

Global Pluralism Award Winner from Ghana Advocates for Introducing Greater Diversity into Children’s Literature

Publisher Deborah Ahenkorah launches print edition of children’s book Bahiya: The Little Zebra with Global Centre for Pluralism

June 22, 2021, Ottawa, ON – Deborah Ahenkorah, children’s book publisher and winner of the 2019 Global Centre for Pluralism Award, will launch the print edition of *Bahiya: The Little Zebra*, with opening remarks by Canada’s 26th Governor General and Global Centre for Pluralism Board member, The Rt. Hon. Adrienne Clarkson, on June 23 from 12 pm to 1 PM EDT. Ahenkorah will be joined by the book’s author, Nahida Esmail of Tanzania, and its illustrator, Randa Abubakr of Egypt, for a conversation about representation in children’s literature worldwide, the de-colonization of the arts, and how their work contributes to building pluralistic societies.

While global leaders worldwide continue to grapple with the challenges of building productive and peaceful societies where differences are valued, Deborah Ahenkorah understands this work can start at an early age with more accurate representations of diversity in children’s literature. A co-founder of the ground-breaking children’s literacy NGO, Golden Baobab, and founder of African Bureau Stories, Ahenkorah has made it her life’s work to ensure more equal representation in children’s books by seeking out stories with new voices and perspectives that strive to accurately reflect the wide range of African experiences. Her publishing house’s latest title, *Bahiya: The Little Zebra*, chronicles the story of a zebra who struggles to accept her stripes but eventually finds the support she needs from her community, helping children everywhere see the value and beauty in their own uniqueness.

“Children’s literature is a powerful vehicle for pluralism. The books we are exposed to at a young age shape how we grow up seeing ourselves in the world, and how we view differences in others,” said Meredith Preston McGhie, Secretary General of the Global Centre for Pluralism. “Our Global Pluralism Award winner, Deborah Ahenkorah, is doing extraordinary work to help advance pluralism through children’s literature by bringing stories to the world that exemplify the transformative potential of pluralism.”

The online event will be accessible via Zoom. Attendees will be able to have their names and faces visible if they choose. To register for the event, please visit www.pluralism.ca/registration.

FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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About the Global Centre for Pluralism

The Global Centre for Pluralism is an independent, charitable organization founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada. The Centre works with policy leaders, educators and community builders around the world to amplify and implement the transformative power of pluralism. For more information, visit www.pluralism.ca

About the Global Pluralism Award

The Global Pluralism Award recognizes pluralism in action. It celebrates the extraordinary achievements of organizations, individuals and governments who are tackling the challenge of living peacefully and productively with diversity. For more information, visit <https://award.pluralism.ca/>