



**PEN CANADA**  
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FREE  
EXPRESSION  
MATTERS

## **Giving Tuesday 2022**

### **Why I support PEN**

In 1921, in the wake of World War I, PEN was founded by writers who embraced a vision of "one humanity living in peace and equality." Since then, PEN's 146 national centres have defended thousands of writers and journalists.

Freedom of expression has never been more imperilled. Last year, 293 journalists were imprisoned worldwide and at least 24 were killed because of their writing.

Online threats have risen sharply. The International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) finds that: "Women journalists are now more exposed to online violence than ever" and face onslaughts of abuse which are designed to "belittle, humiliate, and shame; induce fear, silence, and retreat; ...undermine trust in facts; and chill their active participation...in public debate."

Courageous writers and journalists refuse to be silenced. PEN vigorously defends those who resist repression to tell the truth. When PEN defends a single writer's freedom of expression, PEN is defending all of our freedom of expression.

Please join me in supporting PEN's mission on this year's #GivingTuesday.



**Kim Echlin**

*Canadian Novelist, Translator, Editor and Teacher*

*Photo credit: Michelle Quance*