



SVENSKA AKADEMIEN

Stockholm, 15 November 2019

Community of Publishers of Bosnia
and Herzegovina
Branilaca Sarajeva 24
71000 Sarajevo

Dear Publishers of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

The Swedish Academy has assessed Peter Handke's literary work in a different way than you have, and has concluded that the decision to award the prize to him is fully compatible with the purpose expressed in the will of Alfred Nobel. It is clear that Handke has been understood in different ways. The Nobel prize goes to an achievement. When Handke is awarded the prize, the ambition is to celebrate his extraordinary literary work, not the person. The Nobel prize in physics or chemistry goes to a discovery, regardless of person; the prize in literature goes to the discovery and development of a new manner of writing, regardless of person. This aesthetic evaluation and nothing else is the statement implied by the prize.

The Swedish Academy believes that in an open society there must be room for different opinions about authors and that there must be space for different reasonable interpretations of their literary works. We strive for respectful interchange notwithstanding sharply diverging views in important matters. On the same note we also believe that it is of paramount importance for the functioning of democracy and a sensible dialogue that we choose to rely on the lawful findings of courts such as the Hague Tribunal. For us the Tribunal's findings are an essential part of the understanding of Europe's tragic history, from which we all hopefully can learn.

Concerning your concluding remarks, may we ask you to also consider his statement referred to in *Süddeutsche Zeitung* 26 October.

I assure you our respect and highest considerations.

Anders Olsson
Chairman of the Nobel Committee

SWEDISH ACADEMY

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