Guidelines for the Submission of Articles to the Review of Peacebuilding Studies (RPS)

The Review of Peacebuilding Studies (RPS) is a peer-reviewed academic journal published by the Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center (HPC).

HPC is a general incorporated association engaged in human resource development, research, and related activities in the field of peacebuilding. Its origins lie in a voluntary organization, Peacebuilders, established by its current Representative Director, Professor Hideaki Shinoda, during his tenure at Hiroshima University.

Over time, Peacebuilders evolved into a non-profit organization and expanded its activities beyond training to include peacebuilding initiatives such as psychosocial support in Palestine and the establishment of an early warning network in Sierra Leone. In 2007, the organization was commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan to implement the Global Peacebuilders Program under the name Hiroshima Peacebuilders Center. By 2011, HPC had acquired the status of a general incorporated association. For 17 years, until March 2024, HPC consistently implemented projects commissioned by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Building on this track record, HPC now carries out a diverse range of activities to further the cause of peacebuilding.

RPS provides a multidisciplinary platform for scholarly and practice-oriented contributions that advance understanding of peacebuilding processes, policies, and outcomes. The journal seeks to serve as a bridge between theory and practice, encouraging dialogue among academics, practitioners, policymakers, and civil society actors.

Scope and Themes

RPS welcomes original manuscripts addressing a broad range of peacebuilding-related topics, including but not limited to:

- Conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction
- The possibilities and limits of peace amid rising geopolitical tensions, including great-power rivalry, regional conflicts, and shifting international orders
- State-building, governance, and institution-building
- Peace processes, mediation, and negotiation
- Transitional justice, reconciliation, and dealing with the past

- Human security, protection of civilians, and humanitarian action
- The development–peace nexus and peacebuilding economics
- Gender, youth, and inclusive peacebuilding
- Civil society, local ownership, and community-based peacebuilding
- International organizations, regional actors, and peace operations
- Comparative and case-based analyses of peacebuilding experiences

Interdisciplinary approaches drawing from political science, international relations, sociology, anthropology, law, economics, development studies, and related fields are particularly encouraged.

Types of Contributions
RPS accepts the following categories of submissions:
1. **Research Articles**
   Original scholarly articles presenting theoretical, empirical, or policy-oriented research.
2. **Practice and Policy Papers**
   Analytically grounded reflections by practitioners that link field experience with peacebuilding theory.
3. **Book Reviews**
   Critical reviews of recent books relevant to peacebuilding studies.

Editorial Rules and Submission Guidelines
1. **Originality and Ethics**
   Submissions must be original and not under consideration elsewhere
   Authors are responsible for ensuring ethical research conduct and proper citation of sources.
   Any potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed.
2. **Peer Review**
   All research articles and practice and policy papers are subject to double-blind   peer review.
   Book reviews are reviewed by the editorial team.
3. **Language**
   Manuscripts must be written in clear, academic English.

Authors whose first language is not English are encouraged to have their manuscripts professionally proofread prior to submission.

4. **Length**

Research Articles: approximately 6,000–8,000 words, including references

Practice and Policy Papers: approximately 4,000–6,000 words

Book Reviews: approximately 800–1,200 words

5. **Formatting and Style**

Manuscripts should be prepared in a standard word-processing format (e.g., MS Word).

Use a clear font (e.g., Times New Roman, 12-point), double-spaced, with standard margins.

Citations and references should follow a consistent academic style (APA, Chicago, or Harvard) and be applied uniformly throughout the manuscript.