

**The Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR)
Faculty of Law
University of Colombo, Sri Lanka**

Call for Papers for an Edited Book

***“Critical and Emerging Human Rights Issues
in the Asia-Pacific Region”***

Under the Special Regional Capacity Building Research Project – 2026

APMA Programme



CALL FOR PAPERS

Author Guidelines for Submission

1. Overview of the Research Project: An Edited Book

This proposed edited book titled “Critical and Emerging Human Rights Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region” aims to gather original, unpublished research and interdisciplinary scholarship from academics, APMA alumni and postgraduate students engaged in the APMA degree program. It focuses on critical, evolving, and underexplored issues related to human rights and democracy within the Asia-Pacific region.

The book aims to provide a platform for academics, researchers and emerging scholars to critically engage with contemporary human rights challenges, regional legal frameworks, governance dynamics, and social transformations affecting the region. This publication emphasises both theoretical and practice-oriented contributions to the area that address emerging trends, structural inequalities, legal developments, and grassroots responses within diverse Asia-Pacific contexts.

The guidelines for the submissions are as follows.

2. Suggested Themes and Areas of Interest for the Chapters

Submissions must focus on the countries in the Asia-Pacific Region and/or a comparative analysis and may address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Civil and Political Rights
 - Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights
 - Gender and Sexuality
 - Cyber Security and Human Rights
 - Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights
 - Intellectual Property and Human Rights
 - Climate Governance / Environmental Rights / Sustainable Development
 - Armed Conflicts and Human Rights
 - Refugees and Migration
 - Maritime Security
 - Transitional Justice
 - Rights of the Marginalised Groups
 - Human Rights Protection in the Asia-Pacific Region
 - Comparative Constitutionalism and Democracy
 - Incorporating International Human Rights Obligations into Domestic Spheres
 - Democracy and Good Governance
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3. Types of Contributions

This publication welcomes:

- Theoretical and conceptual analyses
 - Comparative legal studies
 - Reforms-oriented chapters
 - Interdisciplinary perspectives
 - Critical reviews of legal and institutional developments
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4. Submission Guidelines

(i) **First Round: Submission of an Abstract**

The abstract should consist of the following.

- **Title of the research:** The title of the paper should be concise, informative, and meaningful. Please avoid using long systemic names and non-standard abbreviations, acronyms, or symbols in the title.
- **Contents of the abstract:** Research background, research problem, research objectives, methodology, hypothesis (if any), research limitations (if any), and major findings can be included in the abstract.
- Abstract word limit – 250 - 300 words
- 3-5 keywords should be included immediately after the abstract.
- Submission should be in MS Word format, Times New Roman font, size 12, single-spaced, page margin: 1.5. and justified in the formatting.
- Notification of acceptance: The authors whose abstracts are selected by the editorial board will be notified to submit the chapters.

(ii) **Second Round: Submission of the Chapters and Declaration Form**

Chapter Submission Guidelines and the Bibliography

- Length: 5000 - 6000 words (excluding footnotes and the bibliography)
- A bibliography should be included at the end. (OSCOLA- 4th Edition).
- Chapters should include footnotes. (not endnotes)
- The Chapters should include the title of the chapter, the author's name, affiliations, contact email address, abstract and keywords on the first page. The authors may include their affiliations, qualifications, and email addresses in footnotes marked with an asterisk (*) at the end of the name. Eg: Isankhya Udani*
- The editorial board will make the final decision on publication of the chapters based on the reviewers' feedback from the double-anonymised peer review process.

- If the authors wish to change the title in their chapters to something different from the accepted chapter title by the editorial board during the review process, they are required to receive approval from the editorial board for the revised title.

Formatting Requirements for the Chapter

- Font: Times New Roman (12 pt for body paragraphs, 14pt for headings and 10pt for footnotes)
- Submission should be in MS Word format, single-spaced and justified.
- Spacing: 1.5 Margins: 1 inch
- Citation style: OSCOLA (4th Edition)
- Footnotes (Arabic numbers /10pt) and a list of references should be included.
- Use headings and subheadings with numbering in Arabic numerals. Eg: 1.2
- LIST OF REFERENCES: Ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list, following the OSCOLA (4th edition).
- APPENDICES: If needed, the appendices shall appear after the conclusion. If there are multiple Appendices, they must be labelled Appendix A, B, C, etc.
- Page numbers should be inserted at the bottom-middle of the page. (1,2,3)

Language

- Abstracts and the Chapters must be submitted in English (UK).
- Authors are responsible for language editing before submission, and the editorial board does not scrutinise the language or the references of the chapters.

Originality and Research Ethics

- Submissions must be original and unpublished and should not be under review elsewhere for publication.
- Submissions should not be funded by any other projects.
- Submissions should not be a part of the duties/tasks assigned to the authors by their institutions or employers.
- If the submission is a co-authored research, each author must be acknowledged. For co-authored submissions, the maximum number of authors allowed is four.
- For research with primary data collection or a component with empirical research, the ethics clearance certificate should be submitted with the chapter to the editorial board.
- If the submission is a part of the dissertations submitted to a degree programme and the university holds the copyright, the authors are required to provide a written letter from the university authorising such publication along with the book chapter.
- Authors must ensure proper citation and avoid plagiarism.
- AI-generated submissions are not accepted. The authors are kindly requested to read the University of Colombo's AI policy at the following link.
<https://science.cmb.ac.lk/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/AI-Policy-1-1.pdf>
- If the authors have been found guilty of violations of the submission rules concerning academic integrity, originality and plagiarism, the editorial board reserves the right to reject such submissions at any time during this process with written notice to the authors with reasons and evidence.

SUBMISSION OF THE BIOGRAPHY AND DECLARATION FORM

- Along with the chapter, the authors must submit a duly signed declaration form (by all authors if the chapter is co-authored), a short biography (100-150 words) and the ethics clearance certificate (if relevant).
- Authors can download the declaration form from the following link on the website:
<https://cshr.cmb.ac.lk/>

The declaration form consists of the following details:

- Author(s) name(s), affiliation(s) and academic qualifications
- The author's involvement or capacity in the APMA programme, e.g., whether the author or one of the authors is a staff member, major advisor, a student or a graduate of the APMA Partner universities.
- Contact emails and phone numbers of the author(s).
- A declaration that the submissions are not funded under any other programme and have not been published or are under consideration for publication by any other organisation.
- Declaration of whether there is any conflict of interest that the authors wish to disclose to the editorial board concerning the submission.
- Declaration of the extent to which AI has been used in the abstract and the chapter.
- Declaration that if there is a complaint/allegation about copyright violation or conflict of interest, the author(s) are solely responsible for handling such inquiry and/or legal proceedings.
- Declaration that the author consents to the decision of the editorial board as final in the selection process
- signature of the author(s) and the date.
- If there are co-authors, all the authors must submit the signed declaration forms and biographies individually. Please use the template available on the CSHR website.

(iii) Third Round – Double-anonymised Review Process and the Revised Chapters

- All submissions will undergo a double-anonymised peer review by the subject experts.
- In this second round, the editorial board may request that the authors revise the chapters based on the reviewers' comments regarding the chapters and resubmit the revised chapters.
- If the authors refuse or are unable to accommodate the revisions/comments of the reviewers to their chapters and resubmit within the given deadlines, the editorial board may reject such submissions.
- The revised chapters will then be submitted for copy-editing. At the copy-editing round, the editorial board may require revisions to the references and language editing from the authors. After that, authors should submit their Final Submissions on or before the given deadline.
- The editorial board will make final decisions regarding publication.

- The Centre for the Study of Human Rights (CSHR), Faculty of Law, University of Colombo, will retain the copyrights for the publication, and the contributions of authors, reviewers, and editors will be appropriately acknowledged in the final submission.
- After the submission of the revised chapters, the authors will be unable to withdraw their chapters from publication.

(iv) Fourth Round: Publication

- The book will be available both online and in print. However, the editorial board will make the final decision on the number of copies and mode of publication.
- All authors will receive a free copy of the book.
- Authors will not request any payment or fees for publication by the editorial board.
- This book is only for academic, research and educational purposes, and this book will not be sold; therefore, no income will be generated from this publication.
- At the final stage, the authors will be requested to sign the copyright transfer agreement with the editorial board to prevent the republication of the chapters, completely or in part, with other publishers and on other publishing platforms.

Important Deadlines (Extended)	
Call for Abstracts	1 July 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	15 July 2026
Notification of Acceptance of the Abstracts	30 July 2026
Chapters/Full Papers Submission Deadline	30 September 2026
AI reports and similarity checking of the papers by the editorial board – pre-screening of full papers	15 October 2026
Notification of the Decisions on the Acceptance of Full Papers (with Reviewer Comments)	30 October 2026
Revised Full Papers Submissions by the authors – Deadline	30 November 2026
Copy-editing – comments to the authors	30 December 2026
Final paper submissions by the authors	30 January 2027

We look forward to receiving your valuable contribution to this edited book. Please get in touch with us via email for more information.

Editorial Board

Edited Book on ‘Critical and Emerging Human Rights Issues in the Asia-Pacific Region’
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