

Be Enriched and Brixton People's Kitchen partner Staunch Book Prize

Be Enriched, a women-led charity, and Brixton People's Kitchen (BPK), a women-led social enterprise, have partnered with the Staunch Book Prize to address violence to women and girls in popular literature. Together they are asking people to donate to the Staunch Book Prize. The competition celebrates wonderful thrillers that weave intriguing stories, without any form of violence to women.

The Staunch Book Prize was launched in 2018 by writer and then-BAFTA voting member, Bridget Lawless, in response to the constant use of violence against women and girls in the thriller genre, and popular culture as a whole. In particular, rape, abduction, stalking, sexual exploitation and murder are repeatedly exploited.

This unique international literary competition is running again this year and is open to authors or writers whose stories do not contain graphic and gratuitous violence against women.

The competition opens on 14 February and closes on 31 July 2022, with three categories:

- Thriller Novel (entry, first 5000 words)
- Thriller Short Story (500 - 3,500 words)
- Thriller Flash Fiction (Max 300 words)

Entries are welcomed from traditionally published, self-published or unpublished authors.

Bridget Lawless said: "Violence against women and girls is a huge and devastating issue all over the world, with women being murdered every day and reporting, prosecuting and conviction rates for rape and assault at an all-time low. We feel that everything possible needs to be done to help this issue be taken seriously. The Staunch Book Prize is the only force currently challenging a culture in which the brutalisation of women is consistently treated as casual entertainment, to be monetised, trivialised and normalised. We are calling on others to help us increase our impact today. We are grateful to Kemi, Be Enriched and BPK for their support."

Kemi Akinola, Founder and CEO of Be Enriched, and Managing Director of BPK, said: "Being a survivor of domestic violence myself, this is an issue very close to my heart. I understand how being a victim can cause women to become withdrawn and isolated. At Be Enriched and BPK, we recognise the part that violence against women, and domestic violence in particular, plays in pushing women and children into financial crisis and food poverty. We are working to reduce social isolation and would like to see the end of violence towards women in all media which normalises this behaviour."

The Staunch Book Prize is entirely run voluntarily and all money raised will cover the administration of the prize.

Anyone interested in entering the competition, or learning about previous winners, can find out more at <http://staunchbookprize.com/>

More information on the Staunch Test can be found at <http://staunchtest.com/>

The Staunch Book Prize is fundraising on Justgiving here:

https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/staunchbookprize?utm_source=Sharethis&utm_medium=campaign&utm_content=staunchbookprize&utm_campaign=pfp-email&utm_term=20e5583d07ae41debf5c72f918475ff3

Note to Editors

About Be Enriched

Be Enriched is a charity, founded in 2013, focused on enriching the community through food. It runs several successful projects, including The Canteen Project (Elephant and Castle, and Graveney), the Food Bus, a first-of-its-kind specially converted double decker that is a mobile greengrocers and cafe, as well as Healthy Holidays, a programme which provides young people with development activities and healthy meals when schools are closed.

Find out more at <https://www.be-enriched.org/>

About BPK

BPK started in 2011 due to the lack of social cohesion and places for local people to come together and share ideas. Horrified by the amount of domestic food waste produced, the team developed community lunches, which were held in car parks, green areas, schools, and anywhere people could congregate, cook and converse.

Since then the team has built a kitchen on a bicycle, run several community pop ups and a cafe. It now works with the community across South London, ensuring as many people as possible have access to a good meal and a decent conversation.

About Staunch

The Staunch Test is a system for rating films and television dramas for violence against women. Coming together under the newly formed Staunch Group, both the book prizes and Staunch Test are committed to challenging the normalisation of violence against women in popular culture and researching its wider impact on women in real life.