

# NEW WRITING NORTH

## Call out for writers as African Writers Trust/New Writing North Digital Residency is launched

A new project from New Writing North and the African Writers Trust seeks to make connections between young writers across continents.

The African Writers Trust/New Writing North Digital Residency takes place in Northern England and Uganda between May and July 2022, led by the acclaimed poet Nick Makoha.

The project seeks to explore a range of voices and experiences that connect to a sense of home and heritage. The digital residency is open to 18–25-year-olds and will see a group of five writers from Uganda connect with five writers from the North of England through a programme of digital workshops, peer exchanges, and guest writer sessions, culminating in a group showcase.

This programme is supported by the International Literature Showcase Collaboration Fund. The [International Literature Showcase](#) is a partnership between the National Centre for Writing and the British Council.

Nick Makoha is the founder of The Obsidian Foundation, winner of the 2021 Ivan Juritz prize and the Poetry London Prize. In 2017, Nick's debut collection, *Kingdom of Gravity*, was shortlisted for the Felix Dennis Prize for Best First Collection and was one of the Guardian's best books of the year. Nick is a Cave Canem Graduate Fellow and the Complete Works alumnus.

**Nick Makoha said:** "It is always useful for a writer to be in the midst of a safe creative environment. I am looking forward to seeing what green shoots come from this process."

African Writers Trust was established in 2009. The organisation brings together African writers living in the diaspora and on the continent, so as to promote synergies and foster collaborative learning between the two groups through skills development workshops, a writers' residency, a biennial international writers conference and mentorship. African Writers Trust is based in Kampala, Uganda.

**Goretti Kyomuhendo, Director at African Writers Trust said:** "We are excited to be part of this amazing project that offers young writers an opening to learn, share, connect and develop their craft to higher standards. The residency will enable participants to dedicate time to their writing, a golden opportunity that is rare to come by, particularly for African writers residing on the continent."

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Established in 1996 and based in Newcastle upon Tyne, New Writing North leads the development of new writing and creative reading in the North of England, working with writers in the North East, Yorkshire and the North West and connecting them to opportunities. It runs a wide-ranging programme, including the Northern Writers' Awards, Young Writers, Gordon Burn Prize and Durham Book Festival.

**Will Mackie, Senior Programme Manager (Writing and Awards) at New Writing North said:** "We are delighted to be working with the African Writers Trust and the brilliant Nick Makoha to create a programme that explores the diversity of voices and experiences that can connect to a sense of home and heritage. We're excited to be fostering collaboration between participants in the UK and Uganda and greatly looking forward to the creative work that comes out of this programme. We're very grateful to the International Literature Showcase Fund for making this unique project possible."

*Applications for the African Writers Trust/New Writing North Digital Residency are now open until 18 March 2022 at <https://newwritingnorth.com/african-writers-trust-new-writing-north-digital-residency/>*

## Notes to Editor

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The International Literature Showcase is a partnership between NCW and British Council to support the best artistic and organisational talent across the literature sector to develop international markets, international working capacity, and share best practice across the sector. <https://nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/ils/>