

Resolution on The Starvation of Young Black Minds:  
The Effects of Book Boycotts in South Africa

WHEREAS, the American Association of Publishers (AAP) has requested that the American Library Association endorse The Starvation of Young Black Minds: The Effects of Book Boycotts in South Africa,

WHEREAS, an endorsement of this report would be in conflict with ALA Policy 9.4 regarding racist institutions; ALA Policy 9.3 regarding affiliation with organizations which violate human rights and social justice; ALA Policy 57.3, the abridgement of the rights of freedom of foreign nationals; ALA Policy 53.4, government intimidation policy; Council Resolution 1986; and

WHEREAS, the ending of the ban on the ANC and other organizations, the lifting of the National Emergency Powers, the freeing of some political prisoners including Nelson Mandela and Walter Sisulu, the partial lifting of the Separate Amenities Act have not ended the vicious system of apartheid, since elementary human, economic, and political rights have not been granted to the black majority population; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing changes are only the beginning of the process to abolish apartheid, Nelson Mandela has urged the nations of the world to continue the sanctions, and Walter Sisulu advises "until there are clear, visible signs that there is an end of apartheid, the pressure must continue," and

WHEREAS, at a hearing on the AAP Report, the overwhelming majority of ALA members applauded the recent changes initiated by President F. W. deKlerk but went on record strongly supporting the continuation of the boycott against South Africa until apartheid is completely dismantled; and

WHEREAS, South African librarian colleagues in the forefront of the anti-Apartheid and anti-censorship struggle have called upon us to uphold the boycott, urging that we actively support all those committed to democracy in South Africa while continuing to frustrate those involved in the perpetuation of apartheid through military, commercial, financial and other means; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the ALA reaffirm its current policies and not endorse the AAP Report.

Endorsed by  
the ALA International Relations Committee  
the ALA Executive Board

ALA Policies: 9.3; 9.4; 9.5; 53.4; 57.3; 1986 ALA Council Resolution