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**THE NEW REPUBLIC AND HOUSE OF SPEAKEASY KICK-OFF
TNR'S BANNED BOOKS TOUR AT THIS YEAR'S
BROOKLYN BOOK FESTIVAL**

New York, NY – September 15, 2023 – This month, *The New Republic*, a media organization dedicated to addressing today's most critical issues, proudly announces the launch of an inspiring new initiative aimed at championing the First Amendment and combating censorship: **The Banned Books Tour 2023**.

Coinciding with the American Library Association's Banned Books Week, which runs from October 1 to 7, this groundbreaking journey will take TNR's mission to vigorously defend liberal democracy on the road, spreading awareness of the importance of the freedom to read to communities across the United States. The bookmobile, a symbol of literary liberation, will visit those states that have experienced some of the highest incidences of book censorship, including Texas, Florida, Missouri, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, and continue to operate through the month of October.

The Banned Books Tour will kick-off on October 1st at the Brooklyn Book Festival. In partnership with House of SpeakEasy, *The New Republic* will accept book and financial donations at the SpeakEasy Bookmobile. All literature may be donated, with a preference for [banned and challenged books](#). This literature will be given away in communities on the tour where access has been restricted or limited.

“Launching a book festival on wheels is a huge new undertaking for us, and I can't wait to hit the road to support the importance of reading. It's even more exciting that we can embark in time to support ALA's Banned Books Week. *The New Republic* has been a leading defender of the First Amendment for over a century, and this is a new way to give people the tools to join the fight for the freedom to read,” said Michael Caruso, CEO and publisher of *The New Republic*.

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The New Republic's “festival on wheels,” supported by contributions from novelist Nora Roberts and produced by Inspira Marketing, will be a transformative experience, forging connections with local communities, supported by renowned authors, bookstores, libraries, and civic leaders, all united in celebrating the fundamental right to read.

“House of SpeakEasy believes that book ownership is a right not a privilege and access to literature should not be restricted,” said Amanda Foreman, co-founder of House of SpeakEasy. “Since we launched it 2017, the SpeakEasy Bookmobile has visited over two dozen towns and cities across 15 states. We are thrilled with the opportunity to play a role in the 2023 Banned Books Tour.”

This endeavor marks a pivotal moment in *The New Republic's* ongoing commitment to safeguarding intellectual freedom and the dissemination of diverse ideas and House of SpeakEasy's dedication to increasing book ownership and expanding book access.

TNR's Banned Books Tour 2023 will embark on its journey through the following cities:

- Brooklyn, NY
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Washington, D.C.
- Daytona, FL
- Miami, FL
- Tallahassee, FL
- Jacksonville, FL
- Norfolk, VA
- Springfield, MO
- Lexington, KY
- Dallas, TX
- Austin, TX
- San Antonio, TX

The New Republic partners for The Banned Books Tour include:

The American Federation of Teachers / Real Solutions for Kids and Communities

The American Federation of Teachers is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. Visit AFT.org/RealSolutions or follow #RealSolutionsforKids for more information.

The American Library Association (ALA) / Banned Books Week

The oldest and largest library association in the world, providing leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services.

The African American Policy Forum

Founded in 1996, the African American Policy Forum or AAPF is an innovative think tank that connects academics, activists and policy-makers to promote efforts to dismantle structural inequality.

Bookshop.org

Bookshop.org works to connect readers with independent booksellers all over the world.

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We believe local bookstores are essential community hubs that foster culture, curiosity, and a love of reading, and we're committed to helping them thrive.

House of SpeakEasy

SpeakEasy is dedicated to the idea that literature matters, and that the essence of literary culture is the relationship between writers and their readers. On stage. In schools. On the Road. We believe that book ownership should be a right, not a privilege.

Urban Libraries Council

The Urban Libraries Council has spent 50 years enriching communities by strengthening and promoting the value of libraries as essential public assets.

Join *The New Republic* on this groundbreaking journey as we embark on The Banned Books Tour 2023. Together, we will protect and celebrate the power of literature and the freedom to read.

About *The New Republic*

The New Republic is one of America's most influential political and cultural media brands, shaping the national conversation for more than a century. It has been called "the most entertaining and intellectually agile magazine in the country" and "must reading for thought leaders." On multiple platforms including print, digital, and live events, *The New Republic* presents newsmaking original reporting and incisive commentary on the most critical issues in U.S. politics, foreign affairs, business, technology, and the arts. Today, *The New Republic's* vigorous defense of liberal democracy and its robust tradition of lively civic engagement are more crucial than ever in a dangerous and rapidly changing world.