

October 30, 2023

#WritingCommunity, we are facing a very disheartening/difficult situation. Yesterday we received multiple messages from writers about cancelling the November 2023 MoodPitch in light of current events around the world.

Planning our November 2023 Moodpitch event was in no way a deliberate decision to ignore what's going on in the world. As businesses and organizations around us have continued to operate, we didn't believe our event would pose an issue. However, today concerns were brought to our attention when some people reached out and asked us to reschedule, so our event (and the scheduled activities leading up to it) would not impact how people receive information on their feeds. The moment we saw your concerns, we began discussing how to best move forward. We did not intend to appear as though we were ignoring world events.

We have always strived to provide a pitching platform for writers who are trying to get published. No matter what is going on in the world or when, writers still write, agents still look for clients, and publishers still buy books. We are simply trying to be a safe, light, positive space to connect writers with industry professionals, and each other, to mitigate that grueling process. We also know there is a lot of heartbreak going on in certain parts of the world right now, and we don't want to be disrespectful of that.

At Moodpitch, we have heard concerns from both those who would like us to cancel, and those who would like to have the opportunity to pitch their stories (some of which are timely and relevant). And as people who care deeply about supporting people and who volunteer our time to deliver an event that is diverse, we have a difficult task. Our hearts are breaking with what to do.

It is incredibly close to our scheduled event, leaving us with a challenging task, because we want to be cognizant of everything. We understand the importance of access to information, as well as the hope to share stories and allow continued livelihood for writers, agents, and editors.

We ask that you all bear with us while we iron out the details, but **going forward, we are moving to a website-based pitching platform**. This was something we were moving toward already, but due to the current circumstances and people's concerns, we're going to do our best to pull something together immediately. Due to the last-minute shift, it may not have all the aesthetics of a permanent solution, but our number one goal in this regard is to create the space for pitches. We also will make sure to create a system that is as easy and efficient as possible (i.e., not time consuming) for busy industry professionals. Please bear in mind that it is a *huge* undertaking to build, organize, market, and host a pitch event, and we do this on our own time, outside of our career and family commitments and obligations. We do this because we believe in the positivity it generates in an otherwise stressful process.

For this November 2023 Moodpitch event: Agents and editors will have access to your pitches and moodboards, which will be submitted to us in a form. We will also be creating a Discord server for our #PreMoodpitch events/activities that help keep this pitch event unique and exciting.

For Moodpitch long-term: We will be ironing out details and aesthetics to create a userfriendly pitch event that will be in a safer environment than pitching on social media platforms. We also plan to continue with Discord so we can maintain a community-based atmosphere, where writers can interact with each other, ask us questions, practice pitches and moodboards, seek writing groups and critique partners, hear more often from us at MoodPitch, establish a mentorship program, and more. Additionally, we are growing our volunteer team to help with all of this.

We feel that having a dedicated platform for MoodPitch activities will free up other spaces for news and other communication, and it will also allow us to serve our Moodpitch community (present and future) with a safer space to pursue your writing and publishing goals. We have big plans to grow and develop MoodPitch even further, and we're looking forward to doing so on <u>moodpitch.org</u>.

While we don't condone the atrocities that are happening anywhere in the world at any time, we still believe in lifting up voices in the writing community and providing a safe, dedicated space, so those who wish to participate can do so without interfering with crises and the sharing of critical information on platforms like Twitter/X.

We also request that, regardless of your opinion (for or against Moodpitch), you refrain from using language that could be harmful or hateful to others, as our mission is to be inclusive and provide accessibility and respect to all. We are kind, caring, respectful people. And we hope this will translate in the decisions we've made.

We also encourage folks to consider donating to charitable organizations aimed at helping those directly impacted by the horrible things happening in the world.

Thank you for your patience, support, and understanding while we came up with a solution that we hope will benefit everyone.

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