

Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions for 2028
Partnerships: [Society for the Study of Social Problems](#) and [Policy Press](#)

Guidelines for Contributors

Manuscript Components, 5 sections:

Word Count and Content Sections: Manuscripts should be between 2,000 and 3,000 words. Chapters will include five sections. The following headers are required.

1. **The Problem** (200 to 500 words)
 - a. The problem section should concretely define a social problem in the United States.
2. **Research Evidence** (300 to 500 words)
 - a. The research evidence section should provide rigorous sources of information, including the data sources, about this social problem and the extent of the social problem.
3. **Recommendations and Solutions** (1,000 to 2,000 words)
 - a. The recommendations and solutions section should describe what is to be done, e.g., in terms of policy, social, or community action, to alleviate the problem, presenting viable solutions for reducing, mitigating, solving, or abolishing the problem. All solutions should be concrete and actionable. *Please note that the emphasis of the totality of the chapter is on solutions to the problem, as reflected by the section's length.*
4. **Suggested Readings**
 - a. Suggest up to 10 readings that would be useful to readers to expand their knowledge about the social problem (politicians, journalists, activists, students, or academics). Because our readers may lack journal access, we encourage you to include some **open source materials**. Chapters with more than 10 readings will be returned for revisions.
 - b. This section is not a reference section, although you can suggest readings that you cited within your manuscript.
5. **Biographical Statement** (100 words or less)
 - a. A biographical statement establishing each author's credentials.

Style:

- **Citations and formatting**
 - Cite the essential material and not every supporting piece of evidence (for example, avoid using multiple sources for a single sentence and instead focus on the pivotal sources).
 - Submissions should use **ENDNOTES ONLY** and *keep citations to a minimum* (only those necessary).
 - Citations should be in [APA](#) format and contained entirely within endnotes. **Do not use in-text citations.** These volumes use endnotes with full APA citations to keep the narrative focused for readers.

- Manuscripts that do not adhere to this style will be returned for revisions.

- **Language and Tone**

- The manuscript should be accessible to a non-specialist reader.
- Please limit, and try to omit, jargon.
- Exclude discussions of academic disputes.
- An effective chapter stays focused and drives the argument toward the *solutions*.
 - We encourage discussion of the political and institutional feasibility of recommendations and how to mount efforts to achieve those objectives.
 - Think “sound bite” or “bullet-point” format for recommendations.

- **Abstracts and keywords**

- Final chapter submissions will include a short abstract. Abstracts will be submitted after revisions and along with the final chapter.
- All chapters must include up to 5 keywords.

Please keep in mind that SSSP is a tax-exempt organization, and that contributors must avoid lobbying for- or advocating for- political parties, candidates, or particular legislation.

Important Dates: The project will proceed according to the following schedule:

April 9, 2027	Chapter drafts due from contributors
May 7, 2027	Drafts returned for revisions
August 20, 2027	Revised chapters due
September 3, 2027	Chapter decisions
August 2028	Launch of volume

Sincerely,

The J21 Editorial Team

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