



PEN CANADA
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FREE
EXPRESSION
MATTERS

Giving Tuesday 2022

Why I support PEN

Two days after being placed on a list of 100 Canadians banned from Russia, this appeal for PEN Canada has never felt more personal. While I can write freely, I know this isn't so for writers and activists living under regimes far less hospitable to the truth. My association with PEN Canada has exposed me to the wide range of threats and hardships these writers and journalists face. PEN has functioned as a lifeline for them in their home countries as well as in Canada where, with PEN's help, they have found refuge. Each one is a spark of truth that we must not allow anyone to extinguish. Whether through advocacy to help vulnerable writers and journalists remain in Canada, or the various programs to support writers-in-exile to establish themselves and cultivate their voices, PEN Canada makes a genuine difference in the lives of those whose dedication to the truth has upended and imperilled their lives.

There is nothing that sustains tyranny like lies, which is why there is nothing tyrants fear more than truth.

On this Giving Tuesday please join me in supporting PEN's essential work protecting writers and journalists and keeping the essential spark of truth alive.



David Bezmozgis

Writer, Filmmaker and the Creative Director of the Humber School for Writers.

Photo credit: Marco Lappano