

National Cultural Policy Submission

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Public

Individual

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Short submission (text box 500 words or less)

Our National Cultural Policy should highlight books, and the simply act of ‘reading’ as a central pillar. Reading is under attack. And in particular, men reading books is in steady decline. At the same time research has shown that empathy and kindness are trending downwards in most cultures, and a manosphere rising in its place. Our national culture has a role to play in reversing these worrying trends. Reading books remains an affordable, accessible, flexible, and immediate window into the lives of others. It brings reflection, entertainment, joy and wisdom. And yet bookshops continue to close, publishers continue to merge, literary agents shrink, libraries lose shelf space and conversations hijacked by what you last watched, not what you last read. Reading needs help. Men need help. Our National Cultural Policy arrives just in time.