

LITERATURE AND AUDIO-VISUAL REVIEW

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What is the role of the National Spiritual Assembly's Review Panels?

In its Memorandum on Bahá'í Publishing of Ridván 1971, the Universal House of Justice states:

The purpose of review is to protect the Faith from misrepresentation and to ensure dignity and accuracy in its presentation. In general, the function of a reviewing committee is to say whether the work submitted gives an acceptable presentation of the Cause or not.

It further states:

The standards to be upheld by reviewer are the following: conformity with the Teachings, accuracy, and dignity in presentation.

LITERATURE REVIEW PANEL

The Literature Review Panel reviews, before publication, books and articles to be published in non-Bahá'í publications, including magazines, written by Bahá'ís which have Bahá'í content and which are to be published in the United Kingdom. It also reviews, before publication, 'electronic' or 'e-' books or articles intended for publication in electronic books.

Do I need to send my book/article for review before submitting it to a publisher?

If the book is to be submitted to a non-Bahá'í publisher it is wise to submit it before it is sent. This will save embarrassment if the Review Panel recommends changes.

If the book is to be submitted to George Ronald or another Bahá'í or Bahá'í-owned publishing house, this is not necessary. The manuscript will change as it is edited and the editor should pick up any inaccuracies. It will be submitted to the Review Panel by the publisher once it has been edited.

Do I need to get my blog or contributions to others' blogs reviewed?

Whilst the policy of review does not apply to the internet medium, a distinction is drawn between informal efforts of individuals who might post content on a personal web page, blog or social networking feed, and more formal undertakings such as an 'electronic book', or an online journal that has some sort of institutional sponsorship (whether Bahá'í or non-Bahá'í).

I've made substantial corrections to my original book or e-book. Do these need to be reviewed?

As with other publications, review should also be carried out on any substantive revisions to the content in books and e-books that have previously gone through the review process. Small corrections such as typos need not be sent but if facts or opinions have been added then these need to be sent to the Review Panel. A decision will need to be made whether to send

just the addition, the addition in its context (e.g. an entire chapter) or, particularly where there have been numerous changes, the entire book.

My book has only a few pages that mention the Faith. Do I need to send the whole book?

For books or articles in which the Bahá'í content is minimal, it is sufficient to review the Bahá'í material and the context in which it is presented.

My book is not being published in the UK but in another country. Where does it need to be sent?

... the approval should be given by the National Spiritual Assembly of the country where the work is to be first published.

The Universal House of Justice, *Messages to the Bahá'í World, 1963 to 1986*, p. 188

ACADEMIC REVIEW PANEL

The Academic Review Panel reviews, before publication, academic books or articles to be published in non-Bahá'í publications, including magazines, written by Bahá'ís which have Bahá'í content and which are to be published in the United Kingdom. For books or articles in which the Bahá'í content is minimal, it is sufficient to review the Bahá'í material and the context in which it is presented.

The Academic Review Panel is only responsible for the review of books or articles deemed to be academic. The Academic Review Panel is not responsible for the review of press or news magazine articles unless they are deemed to be academic.

The answers to the Literature Review Panel apply to Academic Review as well.

Do I need to get my doctoral thesis reviewed?

... it has already established the policy that doctoral theses do not have to be reviewed unless there is a proposal to publish them in larger quantities than is required by the examining body.

The Universal House of Justice, *Messages to the Bahá'í World, 1963 to 1986*, p. 388

AUDIO-VISUAL PANEL

The Audio-Visual Review Panel deals with those items which have a Bahá'í content and are produced for sale either within the Bahá'í community or in the wider community, where sound and/or vision are used as the medium of communication.

Items that are required to be reviewed are any audio-visual item available for sale that includes a Bahá'í reference (e.g. image, quotation from the Writings, etc.). Examples of such items might be:

- Films

- Music where words are an integral part of the production
- Recorded talks, storytelling, poetry etc.
- Visual images
- Souvenir type items
- Jewellery and cloths

GETTING BOOKS OR OTHER ITEMS REVIEWED

How do I get my item reviewed?

First contact the National Spiritual Assembly at nsa@bahai.org.uk who will put you in touch with the relevant Review Panel co-ordinator. The co-ordinator will let you know in what format they would like the work presented.

Do local Assemblies need to get invitations or local flyers reviewed?

Local Assemblies should set up their own method of checking the accuracy of invitations and flyers that are for their own use only. If these are going to be used more widely then they need to be sent to one of the National Assembly's Review Panels.

Do articles written for local newspapers and magazines need to be reviewed?

Where there is Bahá'í content in local media scripts or articles written by individual Bahá'ís, the piece concerned must be reviewed by the **Office of Public Affairs** (opa@bahai.org.uk) prior to submission to any local or regional media outlet.

If there is to be any reference to the situation of the Bahá'ís in Iran, this must be referred to the Office of Public Affairs before any approach is made to the media.