# DLAS

## THE DEFENCE OF LITERATURE AND THE ARTS SOCIETY

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## What DLAS is all about

The Society grew out of the Free Art Legal Fund, established for the defence of Last Exit to Brooklyn. After the victory in the Appeal Court, the sponsors of the fund felt there was a need for a continuing organisation which would assist publishers, writers and artists who are threatened by censorship. An Executive Committee was formed and in 1968 the Defence of Literature and the Arts Society was set up.

The main principle underlying the Society's work is opposition to censorship. We believe that the repressive dangers of censorship outweigh any possible benefits, and that decency should be a matter of personal judgement and taste rather than a matter for legal action.

THE AIMS OF THE SOCIETY ARE:

1. To work towards changes in the law to safeguard freedom of speech and expression in Britain;
2. To campaign against censorship;
3. To give moral and practical support to writers and artists, publishers, film-makers and exhibitors, makers of radio and TV programmes, theatrical producers and directors, and all others whose work is censored or under attack on moral, political or similar grounds; and to raise funds to defend such works in the courts.

*"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must like men undergo the fatigue of supporting it."*

THOMAS PAINE

## What DLAS does

The Society is in the forefront of the struggle against censorship in Britain and the ever-active lobbies working to restrict our freedom of speech and expression. It gives help and advice to publishers, lawyers and others on the law and on tactics in actual cases and, when it is able, assists in meeting defence costs.

Members of the Society have given evidence in court for defendants involved in prosecutions, and have taken part in TV and radio broadcasts and public debates on the subject of censorship. Meetings are held for members and the public.

The Society has assisted a growing parliamentary group composed of MPs and Peers from all the major parties, and gives evidence on the government and official committees.

The Films Committee of the Society is waging a major campaign to reform the anomalous and restrictive law concerning film censorship in this country.

DLAS now publishes a regular journal, *Uncensored*, (sent free to members) to create greater awareness of the need for intellectual and artistic freedom, and to widen support for the campaign against censorship. Members are invited to submit ideas and contributions to the Secretary.

The Society is urgently seeking to extend its membership, and it is always in need of money to counter pro-censorship propaganda and to support its own campaigns. Overleaf is a form for membership and donations; we hope you will complete this as soon as possible (especially the banker's order to save being troubled with reminders over subscription renewals) and join us in freeing our society from those who claim to know what's best for other people.