



Australian Women's History Network &lt;auswhn@gmail.com&gt;

**Re: HTAV conference and offer to meet**

7 messages

Australian Women's History Network &lt;auswhn@gmail.com&gt;

13 March 2026 at 10:37

Hi Deb,

Thank you for your detailed response to our letter and your offer to meet with us.

We do however remain confused and concerned about what has transpired. Your reply did not seem to provide a clear basis or explanation for the exclusion of TSS4P. The proposed exhibit would feature teaching resources relevant to the current curriculum that have been developed with and alongside leading scholars. Is there anything in particular within the resources that was considered inappropriate for distribution? If so, did you communicate this to TSS4P? Did any other groups receive directives regarding their material?

It is also not clear to us how the decision was made to reject TSS4P. Was this a decision made by the entire board? If so, has the board reviewed TSS4P's material and concluded that it is inappropriate? And on what basis has this decision been arrived at?

We feel you have misunderstood our key point in reference to the Menzies Institute and the Spirit of Anzac prize. You acknowledge that these are 'political' but their inclusion is justified because they behave 'impeccably', don't 'push their views' on others and won't make conference participants feel 'unsafe'. By this logic, the exclusion of TSS4P is based on an assumption that they will not meet these standards.

We note here that TSS4P participated in the recent English teachers' conference, where their exhibit was well received. More importantly however, the exclusion of TSS4P is a clear double standard. It impugns the reputation of TSS4P members and reinforces the view that Arab or Palestinian perspectives are inherently threatening, violent or dangerous. We are deeply troubled by this, it only reinforces our concern that the exclusion of TSS4P has very little to do with what is fair or just, or what is appropriate for inclusion at HTAV events, and everything to do with excluding Palestinian perspectives. There are also some confusing equivalences drawn in your response. For example, you ask if it would be appropriate for a teacher to invite their students to join the Greens. From what we can tell, at no point do the TSS4P resources suggest that teachers invite their students to join political parties.

We understand that you offered to meet with members of TSS4P, but you also suggested that there would be no change in the decision. This was also implied in your response to us. The HTAV seems only to be seeking a meeting to 'explain' the decision further - in the belief that this would resolve the matter. This does not seem in the spirit of the expressed desire to 'learn from each other'. We would be open to meeting with the HTAV if there is a genuine interest in discussing this situation, and moving forward with a solution. We would also expect that the invitation to any such meeting would be extended to all members of the HTAV board and to TSS4P .

Regards,

The Australian Women's History Network

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Please note that the AWHN g-mail account is only monitored on a part-time basis.

The Australian Women's History Network is convened by Eli Branagh, Cassandra Byrnes, Jane Carey, Geraldine Fela, Lauren Samuelsson and Michelle Staff.

Email: [auswhn@gmail.com](mailto:auswhn@gmail.com) | Web: [www.auswhn.com.au/](http://www.auswhn.com.au/)

The Network's journal is *Lilith: A Feminist History Journal* [www.auswhn.com.au/lilith/](http://www.auswhn.com.au/lilith/)

The Australian Women's History Network is affiliated with the International Federation for Research in Women's History <http://www.ifrwh.com/index.html>

**Elisa Litvin** [redacted]  
To: Australian Women's History Network <[auswhn@gmail.com](mailto:auswhn@gmail.com)>

13 March 2026 at 11:49

Dear Australian Women's History Network,

It appears that you have left Deb Hull off the list of email recipients, despite directing the salutation to her. Can you please send this email to her for a response?

Thank you.

Kind regards,  
Elisa Litvin  
[Quoted text hidden]

**Australian Women's History Network** <[auswhn@gmail.com](mailto:auswhn@gmail.com)>

13 March 2026 at 12:58

[redacted]

Hi Deb, Elisa has just alerted me to your name dropping off the list of emails this morning. My apologies. Please find below our response to your invitation and the AWHN open letter regarding TSS4P and the HTAV conference.

[Quoted text hidden]

**Deb Hull** [redacted]  
To: Australian Women's History Network <[auswhn@gmail.com](mailto:auswhn@gmail.com)>, [redacted]

16 March 2026 at 09:04

[redacted]

Dear Australian Women's History Network Committee,

The HTAV Board has a meeting coming up soon and will have an opportunity to discuss TSS4P's and the AWHN Committee's correspondence, and the letters disseminated to members of the Network and via social media. These were all sent to the Board prior to the conference.

At the meeting, the Board will decide on any next steps.

Regards,

Deb

**Dr Deb Hull**

*Executive Officer*

*A History I enjoyed recently and recommend is 'The Rest is History' podcast's series on the early days of World War I, focused on Germany, Austria, Serbia and the Eastern Front. The first episode in the series aired on 25 August 2025 (episode 594).*



HISTORY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF VICTORIA (03) 9417 3422

[www.htav.asn.au](http://www.htav.asn.au)



Carringbush Business Centre  
Suite 105, 134-136 Cambridge St  
Collingwood VIC 3066

We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work. The HTAV Office is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation. These lands were never ceded. We pay our respect to their ancestors and Elders, past and present.

*The information in this email and in any attachments may be confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not read, forward, print, copy, disclose or use in any way the information this email or any attachment contains. If you are not the intended recipient, please notify the sender immediately and delete all copies of this email and any attachments.*

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**Australian Women's History Network** <auswhn@gmail.com>

17 March 2026 at 14:09

To: Deb Hull



Hi Deb,

Thanks so much for getting back to us. We look forward to hearing from you after the board has met, would it be possible to get a sense of when this might be?

All the very best,

AWHN committee

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Elisa Litvin [REDACTED]  
To: Australian Women's History Network <auswhn@gmail.com>

31 March 2026 at 19:25

Dear Australian Women's History Network Committee,

The HTAV Board met recently, and I am writing to you to apprise you of matters that concern your inquiries.

The Board endorsed the explanation of HTAV policy provided to you by the Executive Officer. The Board was disappointed in the nature of the correspondence from the AWHN Committee. It was also disappointed in the decision of the Committee to circulate and disseminate an open letter prior to receiving a response to your initial inquiry to the HTAV.

The HTAV supports resources that reflect the knowledge content requirements of the Victorian Curriculum 2.0 for history and that facilitate the application of historical thinking concepts also outlined and required by the Victorian Curriculum.

The HTAV remains committed to supporting school history teaching in diverse and often difficult contexts, and it respects the employment terms and conditions that history teachers work under.

The Board did not support a sustained correspondence with the AWHN Committee on this matter. As this was the decision of the Board, I will consider this a close to this matter.

On a personal note, I will again be away from Australia on family business for the next three weeks beginning Friday. As you are now aware, the President of the Board does not have an official HTAV email account. Any replies to this email will be fielded by me upon my return, if required.

Regards,  
Elisa Litvin  
President, HTAV  
[Quoted text hidden]

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Australian Women's History Network <auswhn@gmail.com>  
To: Elisa Litvin [REDACTED]

2 April 2026 at 11:40

Dear Elisa,

Just a short note to acknowledge receipt of your email. Thank you for the timely reply.

We agree that it would be best to discontinue this correspondence. As per the request made by Deb Hull, we will circulate the HTAV response to our letter to the AWHN membership and signatories. We will also continue our support of TSS4P.

All the best,

AWHN convenors

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