

TA committee meeting summary – Meeting held 31 October 2023

The TA Committee was joined by SoA CEO Nicola Solomon. Nicola outlined some key areas the SoA Policy Team is currently working on, including around AI, the Spotify streaming deal and the ever-relevant issue of freelancer payment, and mentioned that the Policy Team is always keen to receive evidence from members regarding areas they would like to see new policy on. Of particular current interest is translators using AI tools in their work. And there was good news about the SoA author and translator directory and profiles, which are now live.

Ian Giles was elected the new committee co-chair, and the current chairs outlined current and ongoing events planning, including for the 2024 London Book Fair Literary Translation Centre, 2024 TA Lates, and the Afternoon Tea with Sarah Death, which took place on 9 November. In addition there was extensive discussion of a request from ALTA to collaborate on advocacy work, and it was agreed that this would be a good idea in principle, although more info was needed on what kind of advocacy was being referred to.

There was an impassioned conversation about calls to make statements in support of translators in conflict zones, with emphasis on the current situation in Gaza, and some additional context was provided by Nicola Solomon about the origin of the SoA's 2022 statement on Ukraine, which was a response to a request from a counterpart organisation in Ukraine. It was discussed whether there needed to be a policy on the circumstances under which the SoA would and wouldn't put out a statement, and it was noted that the Policy Team are looking into this. It was reiterated that translators getting in touch with the team regarding this matter are being heard.

Catherine Fuller mentioned that she has been having meetings with publishers who regularly publish translations about payment and terms for translators, and that she is planning to continue this work in the future.