, no book left behind (https://www.ceatl.eu/tools-of-the-trade/statement-on-artificial-intelligence). Paul is currently working with CEATL's Visibility Group but aims to stand for the CEATL Board at the organisation's 2027 AGM.

Membership Statistics as of 27 October 2026

TA membership in early September 2026 prior to the opening of the TA Committee elections stood at 980 (942 in September 2025).

Grants

The SoA oversees a number of charities that offer grants to writers, translators and illustrators. Further details are available on the SoA website. The following figures relate to those grants which translators are eligible for (previous year figures noted in parentheses):

In 2025, the **Authors' Contingency Fund and Francis Head Trust** gave out £110,405 (£125,950) to writers with 1 (3) of the 107 (120) grantees being translators (around 1% (3%)). The fund received a total of 2 applications from translators.

The **Authors' Foundation** received 3 (6) applications from translators in 2025. All three applicants were successful (the success rate for this fund sits between 30–40%).

The **Access Fund** received 4 (3) applications from translators in 2025 (6% (5%) of all applicants) and all of them received a grant. (Please note this fund is currently closed and anticipated to re-open in January 2027).

The **Strachey Trust Grants** received 0 (0) applications from translators. This fund opened in 2024 and gives grants of up to £500 to authors wishing to travel to a UK archive or collection to research manuscript material, for a specific full-length literary project which has a strong likelihood of publication. Translators are encouraged to apply!

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 and respond to the automated request you receive by reply.

Come to our events:
The TA puts on a number of events each year both in person and online – come along!

Stand for election
The TA's governance arrangements mean that Committee terms 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
Ambre Morvan (TA Co-ordinator) amorvan@societyofauthors.org
The TA Chair may be contacted via the co-ordinators