

## Statements about the German Non-Fiction Prize

**Michael Busch, CEO and Managing Director Thalia**

“Debate is alive in our bookstores, which are places of dialogue and social discourse. Good non-fiction drives these debates. It transmits knowledge and can inspire interest in topics and curiosity about the world. The German Non-Fiction Prize opens up another important space that amplifies the resonance of these topics and titles.”

**Margit Ketterle, publishing director non-fiction Droemer Knaur**

“I cannot imagine a world without books that explain the world. That is exactly what non-fiction does – and sometimes it even changes the world, or at least makes it a little bit better. It’s marvellous that this is being recognised and rewarded with a prize for German-language non-fiction.”

**Klaus Kowalke, Lessing und Kompanie bookstore, Chemnitz**

“Non-fiction, especially about topics in the humanities and sciences, is available as a potential source for narrative literature. What would literature be without non-fiction? That’s why we ought to move non-fiction books and their authors to the forefront! Insights require attention. As a bookseller, in our store, I put the focus on the subject areas history, philosophy, the humanities, and natural and environmental sciences. As a reader of humanities books in particular, I am delighted about increasing public awareness.”

**Michael Lemling, Lehmkuhl bookstore, Munich**

“Knowledge! Education! Information! Good non-fiction deciphers and makes sense of a puzzling world. What’s more, it allows us to see it with new eyes or from a different perspective. If, with its nominations and prizes, the German Non-Fiction Prize succeeds in stimulating necessary public debate or reinvigorating controversial social discussions, it will be fulfilling an important function.”

**Thomas Rathnow, CEO of the Random House Publishing Group**

“The non-fiction published by German-language trade publishers in no way takes second place to fiction in terms of its diversity, quality and importance in encouraging us to reflect on our society. Yet, to date, there have scarcely been any prizes or awards for non-fiction authors that provide cultural and financial recognition while also attracting the attention of the general public. We therefore urgently need a non-fiction prize that pays tribute to this genre and ensures the dissemination of outstanding works.”

**Claudia Romeder, Publishing Director Residenz Verlag:**

“For Residenz Verlag, non-fiction books offer an important opportunity to take a position in current debates and to raise awareness about socially relevant topics. A prominently advertised prize significantly supports publishers in the effort to give non-fiction the public attention it deserves.”

**Marianne Sax, Bücherladen Marianne Sax bookstore, Frauenfeld**

“Until now, our non-fiction customers have only been able to see a book’s topic. A non-fiction prize should convey that the quality of a text alone is reason to take a closer look at a topic.”