

Hannah Arendt Prize for Political Thought 2026 Awarded to Lea Ypi

An outstanding political philosopher and writer of our time

The Hannah Arendt Prize for Political Thought 2026 will be awarded to Lea Ypi. The internationally renowned political philosopher, political scientist, and writer will receive the award on 10 December 2026 at Bremen City Hall. The prize is endowed with €10,000 and is awarded by the Hannah Arendt Association for Political Thought e.V., with funding provided by the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen and the Heinrich Böll Foundations at federal level and in Bremen.

The international jury honours Lea Ypi as an outstanding political thinker of our time. Her philosophical, political and literary work engages with fundamental questions at the heart of democratic thought: freedom, truth, justice, human dignity and the conditions of political action.

The jury particularly highlights her ability to “combine political experiences under a totalitarian system with philosophical reflection and historical analysis. From this interplay, she develops a distinctive form of public political thinking in which experience, memory and critical judgement are brought together.”

Her understanding of political freedom, which sees the freedom of the individual as inseparable from the freedom of others, makes an important contribution to contemporary democratic theory. In the face of new authoritarian challenges, her work has acquired particular relevance and significance.

Lea Ypi (*1979, Tirana, Albania) is a political philosopher, political scientist and writer. She is Ralph Miliband Professor of Politics and Philosophy at the London School of Economics. Her work explores the foundations of political philosophy and political theory, with particular emphasis on freedom, democracy, law, political economy and the legacy of the Enlightenment, especially Kant. Her other research interests include global justice, migration, territorial rights, the intellectual history of the Balkans and colonialism. Lea Ypi regularly publishes essays and commentaries in international publications, including *The Guardian* and *The Financial Times* and her work has been translated into more than thirty-five languages. She gained international recognition with her autobiographical book *Free: Coming of Age at the End of History* (2021), published in German as *Frei. Erwachsenwerden am Ende der Geschichte* (2022). Her latest book, *Indignity* (2025), was published in German under the title *Aufrecht*.

Members of the International Jury

Filipp Dzyadko, Russian author and supporter of Memorial (Berlin, in exile)

Alexander Estis, writer, translator and journalist (Switzerland)

Waltraud Meints-Stender, Professor of Politics and Education, Hochschule Niederrhein (Krefeld/Hanover)

Thomas Meyer, Professor of Philosophy, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (LMU)

Ronya Othmann, writer and journalist (Leipzig)

Cristina Sánchez, Professor of Law, Autonomous University of Madrid (Spain)

Facundo Vega, Professor of Philosophy, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago (Chile), FU Berlin

Hannah Arendt Association for Political Thought

For further enquiries, please contact the Chair of the Association,

Prof. Dr. Waltraud Meints-Stender

Email: Waltraud.Meints-Stender@hs-niederrhein.de

Further Information

[Hannah Arendt Association for Political Thought – official website](#)