



Jennifer Griswold
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To the Pflugerville Library Advisory Board:

I have watched the material in question with an open mind and a neutral perspective. I see no reason to remove the item. The item in question is owned by 143 libraries and there is no evidence that the item's sole intent is to offend. In the interest of balance, we have an item in Kanopy that, while it is not about charter schools, it provides an alternate perspective of the Erdogan presidency and features an interview with Fethullah Gulen.

The complainant has requested the item be removed because it does "not represent facts." This could be said of many materials in the library, religious, political, philosophical, etc., depending on perspective. It is rare that a public library would remove an item based on content, opinion, or political viewpoint. The item fits within our collection policies. Banning or removing an item that is deemed unsuitable or controversial because it expresses an idea that someone disagrees with, not only restricts access to that item, it takes away a person's right to choose for themselves. It is not the purview of public library administrators or anyone else to decide what is appropriate for an individual or their children. Our mission and our purpose are to give people a myriad of informational and entertainment resources, so that they have a choice in what they view, read, and listen to.

Our policies state:

In selecting materials and developing collections, the library includes materials that represent the broad range of human experience, reflecting not only the region it serves but also the larger global perspective. Library collections provide a broad range of opinions on current issues.

We are guided by the principle of selection, rather than censorship. The selection of a given item for a library's collections should not be interpreted as an endorsement of a particular viewpoint.

Works are not excluded or included in the collection based solely on subject matter or on political, religious, or ideological grounds.

Library materials will not be marked or identified to show approval or disapproval of their contents.

The Pflugerville Public Library recognizes that certain materials may be controversial and that any item may offend some guests.

American Library Association statements:

Freedom to View Statement

The freedom to view, along with the freedom to speak, to hear, and to read, is protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. In a free society, there is no place for censorship of any medium of expression. Therefore, these principles are affirmed:

1. To provide the broadest access to film, video, and other audiovisual materials because they are a means for the communication of ideas. Liberty of circulation is essential to insure the constitutional guarantee of freedom of expression.
2. To protect the confidentiality of all individuals and institutions using film, video, and other audiovisual materials.
3. To provide film, video, and other audiovisual materials which represent a diversity of views and expression. Selection of a work does not constitute or imply agreement with or approval of the content.
4. To provide a diversity of viewpoints without the constraint of labeling or prejudging film, video, or other audiovisual materials on the basis of the moral, religious, or political beliefs of the producer or filmmaker or on the basis of controversial content.
5. To contest vigorously, by all lawful means, every encroachment upon the public's freedom to view.

Endorsed January 10, 1990, by the ALA Council

Freedom to read statement

I. Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.

II. Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.

III. Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.

IV. Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.

V. A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.

VI. Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

VII. All people, regardless of origin, age, background, or views, possess a right to privacy and confidentiality in their library use. Libraries should advocate for, educate about, and protect people's privacy, safeguarding all library use data, including personally identifiable information.

Adopted June 19, 1939, by the ALA Council; amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; January 23, 1980; January 29, 2019.

Inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996.

Relevant information includes:

- Available through several area libraries including Austin Public Library
- Is relevant to Texas, Austin in particular
- Award winning Austin filmmaker Mark S. Hall: MISSION ON SEVEN (2010), a half-hour documentary exploring the film archive at the Harry Ransom Center, which won a Platinum Award at the Houston Worldfest Film Festival in 2010. Hall's previous documentary feature, SUSHI: THE GLOBAL CATCH, premiered in June 2011 at the Seattle International Film Festival where it won a Special Jury Prize

X *Jennifer Coffey Griswold*

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