

# African Human Rights Yearbook

## Annuaire africain des droits de l'homme

### **PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT (PEMS)**

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

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AHRY	African Human Rights Yearbook
CC BY 4.0	Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License
CHR	Centre for Human Rights
COPE	Committee on Publication Ethics
EISSN	Electronic International Standard Serial Number
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number
PULP	Pretoria University Law Press
UP	University of Pretoria

# AFRICAN HUMAN RIGHTS YEARBOOK (AHRY) PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

The three institutions making up the African regional human rights system, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child decided to jointly publish the African Human Rights Yearbook (AHRY), to spearhead studies on the promotion and protection of human rights, and to provide a forum for constructive engagement about the African human rights system with academics, scholars, practitioners, and other human rights commentators on the continent. The first volume was published at the end of 2017, while the last, which appeared at the end of 2022, is the sixth volume.

This document outlines **AHRY's Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement**. The style guidelines are available on the AHRY website, under the submissions tab.<sup>1</sup>

## 2 AHRY AIMS AND SCOPE

AHRY is a leading peer-reviewed journal and aims to spearhead studies on the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights and to provide a forum for constructive engagement about the African human rights system with academics and other human rights commentators on the continent. AHRY considers submissions focusing on the promotion and protection of human rights with a specific reference to the African human rights system and standards.

The AHRY has three sections. The first section focuses on aspects of the African human rights system and African Union human rights standards. The second section relates to contributions on the African Union theme of the year and the last is made up of case commentaries. The Yearbook publishes contribution in English, French, Portuguese and Arabic.

AHRY is managed by the Centre for Human Rights, which is an academic department in the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria. It is managed as a project of the Centre of Human Rights. Centre for Human Rights staff are designed to work on the AHRY as part of the editorial team.

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<sup>1</sup> See <https://www.ahry.up.ac.za/submissions>.

AHRY is published by the Pretoria University Law Press (PULP).<sup>2</sup> PULP is based at the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria (UP), South Africa, and endeavours to publish and make available innovative, high-quality scholarly texts on the law in Africa.

## 2.1 INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

- **Rafaâ Ben Achour** – Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights.
- **Mohammed Bedjaoui** – Former Judge of the International Court of Justice. Former Chairperson of the Constitutional Council of Algeria.
- **Emmanuel Decaux** – Professor of Law, University of Panthéon-Assas.
- **Solomon A Dersso** – Chairman, African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (2019-2021). Chairperson of the Working Group on Extractive Industries, the Environment and Human Rights Violations.
- **Robert Dossou** – Former President of the Constitutional Court of Benin. Former Minister of Foreign Affairs. Former Honourary Dean of the Faculty of Law, Abomey-Calavi University.
- **Maya Sahli Fadel** – Vice-Chairperson of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (2021-2023). Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons.
- **Patricia Kameri-Mbote** – Advocate of the High Court. Professor of Law, School of Law, University of Nairobi.
- **Joseph Ndayisenga** – Chairperson of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child.
- **Maurice Kamto** – Professor of Public Law, School of Law, University of Yaoundé II.
- **Tiyanjana Maluwa** – Professor of Law, School of Law, H Laddie Montague Chair in Law, Pennsylvania State University.
- **Angelo Vasco Matusse** – Former Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights.
- **Robert Nanima** – Member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. Senior Lecturer, University of the Western Cape.
- **Rachel Murray** – Professor of International Law, Centre for Human Rights Implementation, University of Bristol.
- **Jean Salmon** – Professor Emeritus, Université Libre de Bruxelles. Member, Permanent Court of Arbitration Member, Institute of International Law.
- **Babacar Kanté** – Former Dean of the Faculty of Legal and Political Sciences at the Université Gaston Berger de Saint-Louis (Sénégal), Former Vice-President of the Senegal Constitutional Council.

## 2.2 EDITORS

- **Frans Viljoen** – Director and Professor of International Human Rights Law, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria (convening editor)
- **Trésor Muhindo Makunya** – Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Publications Coordinator, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria
- **Janet Gbam** – Doctoral student, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria

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<sup>2</sup> See [www.pulp.up.ac.za](http://www.pulp.up.ac.za).

## 2.3 EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS

- **Mai Aman** – Doctoral Candidate, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria
- **Clément Agyemang** – Doctoral Candidate, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria

## 2.4 CO-EDITORS

- **Horace Adjolohoun** – Principal Legal Officer, African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights.
- **Victor Ayeni** – Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Adekunle Ajasin University, Ondo State, Nigeria.
- **Hajer Gueldich** – Professor of Law and Director of the Master's program in African Union Law and Policies, University of Carthage (Tunisia), Member of the African Union Commission on International Law (AUCIL).
- **Catherine Maia** – Professor of International Law, Lusófona University of Porto (Portugal) and Sciences Po (Paris).
- **Nkatha Murungi** – Assistant Director, CHR, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria.
- **Mwiza Jo Nkhata** – Principal Legal Officer, African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights.
- **Sâ Benjamin Traoré** – Assistant Professor, Faculty of Governance, Economic and Social Sciences, Polytechnic University Mohamed VI, Rabat, Maroc.

## 3 RESEARCH INTEGRITY

AHRY upholds the same high standards as the University of Pretoria (UP) and expects the research published by PULP to abide by the principles within UP’s Code of Ethics for Research,<sup>3</sup> the Code of Ethics for Scholarly Activities,<sup>4</sup> and the Policy and Procedures for Responsible Research.<sup>5</sup>

UP’s Code of Conduct for Responsible Research Practices is applicable to all researchers at the University, including Academic and research staff, students, and research collaborators of the University.

AHRY endorses, promotes, and strives to uphold the following research integrity principles, as highlighted in the above guidelines:

- honesty in all aspects of research;
- professionalism;
- scrupulous care, thoroughness, and excellence in research practice;
- transparency and open communication;
- care and respect for all participants in and subjects of research;

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<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/6/files/rt-429-99-university-of-pretoria-code-of-ethics-for-research.zp158366.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/206/code-of-ethics\\_2012.zp146788.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/206/code-of-ethics_2012.zp146788.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/Legacy/sitefiles/file/7707/aucc/guidelines\\_ethical\\_researchs408300.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/Legacy/sitefiles/file/7707/aucc/guidelines_ethical_researchs408300.pdf).

- refraining from any action that may be considered research misconduct;
- accountability both for one's own research integrity and that of others when behaviour falls short of our standards.

Anyone who believes that the research published by AHRY has not been carried out in line with these guidelines, or the above principles, should raise their concern with the relevant editor or email [pulp@up.ac.za](mailto:pulp@up.ac.za). Concerns will be addressed by following the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidelines where possible and/or by escalating the matter to the relevant journal's editors, or directly to PULP if necessary.

## **4 EDITORIAL PROCESS**

AHRY is committed to editorial independence and strives to prevent this principle from being compromised through competing interests, fear, or any other corporate, business, financial, or political influence. AHRY's editorial processes reflect this commitment to editorial independence.

AHRY does not discriminate against authors, editors, or peer reviewers based on personal characteristics or identity. AHRY is committed to embedding diversity, removing barriers to inclusion, and promoting equity at every stage of our publishing process. AHRY actively seeks and encourages submissions from scholars of diverse backgrounds, including race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, nationality, religion, and disability.

## **5 PRINCIPLES OF TRANSPARENCY AND BEST PRACTICE IN SCHOLARLY PUBLISHING**

AHRY strives to follow COPE's Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing.<sup>6</sup>

## **6 SCREENING FOR PLAGIARISM**

UP's Plagiarism Prevention Policy<sup>7</sup> defines plagiarism as follows:

Plagiarism is the presentation of someone else's work, words, images, ideas, opinions, discoveries, artwork, music, recordings or computer-generated work (including circuitry, computer programs or software, websites, the Internet or other electronic resources) whether published or not, as one's own work, or alternatively appropriating the work, words, images, ideas, opinions, discoveries, artwork, music, recordings or computer-generated work (including circuitry, computer programs or software, websites, the Internet or other electronic resource) of others, without properly acknowledging the source.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines/principles-transparency-and-best-practice-scholarly-publishing>.

<sup>7</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP\\_Files/s5106-19-plagiarism-prevention-policy.zp181077.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP_Files/s5106-19-plagiarism-prevention-policy.zp181077.pdf).

AHRY has a strict policy of screening manuscripts for plagiarism, in line with UP's Plagiarism Prevention Policy.<sup>8</sup>

AHRY uses Turnitin Software<sup>9</sup> to detect plagiarism prior to considering a submitted manuscript for review. Manuscripts displaying plagiarism may be rejected on this ground alone. Authors not adhering to AHRY's policy that verbatim quotes must be clearly indicated as such may be requested to revise their articles in light of this requirement.

## **7 IN-HOUSE SUBSTANTIVE SCREENING**

All submitted manuscripts first undergo an in-house substantive screening by the editors. Manuscripts may at this stage be rejected without undergoing anonymous peer review, on grounds such as:

- the AHRY style guidelines were not followed;
- the manuscript does not conform to formal submission requirements;
- the language use significantly impedes comprehension;
- the manuscript does not present a substantiated argument.

Authors of manuscripts rejected at this stage are informed about the in-house screening decision.

## **8 PEER REVIEW PROCESS**

Selected manuscripts that are accepted in the preliminary in-house screening process are sent for anonymous peer review by at least two experts in the relevant field, for their views on whether the submitted manuscript is publishable. These peer reviewers are not part of the journal's staff, including editorial staff or its advisory board.

Peer review is defined as obtaining advice on individual manuscripts from reviewers/experts in the field who are not part of the journal's editorial staff or advisory board. Peer review is critical to maintaining the standards of our publications.

AHRY employs a double-blind peer review process, in which the editorial board is assisted in making editorial decisions based on the reports provided by expert referees. The review process is double-blind, in the sense that reviewers are not aware of the author's identity, and authors are not aware of reviewers' identities. The review process usually takes 6-10 weeks. Any manuscripts received for review are treated as confidential documents. Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used by a reviewer without the express written consent of the author.

Reviews should be conducted objectively, and observations should be formulated clearly with supporting arguments, pointing out any relevant published work which is not already cited.

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<sup>8</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP\\_Files/s5106-19-plagiarism-prevention-policy.zp181077.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP_Files/s5106-19-plagiarism-prevention-policy.zp181077.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.turnitin.com/>.

Reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers. Reviewers' identities will remain confidential, as will the identities of submitting authors (until publication).

Reviewers are required to engage in an objective assessment and should indicate if they have any conflict of interest.

After peer review reports are received, the editors decide on whether to invite authors to submit a revised version of the article together with a report on how authors have implemented comments from the reviewers. On receipt of the revised version, the editors decide on whether to publish the submission.

The editors reserve the right to modify manuscripts that have successfully passed through the peer-review process, to bring them in conformity with the house style, to improve accuracy, to eliminate mistakes and ambiguity, and to bring the manuscript in line with the tenets of plain legal language.

AHRY does not guarantee manuscript acceptance or very short peer review times.

AHRY provides appropriate systems, support, and guidance to facilitate rigorous, fair, and effective peer review for all its publications. AHRY encourages its editors and peer reviewers to familiarise themselves with and act in accordance with relevant best practice guidelines on peer review as outlined in COPE's Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers.<sup>10</sup>

AHRY expects those who oversee the peer review process to be able to recognise warning signs of fraudulent or manipulated peer review<sup>11</sup> and to raise any concerns by contacting the editors of AHRY directly.

AHRY supports its editors and peer reviewers in investigating and acting on any suspected cases of manipulated or fraudulent peer review. AHRY protects the confidentiality of participants in the peer review process where anonymity forms part of that publication's peer review process. AHRY also expects authors, and peer reviewers to uphold any relevant confidentiality arrangements for each journal submission (pre- or post-publication) and to provide necessary information to support this.

## 9 CO-REVIEWING

AHRY allows co-reviewing, and an invited reviewer can work with a more junior colleague to review a manuscript for the purpose of reviewer training. This allows the co-reviewer to gain experience with the review process and become a viable reviewer for a journal. An invited reviewer can have a co-reviewer on a manuscript as long as AHRY's editors are made aware of this and approve the co-review.

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<sup>10</sup> See <https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines/cope-ethical-guidelines-peer-reviewers>.

<sup>11</sup> See <https://publicationethics.org/resources/flowcharts/peer-review-manipulation-suspected-during-peer-review-process>.



The invited reviewer will need to reach out to the journal's editors about the co-reviewer when a reviewer accepts the invitation to conduct a peer review. The co-reviewer must also declare any relevant competing interests. A co-reviewer is held to the same standards and policies as any other reviewer.

## 10 COPYRIGHT AND LICENSING

Copyright vests with the authors of the articles and the author/s also retain publishing rights. AHRY produces Free Cultural Works and is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0).<sup>12</sup>

AHRY is an open-access journal and provides immediate open access to its content on the principle that making research freely available to the public supports a greater global exchange of knowledge. In accordance with the definition of the Budapest Open Access Initiative<sup>13</sup> all content published by AHRY is made free to users without any registration, subscription, or other charges.

Users are permitted to adapt, share, read, download, copy, distribute, redistribute, print, search, or link to the full text of these articles, or use them for any other lawful purpose without asking prior permission from the publisher or the author.

## 11 AUTHOR FEES

AHRY does not charge any submission fees, or page fees or require any contribution to processing or publishing costs.

## 12 PROCESS FOR IDENTIFICATION OF AND DEALING WITH ALLEGATIONS OF RESEARCH MISCONDUCT

The editors take reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred, including plagiarism, citation manipulation, and data falsification/fabrication, among others. Authors should observe high standards with respect to publication ethics as set out in the guidelines adopted by COPE.<sup>14</sup> Any cases of ethical misconduct will be treated very seriously and will be dealt with in accordance with these guidelines.

In the event that the editors are made aware of any allegation of research misconduct, the editors will investigate and act upon such allegations. When information comes to the attention of AHRY's editors that requires the retraction or correction of a published article, the matter must be investigated and acted upon appropriately. AHRY is committed to publishing corrections, clarifications, retractions, and apologies when so required, in the issue immediately following, in line with COPE guidelines.

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<sup>12</sup> See <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

<sup>13</sup> See <https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read/>.

<sup>14</sup> See <https://publicationethics.org/retraction-guidelines>.

AHRY observes and promotes UP's Whistle-Blowing and Anti-Fraud Policy.<sup>15</sup> AHRY is committed to principles of good corporate governance and a culture of zero tolerance towards unethical conduct, non-compliance, fraud, or corruption in its activities.

## 13 PUBLICATION ETHICS

The editorial board will evaluate manuscripts exclusively on the basis of their academic merit and fit with the journal's themes. The editors are responsible for deciding which submitted papers should be published. The editor and any editorial staff must maintain confidentiality and not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the submitting author, reviewers, potential reviewers, and other editorial advisers.

The editors will not use unpublished information in their own research without the express written consent of the author. Editors will take reasonable steps to identify and prevent the publication of papers where research misconduct has occurred and take reasonable responsive measures (including investigating whether the publication of retractions, corrections, clarifications, or apologies is warranted) when ethical complaints have been presented concerning a submitted manuscript or published paper.

AHRY is committed to upholding the integrity of the academic record. We encourage authors and editors to refer to COPE's International Standards for Authors.<sup>16</sup>

### 13.1 JOURNAL POLICIES ON AUTHORSHIP AND CONTRIBUTORSHIP

If manuscripts are submitted by co-authors, it must be clearly indicated that all authors have significantly contributed to the research. AHRY acknowledges that different disciplines and publication formats have different norms for who is listed as an author. All parties who have made a substantive contribution to the article should be listed as authors. Principal authorship, authorship order, and other publication credits should be based on the relative scientific or professional contributions of the individuals involved, regardless of their status. Where no other guidance is specified, we recommend applying the following principles:

All persons identified as authors should have:

- significantly or substantially contributed to the research; or
- substantially contributed to the conception or design of the work; or
- contributed to the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; and/or
- contributed to the drafting of the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; and/or
- contributed to the final approval of the version to be published; and
- agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work, and to ensure that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

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<sup>15</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/Webcenter%20Content/rt61\\_21-whistleblowing-and-anti-fraud-policy.zp221636.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/Webcenter%20Content/rt61_21-whistleblowing-and-anti-fraud-policy.zp221636.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> See <https://publicationethics.org/resources/resources-and-further-reading/international-standards-editors-and-authors>.

The corresponding author's specific responsibilities include:

- Manuscript correction and proofreading.
- Handling the revisions and re-submission of revised manuscripts up to the acceptance of the manuscripts.

The corresponding author may act on behalf of all co-authors in responding to queries from all sources post-publication, including questions relating to publishing ethics, reuse of content, or the availability of data, materials, resources, etc.

We encourage authors to list anyone who does not meet the criteria for authorship in an acknowledgments section in their publication with permission, for example, to recognise the contributions of anyone who provided research or writing assistance. Please supply any personal acknowledgments separately to the main text to facilitate anonymous peer review.

COPE also provides extensive resources on authorship and authorship disputes, and we encourage anyone involved in editorial decisions to familiarise themselves with these resources. We support our editors in dealing with any authorship disputes, including escalating or seeking advice on cases with COPE.

AHRY integrates with established and emerging industry standards to increase transparency in authorship (for example, ORCID).

### **13.1.1 AUTHOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

By submitting a manuscript, the author(s) warrant that the manuscript is their own, original work and that it has neither been published previously nor is currently being considered for publication elsewhere. AHRY requires exclusive submission: authors should submit only manuscripts which are not currently under consideration at any other journal and must undertake not to send a submitted manuscript for consideration elsewhere. Submitting the same manuscript concurrently to more than one journal is unacceptable. Multiple submissions by the same authors will be allowed while duplicate submissions will be ignored and redundant submissions will be rejected.

Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the submitted work. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical conduct and is unacceptable, as stated in section 6 above. The submitting author should ensure that there is a full consensus of all co-authors in approving the final version of the paper and its submission.

Authors are required to declare, on submission of a manuscript, if they have received any relevant financial support in the preparation of the manuscript. AHRY does not charge fees for submission of manuscripts or publication of accepted manuscripts (see section 11 above).

Any author(s) who become aware of any errors in their work or any failures to meet the standards prescribed in this Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement must immediately provide a retraction or correction to AHRY's convening editor.

## **13.2 COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS HANDLING PROCEDURE**

### **13.2.1 GENERAL CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS**

Anybody wishing to raise a concern or make a complaint about any aspect of being published in AHRY may email the editors at [ahry@up.ac.za](mailto:ahry@up.ac.za) or the publisher at [pulp@up.ac.za](mailto:pulp@up.ac.za).

AHRY aims to acknowledge receipt of an email sent to [ahry@up.ac.za](mailto:ahry@up.ac.za) within five (5) business days. AHRY's editors will then lead the investigation following COPE guidelines. The investigation will establish whether the correct procedures have been followed. AHRY will review the submission history and any correspondence between the author, editor, and reviewers. AHRY may also contact the parties involved to obtain further information where necessary.

The complainant will be advised of the outcome in writing. AHRY aims to resolve issues as swiftly as possible or within six weeks, though please note sometimes investigations can take several weeks or more depending on the nature of the concern or complaint, the availability of relevant data and information, whether multiple authors and papers are involved, and possible involvement of the author's institution or other external parties.

In the interest of allowing due process to take place, and investigations to proceed without prejudice, we respectfully request that anyone raising a concern or complaint allow the process to conclude before publicly commenting on the case.

### **13.2.2 COMPLAINTS ABOUT OUR PUBLICATIONS**

All concerns raised on AHRY's published content are investigated confidentially and in accordance with COPE guidelines regardless of their status or identity. In many instances, an internal review will be carried out to determine if a full investigation is required. All investigations into our published content will be undertaken in collaboration with the author and the editor. In many cases, it may be necessary for us to contact third parties such as independent experts, author institutions, or their funding bodies.

AHRY will preserve the anonymity of the complainant to the best of our ability, though we recognise that certain complaints may reveal the identity of the person raising the concern. AHRY will update all our complainants once an investigation has been completed and appropriate action has been determined. AHRY is unable to give regular updates to our complainants to preserve confidentiality.

### **13.2.3 APPEALING THE EDITORIAL DECISION**

Editors have broad discretion in determining whether a submission is an appropriate fit for their journal. Many submissions are declined without external review with a very general statement of the rejection decision. These decisions are not eligible for a formal appeal.

If the author believes the decision to reject the submission was not in accordance with AHRY's policy and procedures, the author may appeal the decision by providing the editor with a detailed point-by-point response to the reviewers' and editor's comments. The editor will

review the peer review process undertaken for the submission. If the decision was made in line with editorial criteria, the editor's decision to reject is final.

Please note in accordance with our policy to uphold editorial independence (outlined in section 4 above), AHRY staff do not adjudicate between an author and editor when there is a difference of opinion on the final decision.

#### **13.2.4 APPEALING CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN POST-PUBLICATION**

If concerns are raised on a published article, the editor, in line with guidance published by COPE, including COPE's retraction guidelines,<sup>17</sup> will determine whether a published article needs to be retracted or that other corrective action or notification needs to be made to the published article. AHRY reserves the right to take corrective action as they deem necessary in the interest of their responsibility for maintaining a transparent and accurate academic record.

The authors can appeal this decision if new evidence impacting the underlying decision comes to light prior to the specified deadline for comment. Appeals will be considered by AHRY and may be discussed with the journal editor, journal editorial board, and/or external advisors. Decisions on retraction and expression of concern appeals are final.

AHRY does not tolerate abusive behaviour or correspondence towards our staff and others involved in the publishing process on our behalf. If anyone involved in this process engages in such behaviour we have the right to take action to protect others from this abuse. This may include, for example, withdrawal of a manuscript from consideration, or challenging clearly abusive peer review comments.

### **13.3 JOURNAL POLICIES ON CONFLICTS OF INTEREST/COMPETING INTERESTS**

Authors should declare if they consider that they may be reasonably perceived to have a conflict of interest in respect of the content of the manuscript they submit. The ground for the potential perception of a conflict of interest must be acknowledged in the manuscript.

Editors must refrain from participating in the selection of articles about which they may reasonably be perceived to have a conflict of interest.

External reviewers are expected to refrain from participating in the selection of articles about which they may be reasonably perceived to have a conflict of interest.

COPE states in its Guidelines on Good Publication Practice (2003) as follows:

Conflicts of interest arise when authors, reviewers, or editors have interests that are not fully apparent and that may influence their judgments on what is published. They have been described as those which, when revealed later, would make a reasonable reader feel misled or deceived.

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<sup>17</sup> See <https://publicationethics.org/retraction-guidelines>.

Conflict of interest includes any personal involvement in a case or other matter related to a manuscript under consideration for publication that may reasonably be perceived to lead to bias, such as having a meaningful financial interest in a related matter, having received funding, having an interest in the outcome of a case being discussed in a manuscript, or having a personal relationship.

### **13.4 JOURNAL POLICIES ON DATA SHARING AND REPRODUCIBILITY**

Users are permitted to adapt, share, read, download, copy, distribute, redistribute, print, search, or link to the full text of these articles, or use them for any other lawful purpose without asking prior permission from the publisher or the author. AHRY's publications are licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License.<sup>18</sup>

### **13.5 JOURNAL'S POLICY ON ETHICAL OVERSIGHT**

Recognising our ethical responsibilities, we take measures to prevent malpractice and ensure impartial, fair, and objective editorial decisions. AHRY publish papers based only on their quality, importance, originality, and relevance to our remit. We evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, citizenship, ethnic origin, or political philosophy of the authors. We are committed to ensuring ethics in publication and high quality of scholarship. Conformance to standards of ethical behaviour is therefore expected of our authors, reviewers, and editors.

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When information comes to the attention of the publisher or editors of AHRY that requires the retraction or correction of a published article, the matter must be investigated and acted upon appropriately. AHRY is committed to publishing corrections, clarifications, retractions, and apologies when so required, in the issue immediately following, in line with COPE guidelines.

## **13 PUBLISHING SCHEDULE**

AHRY is an annual publication. It publishes one volume per year, which appears late December of early January.

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<sup>18</sup> See <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

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All titles of AHRY are available on its website (<https://www.ahry.up.ac.za/>), as well as through relevant external providers (for free or at a charge). Hard copies may be purchased from the PULP website.<sup>20</sup>

## 15 ARCHIVING

Published articles of the AHRY are made available on the journal's website and other online database such as Hein online and SCIELO. The AHRY website is also linked to the Centre for Human Rights website, where AHRY is also made accessible and archived.

## 16 REVENUE SOURCES

AHRY's business model is based on organisational support from the three African Union human rights bodies: the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. In other words, AHRY's revenue sources are generously provided for by the three African human rights bodies which created it.

The Centre for Human Rights, where the Pretoria University Law Press is located, has a Publications Team, supported by Centre for Human Rights funding. The three editors are members of the Centre staff, and allowance for their time spent on editing the AHRY.

AHRY charges no page, submission, or publication fees (see section 11 above). Furthermore, AHRY's publications are all open access and there are no fees or charges related to viewing or downloading any AHRY publication (see section 15 above).

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<sup>19</sup> See <https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read/>.

<sup>20</sup> See <https://www.pulp.up.ac.za/>.

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AHRY observes and respects the University of Pretoria's Web policy.<sup>21</sup> This Policy maintains that:

9. Content on any UP website must be for information purposes or related to the teaching, learning and research mission of the University. Advertising for profit purposes; or content posted in exchange for financial gain is strictly prohibited.

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Social media and email communication are powerful tools for disseminating and engaging with our publications, reaching new readers, and keeping content alive. However, such onward communication should never be at the expense of the integrity of the content or of the academic record.

All colleagues responsible for our social media channels are expected to familiarise themselves with UP's Social Media Policy,<sup>22</sup> as well as UP's Social Media Guidelines.<sup>23</sup> AHRY observes and follows UP's Policy on UP Brand and Corporate Identity.<sup>24</sup>

Any direct marketing activities, including solicitation of manuscripts that are conducted on behalf of the journal, shall be appropriate, well-targeted, and unobtrusive. Furthermore, the information provided about the journal is expected to be truthful and not misleading for readers or authors.

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AHRY recommends that academic colleagues who are involved in media or publicity familiarise themselves with and follow the International Public Relations Association's Code of Conduct,<sup>25</sup> and observe these standards in any press releases or other media communications. Where we solicit or encourage media activities concerning one of our authors, editors, or publishing partners, we strive to keep them informed. AHRY observes and follows UP's Policy on UP Brand and Corporate Identity.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/409/web-policy.zp84973.pdf>.

<sup>22</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP\\_Files/rt328\\_19-social-media-policy.zp179867.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP_Files/rt328_19-social-media-policy.zp179867.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP\\_Files/rt38\\_14-social-media-guidelines.zp233388.docx](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP_Files/rt38_14-social-media-guidelines.zp233388.docx).

<sup>24</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP\\_Files/rt473\\_19-up-brand-and-corporate-identity.zp184405.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP_Files/rt473_19-up-brand-and-corporate-identity.zp184405.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> See <https://www.ipra.org/member-services/code-of-conduct/>.

<sup>26</sup> See [https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP\\_Files/rt473\\_19-up-brand-and-corporate-identity.zp184405.pdf](https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/1/ZP_Files/rt473_19-up-brand-and-corporate-identity.zp184405.pdf).



## 20 CENSORSHIP

AHRY will never be complicit in censorship. The Pretoria University Law Press, the publisher of AHRY, is part of the University of Pretoria which, as a world-leading research and teaching institution, is fully committed to the principle and promotion of freedom of speech and expression.

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## 21 EDITORIAL TEAM/CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Frans Viljoen** – Director and Professor of International Human Rights Law, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria [frans.viljoen@up.ac.za](mailto:frans.viljoen@up.ac.za).
- **Trésor Muhindo Makunya** – Postdoctoral Research Fellow and Publications Coordinator, Centre for Human Rights, Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria [tresor.makunya@up.ac.za](mailto:tresor.makunya@up.ac.za).
- **Janet Gbam** – Doctoral student, Centre for Human Rights (CHR), Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria [janet.gbam@up.ac.za](mailto:janet.gbam@up.ac.za).

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\*\*\*END\*\*\*

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<sup>27</sup> See <https://publicationethics.org/cope-position-statements/censorship>.