

# AUTHORS' RIGHTS

## 40. Moral Rights of Journalists and Authors

*Proposed by the [National Writers Union, USA \(NWU\)](#)*

The World Congress of the [International Federation of Journalists](#), meeting in Tunis from 11th to 14th June 2019,

*Recognising* the critical importance of attribution of authorship and preservation of the integrity of written works and the ability of readers to assess the credibility of sources and to distinguish journalism from disinformation and “fake news”;

*Bearing in mind* that Article 6bis of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works recognizes the moral rights of authors, including journalists, with respect to attribution of authorship and to the integrity of their works;

*Further bearing in mind* that Article 10 of the Berne Convention requires that quotations from newspaper articles and periodicals in the form of press summaries must mention “the source and the name of the author if it appears thereon”;

*Concerned* that the government of the United States of America has not transposed the provisions of the Berne Convention on moral rights, attribution, and integrity of written works into national law, and that the US law provides no means of redress for violations of the moral rights of journalists or authors of written works;

*Disturbed* that US-based Internet platforms for the redistribution of news articles, including Google News and Facebook, routinely violate journalists’ rights of attribution and integrity when news stories are “shared” or included in news summaries, in violation of Article 6bis and Article 10 of the Berne Convention;

*Recalling with approval* the submissions made by the Authors’ Rights Expert Group and the National Writers Union to the current policy study by the US Copyright Office concerning the need for new US legislation on moral rights;

- 1) **Calls on** Internet platforms and news summary services to respect the moral rights of journalists and other authors with respect to attribution of authorship and to the integrity of works that are “shared” or included in news summaries;
- 2) **Denounces** the government of the United States of America for its failure to implement the provisions of the Berne Convention with respect to the moral rights of journalists and other authors;
- 3) **Urges** the US Copyright Office to propose, and the US Congress to enact, legislation to protect and provide effective means of redress for violations of the moral rights of authors with respect to attribution and integrity of their works;

4) **Appeals** to all other State parties to the Berne Convention to invoke all measures available to them to compel the US government to fulfil its obligation to implement the provisions of the treaty respecting the moral rights of authors;

5) **Directs** the Secretariat to send copies of this resolution to Google, Facebook, the U.S. Register of Copyright, and the Chair and Ranking Minority Member of the Judiciary Committee of the US Senate and House of Representatives.