

CALL FOR PAPERS

Special Issue on “*Gender dimensions of Business and Human Rights*”

Non-discrimination and gender equality are foundational principles of the international human rights system and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite this, overall attention to gender remains inadequate in most business and human rights (BHR) frameworks, discourses and practices. This poses serious obstacles to the effective implementation of laws, policies, due diligence practices and access to remedy mechanisms in a manner that protects, respects and remediates the human rights of women, girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) persons. As such, there is an urgent need to better understand how gendered power relations operate in the BHR context. This special issue of the *Business and Human Rights Journal* (BHRJ) will bring together diverse academic and practitioner perspectives to address topical issues focusing on gender dimensions of BHR. To enhance diversity and interdisciplinarity, the guest editors seek contributions from new voices and perspectives not only from scholars and practitioners working in the BHR field, but also from other disciplines such as gender studies, sociology, business ethics, management, economics, and accounting.

Paper contributions

We are interested in original paper contributions from academics and practitioners on integrating, analysing and addressing the gender dimensions of BHR. We welcome both scholarly articles and Developments in the Field (DiF) pieces. We especially welcome contributions from the Global South, contributions that take an interdisciplinary approach, and those that present new and innovative solutions to persistent gender-related problems, including through new empirical research.

Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- accounting for gender in national action plans processes and implementation
- integrating women’s rights, needs and perspectives into public procurement
- gender-analysis of trade and investment policies and agreements
- intersectional approaches to the gender dimensions of BHR
- strategies for protecting LGBTI+ rights, especially in contexts where national laws are prohibitive
- the changing nature of work, e.g., increasingly complex supply and value chains, use of artificial intelligence and automation, the formalisation of specific industry sectors
- women workers in special economic zones and in informal sectors

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- practical examples of companies exercising gender-sensitive human rights due diligence, including in the context of modern slavery
- the role and protection of women human rights defenders
- sexual and reproductive health rights in the context of business/workplace
- women and access to natural resources, including ecosystem services and interplay between the environment and human rights
- addressing sexual and gender-based violence in business contexts
- gender-based critique of remedial mechanisms, e.g., operational-level grievance mechanisms

Abstract submission and timeline

Please send an abstract by 30 January 2020 to nog@humanrights.dk and bhrj@cambridge.org specifying author(s), affiliation, email, draft title and brief summary (circa 300 words) of the intended paper. Please indicate clearly whether your abstract is for a scholarly article or a DiF piece.

- Scholarly articles should offer original and in-depth academic research and be approximately 9,000-12,000 words long (inclusive of footnotes, abstract, title and appendices).
- DiF pieces should be 1,500-3,000 words long and be focused on timely and current milestones, innovations or other developments in the field of BHR and related areas. Ideally, the focus should be on capturing a concrete and specific development or series of developments. Further guidance is available at: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-file-manager/file/575ac6e0a94aadd432d41814/BHJ-dif-ifc.pdf>
- All submissions should follow the *BHRJ* style guide: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/business-and-human-rights-journal/information/instructions-for-authors>

The anticipated timelines for the special issue are as follows:

1. Deadline for submission of abstracts – 30 January 2020
2. Abstract selection and invitation to submit full paper – 20 February 2020
3. Deadline for receipt of full papers – 1 November 2020
4. Publication of special issue – July 2022

Guest editors

- *Nora Götzmann*, Senior Adviser, Human Rights and Business, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Denmark; Adjunct Researcher, Centre for Social Responsibility in Mining, Sustainable Minerals Institute, The University of Queensland, Australia (nog@humanrights.dk)
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- *Joanna Bourke Martignoni*, Senior Research Fellow at the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights; Affiliate of the Gender Centre at the Graduate Institute in Geneva (joanna.bourke-martignoni@graduateinstitute.ch)
- *Bonita Meyersfeld*, Associate Professor at the School of Law, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (Bonita.Meyersfeld@wits.ac.za)