

## Research Policy

This guidance is produced for the benefit of the Board of GenerationLibre, its management team and the authors of its research. It sets out the requirements which the GenerationLibre Board wishes to apply to all materials GenerationLibre publishes or produces.

### Background

GenerationLibre [has applied to be registered as a charity with the Charity Commission in England and Wales]. Its objects (i.e. the formal legal description of its aims) as set out in its Articles of Association are:

- to **advance education** in particular but without limitation in the philosophy of liberty (especially through theories relating to market economy and individual freedom) and its practical implications; and
- to **promote human rights**, as set out in the European Convention of Human Rights, in particular in its Articles 5 (right to liberty and security), 8 (right to respect for private and family life), 9 (freedom of thought, conscience and religion), 10 (freedom of expression), as well as article 1 of its Protocol (protection of property) and article 2 of Protocol 4 (freedom of movement) by all or an of the following means:
  - monitoring abuses of human rights;
  - research into human rights issues;
  - providing technical advice to government and others on human rights matters;
  - contributing to the sound administration of human rights law;
  - commenting on proposed human rights legislation;
  - raising awareness of human rights issues; and
  - promoting public support for human rights.

## **General Principles**

The GenerationLibre Board has adopted the following general research policy guidelines:

- Although GenerationLibre does not take collective positions on policy issues, it tends to show empathy with the views of the authors it publishes, as long as they fit within GenerationLibre's broad remit, principles and Board-approved strategy; and
- Research published or produced by Generation Libre will be made publicly available [primarily by way of posting on the GenerationLibre website]. In line with GenerationLibre strong ethos of financial and political independence, private commissions will not be accepted. Where it has already selected and approved the research topic, the Board will from time to time seek ad hoc external funding to meet the cost of a specific piece of research. In those instances, the Board will endeavour to diversify sources of financial support so as to be as inclusive as possible.

The requirements set out in this research policy must be brought to the attention of all those who produce content, and such content should be regularly reviewed to ensure that the requirements are being followed. Any difficulty in interpreting the policy should be referred to the Board.

## Responsibilities

- **Selection of topics** - The subject matter of all content, publications and events should be consistent with the principles of liberal philosophy, as reflected in the principles of market economy and individual liberty. The Board will select specific topics considering the recommendations submitted by the Executive Director and taking account of the broad research directions formulated by the Strategic Council. The Board will also be mindful of ensuring variety of range in GenerationLibre's content as well as overall balance across publications and events.
- **Selection of authors** – The Executive Director will appoint authors ensuring that:
  - Every substantial work shall have at least one author who is recognised as specialist in his/her field. Authors will typically, but not exclusively, be drawn from GenerationLibre's panel of experts and may or may not be compensated for their work;
  - Authors declare any potential conflict of interest – and that such conflict will not interfere with the author's independence; and
  - Research content displays a range of views and perspectives and is not dominated by one author.
- **Approval of research for publication** – GenerationLibre strives to maintain high academic standards. As part of maintaining these standards and ensuring that its work is free from bias, all reports will be peer-reviewed by three members of the panel of experts, including one academic expert. A proportionate approach should be taken, according to the nature of the content and the extent of resources which have been committed to it. So, for instance, it will be more important to consider bias within a full length, high-profile, report with a significant budget commitment than it will in relation to a short blog item.

At all times, particularly controversial items, of whatever length, should be reviewed at a senior decision-making level before publication/distribution – in many cases this is likely to involve one or more Trustees.

## **Guidelines to authors**

GenerationLibre will only publish reports where conclusions are drawn from evidence resulting from research. It will not publish works which start from a point of view which is then merely propounded. With this in mind authors should:

- Thoroughly research the chosen topic and collate the evidence;
- Consider the possible arguments in relation to the evidence; and
- Present the research and evidence in a balanced way which should demonstrate a range of arguments.

Research can contain conclusions (which can point to policy recommendations), but the underlying analysis leading to such conclusion must be based on the evidence. All works should provide the reader with sources and references so that readers can understand how conclusions have been reached and judge for themselves whether they agree with the conclusions.

All content should make it clear that the views expressed are those of the author. Authors should declare relevant interests which may be construed to affect their work for GenerationLibre.