



## **MINDS CONNECT EDITORIAL GUIDELINES**

**It was Nelson Mandela’s hope that MINDS would “make a real difference in the resolution of the challenges that confront Africa, through vibrant and robust debate, interrogating current paradigms, and offering new approaches.” MINDS Connect is another platform through which MINDS wishes to foster such engagement.**

**MINDS Connect** offers our Alumni, Scholars, networks, stakeholders, patrons, trustees and staff an inclusive and visible platform to find common agendas to rally around and work towards driving transformation of the continent to realise the socio-economic and political progress needed to improve conditions and living standards of the African society.

MINDS currently runs four programmes addressing developmental challenges on the African continent related to African identity, regional and economic integration, youth participation in elections and governance and leadership development.

### **TOPICS**

We have selected broad thematic areas that reflect the programs that the Institute has designed to tackle the issues we care about. As we want to raise the discourse and dialogue within our areas of interest, we invite writers to create pieces within these broad thematic areas which include:

1. Developmental Challenges and Opportunities in Africa
2. African Identity and Heritage
3. Regional and Economic Integration in Africa
4. Youth participation in Governance in Africa
5. Leadership development for transformation, economic integration and social cohesion in Africa

You need to clearly state your topic at the start of your Blog or OpEd. Should your topic or content greatly vary from the topic ideas provided above, please be advised that your submission could be declined by the editorial review team.



## **MINDS CONNECT EDITORIAL GUIDELINES**

### **STYLE AND FORMATTING**

#### *LANGUAGE SUBMISSION*

- We are currently only accepting submissions in English and French.
- As MINDS has adopted a British English language preference, we kindly request that ALL English articles are to be supplied in British English format.

#### *STYLE*

- Whilst we appreciate that Blog Posts are generally more relaxed in tone and style, we do however request that you refrain from language and messaging that could be considered to be obscene, defamatory, profane, libelous, threatening, harassing, abusive, hateful, embarrassing to another person or entity, or violates the privacy rights of another. This also extends to OpEd pieces.
- If you are planning to submit a Blog Post, please ensure that your Blog is a minimum of 450 words and a maximum of 1,000 words. Should your Blog not conform with the word requirement, you might be requested by the editorial review team to edit your Blog to be in line with the word limits indicated.
- For those planning to submit an OpEd, please ensure that your piece is a minimum of 800 words and a maximum of 1,800 words. Should your OpEd not conform with the word requirement, you might be requested by the editorial review team to edit your piece to be in line with the word limits indicated.
- Please submit your piece either using Arial font size 12 or Calibri font size 12.
- Articles must be your original work and not published elsewhere on the web.
- The MINDS Editorial Review team reserves the right to edit your article, including grammar, spelling, and formatting.
- Please note that personal information, i.e. your surname, email addresses, and personal websites, social media accounts are not permitted.
- The marketing of corporate brands in your piece for financial gain/payment is prohibited.

#### *USE OF GRAPHICS OR IMAGERY IN YOUR PIECE*

- Although graphics/infographics and images are useful tools to engage your audience, we kindly request that you consider the MINDS audience and include imagery and graphics that enhance your piece. Any disparaging or offensive images will be removed, and your post will not be considered for uploading and sharing.



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### *USE OF LINKS IN YOUR PIECE*

- Including links to research, papers, statistics or appropriate websites (i.e. not offensive in nature) or YouTube links etc. is a wonderful way to enrich your piece and engage with the MINDS audience. If you are unsure about the link you would like to insert, please contact the MINDS Editorial team for further guidelines and assistance.
- You are requested to exercise caution when inserting links to your piece. Ensure that they are not corrupted or have any viruses (e.g. Trojan horses or malware) attached to them. MINDS will undertake a security check of all pieces containing links to ensure that they do not have any such corrupted links. Any submissions found with these links will not be uploaded and the author will be informed thereof.

### *AUTHOR BYLINES:*

- Author bylines are accepted but they should be **no longer** than three sentences and may not contain any social media or online links or personal information. Should they be longer than three lines, the MINDS Editorial team reserves the right to shorten them without notification or consent.

### *CREDITING SOURCES, IMAGERY, QUOTES*

- Be respectful of copyrights on all content and media used for your submission. MINDS will not be held liable for any copyright infringements as a result of your piece.
- Please ensure that you credit the original posts or sources referred to in your piece.
- For those who wish to source good royalty and credit free images, we suggest you visit [Pexels](#) and [Unsplash](#).
- If you include images, we require images with high resolution quality (images should not be less than 1 megabyte per image).
- For those who are more creative [Canva](#) is a wonderful tool to create colorful and vibrant graphics and infographics to enhance your piece.
- **BEFORE YOU SUBMIT:**
- Double-check your work to ensure there are no errors.
- [Grammarly Chrome extension](#) is a free online tool that allows you to check your grammar and spelling, whilst the [Hemingway app](#) which is also free, will give writers a “readability” score with suggestions on how to enhance your piece.



## **MINDS CONNECT EDITORIAL GUIDELINES**

### **REVIEW AND PUBLICATION PROCESS**

The intention of MINDS Connect is offer you a platform to let your voice be heard and to raise the discourse and dialogue around issues impacting the progress and development of Africa, but at the same time to ensure that we offer praise and ululation to those who are pushing the limits, breaking down barriers and challenging perceptions of what it means to be an African, and what we are capable of bringing to the global stage.

With this in mind (no pun intended), you are invited to submit your Blog or OpEd for review by the MINDS Editorial Review team. You will be notified within two weeks of your submission, if it has been accepted and if any editorial enhancements are needed. Should it be approved, your piece will then be uploaded on the MINDS online platforms. Should we receive any comments or feedback on your piece, this will be shared with you as received.

Please note that we **do not offer any financial remuneration** for any written or published pieces but do allow for an editorial byline.

### **DISCLAIMER**

Please be advised that the views or opinions represented in this blog or opinion editorial are personal and belong solely to the blog owner and do not represent those of the Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) nor any of its employees or board members, advisory board members or patrons, or any institutions associated with the organisation. Any views or opinions are not intended to malign any religion, ethnic group, club, organisation, company, or individual.

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