



PRESS RELEASE

March 2020

“A Coronavirus Update from the Crete International Poetry Festival”

The festival is held with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Decentralized Administration of Crete-Heraklion.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY,
RELIGIOUS AND CONSULAR AFFAIRS



ΠΕΡΙΟΧΕΙΑ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ
REGION OF CRETE

Dear poets and friends,

As the world faces a global health crisis, we at Crete International Poetry Festival are encountering uncharted territory. We're a culture organization committed to poetry and free speech, and right now, we believe nothing could be more important than ensuring the health and safety of our host poets, our local poets, our international and local visitors and finally our team. These are our guiding principles as we navigate the uncertain.

Given recent news regarding coronavirus and the urging by the governments all around the world, we have made the decision to **postpone the 2020 Crete International Poetry Festival until later this year**. On a practical level, as an organization that organizes public events including university camps, school classes, open readings and performances, music concerts, archaeological sites and museums we know we have a special obligation to our poets, friends, supporters, members and partners. Additional details, including new dates and program will be announced shortly and shared directly to all via our official website and social media.

Proceeding our vision and Festival

We are following guidance from Greek and International health officials and we have been informed that all events should be suspended for the next few months. As an organization of thousands of friends and supporters from around the world, we have the commitment to stress all precautions in relation to our events. We are working along with participants poets, audiences and guests on finding new dates of the 2020 festival and keep on promoting writers and literature.

We believe that it is vitally important to protect our everyday life from fear, fake news and the loss of our civilization's achievements. Please be assured that Crete International Poetry Festival will be engaged to its mission and will be active using digital tools in order to fill the -temporary and necessary- gap of in-person communication and events. To that end, community comes first.

We welcome your thoughts, reactions, and ongoing support.



Koukis Christos | Poet and Festival Director

hi@koukispoet.com • www.koukispoet.com

m: + 30 697 435 8520