

## International Literature Project Series

Preparing Social Work Students to Practice in An Interconnected World

AFTERMATH OF WAR, LIVING UNDER GOVERNMENT LITERARY AND OTHER CENSORSHIP, GENDER

### NONFICTION FROM IRAN: [For the Love of Books](#)

*Habibe Jafarian describes her thirst for books growing up in a working-class home on the poor side of the city of Mashhad in Iran, right after the long eight years of war with Iraq.*

by Habibe Jafarian

SOURCE: Words Without Borders Campus ([wwb-campus.org](http://wwb-campus.org))

Click on the title above to access the reading and related multi-media teaching and learning resources, including author and translator bios and representations of socio-geographic-political and cultural context.

#### **SOCIAL WORK TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCES**

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#### **[Trying to Teach English literature in the Wake of Mao's Cultural Revolution](#)**

Literary Hub

This article chronicles some of the difficult living conditions and extreme social hardships faced by Chinese citizens during the reeducation campaigns of the cultural revolution. Sadly, certain aspects of censorship and a narrow-minded approach to teaching persisted long afterward, as well as austere living conditions. This Western teacher relates her experience of having her courses edited and message limited by local Chinese censors to comply with the principles of Chinese Communist propaganda, which persist to this day. This piece examines how through vocal opposition against the oppressive status quo, one can participate in controlled and peaceful rebellion against unjust censorship. It also relates to the concept of redemption and continuous learning, as the students who had once attacked their teachers now actively supported her for advocating on their behalf.

#### **[Barriers to the Broad Dissemination of Creative Works in the Arab World](#)**

Rand Corporation National Defense Research Institute

While the analysts have often examined the videos and other media that terrorists use to indoctrinate and disseminate their message, analysis of peaceful works of literature by Islamic writers and poets is far less frequent. This repository of creative knowledge can serve as a bulwark against the spread of extremist philosophy and ideals both in Islamic countries and amongst Islamic members of other societies and nations. The sad reality is that many of these creative works and pieces of knowledge are relatively

unknown even within the Arab world. The article questions the types of factors that limit the spread of these types of constructive works and seeks to understand the reason for the formation and existence of these barriers in the Arab world, with a specific focus on books and other printed media.

### **China's most Dangerous Profession**

*The Atlantic*

This article explores the life of a prominent Chinese writer Jung Chang who lived through the cultural revolution. Chang is considered one of the most celebrated chroniclers of modern China. Her life spotlights the threat that writing still holds for the country's rulers. It discusses the attacks and hostile environment faced by writers in the early decades of the communist regime, and the modern-day situation, which, while improved, still poses severe limitations and restrictions on writers. The concept of writing and its associated professions have always been seen as something to be feared by the government. Writing remains a threat to the social hegemony in place within modern day China. The writer discusses how in certain respects, writing about historical figures can be safer than opining on modern day leaders, as the subjects of the writing are far removed from her and unable to present a danger.

### **Gender equality in freedom of expression remains a distant goal -UN expert**

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

Gender-based violence, hate speech and disinformation are being used extensively online and offline to chill or kill women's expression, Irene Khan, the Special Rapporteur on promotion and protection of freedom of opinion and expression, told the General Assembly today. Presenting her [report](#) on gender justice and freedom of expression, Khan said that States were failing to respect, protect and fulfil women's equal right to freedom of opinion and expression. Gendered censorship is so pervasive that gender equality in freedom of expression remains a distant goal, the UN expert added. "Women's voices are suppressed, controlled or punished explicitly by laws, policies and discriminatory practices, and implicitly by social attitudes, cultural norms and patriarchal values," Khan said. [NEW YORK (18 October 2021)]

[Full Report: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan](#)

United Nations General Assembly 30 July 2021

In the present report, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, Irene Khan, notes that, despite the impressive gains made by women, gender equality in freedom of expression remains a distant goal. Adopting a gender lens, she examines the challenges that women face, offline and online, and analyses the relevant legal standards and the responsibilities of States and companies. She reaffirms the mutually reinforcing nature of gender equality and the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and underlines the vital importance of their inclusive realization for the achievement of peace, democracy and sustainable development. The Special Rapporteur makes specific recommendations to States, the international community and companies to create an enabling environment and safe digital space for women's equal enjoyment of freedom of opinion and expression.