**Call for Consultants: Update of Content for Resource Hub on Digital Rights**

*Terms of Reference*

1. **Purpose of the consultancy contract**

The purpose of the consultancy contract is to review and update the existing Resource Hub content on digital rights and freedom of expression online for practicing lawyers in East, West and Southern Africa.

1. **Background**

Media Defence’s vision is a world where journalists no longer face legal challenges that threaten their ability to report freely and independently on issues of public interest, allowing citizens to be better informed, able to hold those in power to account.

Media Defence’s mission is to ensure legal protection of journalists and media workers under threat for reporting on issues of public interest, in the belief that freedom of expression is essential.

The [*Empowering Women in Digital Rights Advocacy*](https://www.mediadefence.org/news/empowering-women-lawyers-in-sub-saharan-africa/) project, which began in 2021, aims to support lawyers litigating digital rights and freedom of expression cases in East, West and Southern Africa, while focusing particularly on online violence against journalists and gender specific issues. Among the activities in this project are litigation surgeries to increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of lawyers, especially women lawyers, taking cases to national and regional courts. The current Resource Hub contains the training material for these litigation surgeries and it also serves as a space for Media Defence to continue to support the network of lawyers who have participated in the litigation surgeries by providing useful resources for the cases they are working on.

1. **Resource Hub Update**

Media Defence’s Resource Hub was launched in 2021, with some of the core resources drafted in 2020 and early 2021. As the digital rights landscape is developing constantly, Media Defence is looking to hire a consultant to review and update its Resource Hub. The update of the Resource Hub is part of the *Empowering Women in Digital Rights Advocacy* project and will be focused on updating relevant case law and information, including international and comparative law, adding recent emerging trends and reflecting gender issues within the existing topics. Furthermore, the update aims to be more accessible and coherent than the current version, with content that can easily be copied and pasted. Additionally, the update will complement the existing resources with practical tools for lawyers. The [Resource Hub](https://www.mediadefence.org/resource-hub/) is a platform that encompasses various forms of legal content, including the [eReader](https://www.mediadefence.org/ereader/) with its summary and advanced modules, which make up the largest part of the Hub. In this context, the update will focus to a large extent on the eReader modules and shall ensure the interconnectedness of both the Resource Hub and the eReader.

The [Resource Hub](https://www.mediadefence.org/resource-hub/) is structured as an entry point to all of Media Defence’s training materials for lawyers in sub-Saharan Africa. It encompasses 10 themes, for example [defamation and reputation](https://www.mediadefence.org/resource-hub/defamation-and-reputation/), as well as [emerging trends](https://www.mediadefence.org/resource-hub/?_content_type=emerging-trends), such as in[termediary liability](https://www.mediadefence.org/resource-hub/emerging-trend-intermediary-liability/). The Resource Hub and modules generated nearly 20,000 unique page views in May 2022.

Media Defence is looking for a consultant to review the existing content, update relevant information, and develop additional content within the existing topics where suitable. The updated content should also focus on interactivity with the target audience of practicing lawyers.

Please see below the existing resources which shall be updated:

* [Media Defence’s Resource Hub](https://www.mediadefence.org/resource-hub/)
* Specific resources to be updated:
  + [Summary Modules on Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression Online in sub-Saharan Africa](https://www.mediadefence.org/ereader/publications/introductory-modules-on-digital-rights-and-freedom-of-expression-online/module-7-cybercrimes/steps-to-take-in-response-to-online-harms/)
  + [Advanced Modules on Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression Online in sub-Saharan Africa](https://www.mediadefence.org/ereader/publications/advanced-modules-on-digital-rights-and-freedom-of-expression-online/module-4-privacy-and-security-online/online-harassment/)
* Upcoming resources: Media Defence is in the process of producing training [modules](https://www.mediadefence.org/news/call-for-consultants-modules-on-online-violence-against-journalists/) on *Online Violence against Journalists* which will be uploaded to the Resource Hub by mid-September. These modules will be shared with the selected consultant for reference.

Based on the existing material, Media Defence is also interested in suggestions on how to better link the Resource Hub content to the main website.

1. **Expected timeline**

* 1 September 2022: Deadline for submission of proposal
* 12 September 2022: Successful proposal will begin with a review of the existing material
* 25 September 2022: Submission of findings of the review and call with Media Defence
* 16 October 2022: Submission of the update for review by Media Defence’s Legal Team
* 16 November 2022: Final submission

1. **Expected profile**

* At least 2 years’ experience drafting resources on digital rights and freedom of expression, ideally for practicing lawyers, with specific experience related to regional mechanisms in East, West and Southern Africa and online violence.
* Demonstrated knowledge of international/comparative law on the right to freedom of expression, digital rights, and internet freedom, with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa.
* Availability to provide the deliverables within the expected timeline

1. **How to apply**

Please submit the following documents to [hanna.uihlein@mediadefence.org](mailto:hanna.uihlein@mediadefence.org) by **1 September 2022**:

* A one-page proposal including key dates and timelines for the project.
* CV of those working on the project.
* Quotation/itemised budget in GBP (£).
* Example of relevant previous work undertaken.

If you have any questions regarding the Terms of Reference, please contact hanna.uihlein@mediadefence.org.