

# SAQI

## OPEN CALL

### THIS QUEER ARAB FAMILY AN ANTHOLOGY BY LGBTQ+ ARAB WRITERS

*Are you Queer and of Arab heritage? Do you have something to say about it? Would you like your work to be published alongside other ground-breaking writers, including Randa Jarrar and Elias Jahshan?*

Whether you're a published author or are looking to get your life writing down for the first time, we would love to read about your experiences.

Successful pieces from the open call will be included in a collection titled *This Queer Arab Family*, edited by Elias Jahshan and published by Saqi Books (September 2025). This intimate and hopeful collection celebrates the family we inherit and the friends we choose to become our family. It is a testament to the challenges and triumphs that bind us together.

You might want to write about

- Finding kinship in unexpected places – at festivals, online, etc
- Parenting – rewriting the parenting 'rule' book
- Staying connected with extended family around the world – the wild etiquette of your family WhatsApp group, the rituals we hold dear to feel near to one another

The writing you submit can be funny, poignant, passionate, thoughtful, angry and every shade in between. We want to readers to understand how LGBTQ+ Arabs are redefining what traditional roles and relationships look like.

The open call is free to enter. Successful writers whose work is selected will be notified in May 2025 and paid a fee of £400.

**Please review the guidelines and submit your writing for consideration at  
[submissions@saqibooks.com](mailto:submissions@saqibooks.com)**

# SAQI

## GUIDELINES

### How to submit

- Email your entry to [submissions@saqibooks.com](mailto:submissions@saqibooks.com), with subject header 'Saqi Open Call - This Queer Arab Family'
- Specify the word count, title of your piece and a one-sentence summary of the piece in your email
- Feel free to include some details about yourself (up to 150 words), such as what you do for work or fun, your pronouns, your heritage, what country/county you live in in your email. Please let us know if you wish to remain anonymous or are using a pseudonym
- Entries should be sent as an attachment in word or pdf format
- The document title should be: \*Author Name, Title of the Entry\*

### Terms and Conditions

1. The **CLOSING DATE** for receipt of entries is **MIDNIGHT (12:00) GMT on 10 April 2025**
2. Any submissions ("entries") received after the closing date cannot be considered
3. One entry per entrant (the "entrant" is the person who wrote the work)
4. Minimum 3,500 words; maximum 5,000 words
5. This book is a collection of essays based on real thoughts, feelings and experiences. No fiction please
6. No illustrations please
7. The writer must have given their full consent to submit their work
8. Any work submitted must be original to the writer. It cannot have been published before, or on submission elsewhere
9. The Entrant warrants that the work is not AI generated
10. The Entrant warrants that publication of the work does not contravene the law (within the definition of English law)
11. Entries can be submitted in English, French or Arabic. If an approved translation of the entry is available in English, that must be submitted with the entry
12. If an entry is submitted with its translation, the entrant shall be wholly responsible for acquiring the rights of the translation for the purpose of their entry. The translation will be deemed to be part of the entry for the purposes of these Terms and Conditions
13. Submissions will be treated as confidential by the Publisher
14. The Publisher will not share, distribute or sell any information or data that is shared a part of the submission process
15. The entrant identifies as Arab, or of partial-Arab heritage
16. The entrant identifies as Queer and/or LGBTQ+
17. The entrant can live anywhere in the world. However, please note that payment is contingent on the entrant having an active Bank Account in a country with uninhibited trading laws with the United Kingdom

### Chosen Entries

18. Chosen entrants whose work is selected for inclusion in the Anthology shall be paid a fee of £400 for their work on signature of publishing agreement
19. The selection of chosen entries is final

# SAQI

20. No critique of unchosen entries can be provided by the Anthology Editor or Saqi Books. No communication will be entered into that questions the decision by the Anthology Editor or Saqi Books
21. Entrants retain all rights to their entries, but by submitting an entry, entrants acknowledge that they grant Saqi Books exclusive world rights to publish the entry material in *This Queer Arab Family*, published by Saqi Books or its licensees, in all languages and for all editions and formats, including digital/electronic, and in any print or online advertising and marketing materials promoting the Anthology
22. By submitting an entry, chosen entrants agree to complete an author questionnaire that may be used for the purposes of publicity surrounding the launch of the Anthology. This may be completed anonymously. Chosen entrants will be asked to supply a high-definition photograph for the purposes of publicity and a short biography. This requirement will be waived for entrants who wish to remain anonymous

## **Administration & Communication**

23. Saqi Books will communicate with the chosen entrants by email in May 2025
24. Entrants will be deemed to have accepted these Terms and Conditions and agree to be bound by them when submitting an entry
25. Saqi reserves the right, with or without cause, to exclude entrants and payment for violating any of these terms or conditions
26. These terms and conditions are exclusively governed by the laws of England and Wales.
27. Entries that are found not to comply with the Terms and Conditions will be disqualified from the selection process