NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE USE

EDINBURGH WORLD WRITERS' CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS IN IMPASSIONED DEBATE ON CENSORSHIP

The fourth day at the Edinburgh World Writers' Conference saw an impassioned debate on censorship in the internet age led by key speaker Patrick Ness in an event chaired by Chika Unigwe.

The participating writers called for a statement condemning a law recently passed in Arizona, outlawing the dissemination in public schools of literature specific to ethnic groups. The full statement from the writers, which is currently being drafted, will be put forward for confirmation, and signature, in the final session of the conference tomorrow.

The debate was broadcast live over the internet, and was viewed in over 40 countries around the world. The discussion, for the fourth consecutive day, was trending on twitter. To view the whole debate at today's conference, visit www.edinburghworldwritersconference.org and to see a full transcript of Patrick Ness's keynote speech visit http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/2012/aug/20/patrick-ness-censorship-in-the-internet-age

Edinburgh World Writers Conference Sessions at the Edinburgh International Book Festival close tomorrow with a debate on The Future of the Novel delivered by China Miéville in a session chaired by Janne Teller. Tickets, priced at £10 (£8 concessions) are available from www.edbookfest.co.uk or through the Box Office on 0845 373 5888. The final session will again be broadcast live on-line on www.edinburghworldwritersconference.org.

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For further information please contact:
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Editors Notes:

The Edinburgh World Writers' Conference is a major programming partnership between the Edinburgh International Book Festival and the British Council and is supported by The Scottish Government's Edinburgh Festivals Expo Fund, Creative Scotland, the City of Edinburgh Council and EventScotland.

Edinburgh World Writers' Conference Delegates:
Scottish Delegates: Alan Bissett, Theresa Breslin, John Burnside, Sophie Cooke, Keith Gray, Kirsty Gunn, Kapka Kassabova, Jackie Kay, Aonghas MacNeacail, Denise Mina, Nicola Morgan, Ewan Morrison, Ian Rankin, James Robertson, Ali Smith, Irvine Welsh.
Other UK delegates: Melvin Burgess, Alan Gibbons, Nick Laird, Patrick Ness, China Miéville, Ben Okri, Owen Sheers.
International Delegates: Andrei Astvatsaturov, Bernardo Atxaga, Xi Chuan, Junot Díaz, Nathan Englander, Carlos Gamerro, Xiaolu Guo, Manu Joseph, Margo Lanagan, Michel Le Bris, Yiyun Li, Garth Nix, Joyce Carol Oates, Elliot Perlman, Matthias Politycki, Jose Rodrigues dos Santos, Preeta Samarasan, Elif Shafak, Kamila Shamsie, Kyung-Sook Shin, Dag Solstad, Ahdaf Soueif, Janne Teller, Kim Thuy, Chika Unigwe, and Samar Yazbek.

International Events:
The Edinburgh World Writers' Conference will travel to Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Malaysia, Portugal, Russia, South Africa, Trinidad & Tobago and Turkey.

1962 Writers' Conference
The format of the 2012-2013 Edinburgh World Writers' Conference mirrors the notorious event that took place 50 years ago in 1962. That year, the radical publisher John Calder worked with the impresario Jim Haynes to bring some 70 authors to Edinburgh. The guests included US authors Norman Mailer and Henry Miller alongside Scottish writers Hugh MacDiarmid and Muriel Spark, and several lesser-known authors, including William S. Burroughs, who would become famous as a result of the Conference. John Calder argued at the time that 'the novel enriches mankind by its ability to rouse the senses, to stimulate the intellect and to excite the imagination'. The 2012 Writers' Conference takes as its starting point the same five topics that were discussed in 1962.