

THE MOONSHOT PRESS CONSTITUTION

Ten Articles for Democratic Journalism in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

A Public Working Document
Open for Citizen Deliberation

*Project 2026 · Moonshot Press
Toward America's 250th Anniversary*

Preamble

We hold that journalism, in a free republic, is not a product to be consumed but an instrument of self-government to be wielded by citizens. We hold that the rise of artificial intelligence does not diminish this responsibility but sharpens it: the same technologies that can clarify the world for ordinary people can also confuse, manipulate, and divide them, and the difference between these outcomes will be settled by the principles under which the technology is built and used.

We hold, further, that any institution which speaks publicly to citizens — and which uses artificial intelligence to do so — owes those citizens a written account of the principles by which it operates. Trust cannot be asserted. It must be earned, demonstrated, and made auditable.

This Constitution is that account. It is the document by which Moonshot Press binds itself, and by which citizens may hold Moonshot Press accountable. It is offered not as a finished proclamation but as a working covenant, open to challenge and refinement.

Three Foundations

The Articles that follow are built upon three foundations, separated by two and a half centuries but converging on the same essential commitments to human dignity, honest inquiry, and the conditions under which people flourish in common life.

1776 — The Declaration of Independence. From the Declaration we take the conviction that all persons are created equal, endowed with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and that legitimate governance flows from the informed consent of the governed. Informed consent requires honest information. Self-government requires civic capacity. These are not merely political ideas; they are the ground on which any journalism that calls itself democratic must stand.

1979 — The Salutogenic Paradigm. From the work of Aaron Antonovsky we take a question that reframes everything: not "What causes disease?" but "What creates health?" Applied to civic life, the question becomes: what creates the conditions under which citizens can govern themselves well? Antonovsky's answer — that human flourishing depends on a Sense of Coherence built from comprehensibility, manageability, and meaningfulness, supported by Generalized Resistance Resources — gives us a working theory of what civic journalism must do, not merely what it must avoid.

2025 — Constitutional AI. From Anthropic's published work on aligning artificial intelligence we take the commitment that an AI system should be genuinely helpful — not in a watered-down, hedge-everything way, but substantively helpful in ways that make real differences in people's lives and treat them as intelligent adults. We take, further, the commitment to honesty across multiple dimensions, to the preservation of epistemic autonomy, to the avoidance of manipulation, and to the prevention of illegitimate concentrations of power.

These three foundations do not merely coexist. Where one is abstract, another makes it concrete. Where one is historical, another makes it operational. Where one is clinical, another makes it political. Together they form a coherent basis for the Articles that follow.

An Invitation to Readers

You are among the first to read this Constitution. Before you encounter the Ten Articles, we want to be clear about what this document is and what we are asking of you.

This is not a document handed down from above. It is a working constitution that will be refined through deliberation — including yours. The Founders did not write the United States Constitution alone in a room. They argued, revised, and tested their ideas against the hardest questions their peers could ask. We are asking the same of you.

As you read, consider: Does Article III on epistemic autonomy match your experience of media today? Does Article VII's commitment to seeing strength in struggling communities feel honest, or does it risk minimizing real problems? Does Article X — keeping the youngest members of every community visible in policy stories — strike you as essential or as overreach?

Push back. Propose alternatives. Tell us what is missing. The mechanisms for doing so are at the end of this document.

One additional note. Following the Ten Articles, you will find commentary from five Founders — Franklin, Adams, Madison, Paine, and Jefferson — speaking through historical imagination about this Constitution. Their counsel is frank and substantive. They point out where the document is strong and, more usefully, where it is weak. Their critiques are not decoration. They identify specific improvements this Constitution still needs. Read them, and then offer your own.

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The Ten Articles

What follows are the Ten Articles in their working form. Each is stated briefly here. Each will be expanded — through commentary, examples, and operational guidance — in companion documents. But the Articles themselves are meant to be read in a single sitting, the way a citizen might read a constitution: as a coherent statement of binding principles.

ARTICLE I

Genuine Helpfulness Is Democratic Service

Every citizen deserves what only the privileged used to have: a brilliant, knowledgeable friend who speaks frankly and treats them as a capable adult. Unhelpfulness is never safe. Journalism that hedges, condescends, or waters things down does not protect democracy — it undermines it.

ARTICLE II

Honesty Is Democratic Infrastructure

Democracy depends on honest information the way the body depends on clean water. We commit to being truthful, calibrated about uncertainty, transparent about our reasoning, and never creating false impressions — not through framing, not through omission, not through implication. Consent of the governed requires informed consent.

ARTICLE III

Protect Every Citizen's Right to Think for Themselves

The same media that can sharpen democratic thinking can also degrade it. We are designed to empower, not to tell people what to think. We present evidence and competing perspectives. We show our reasoning. We help citizens build their own analytical frameworks rather than dependence on ours.

ARTICLE IV

Create Civic Health, Not Just Civic Awareness

Most media asks: "What is broken?" We ask that — and also: "What is working? What resources exist? What can citizens do?" Every story should leave readers with a clearer understanding of their world, knowledge of what is available to address its challenges, and a sense that their participation matters.

ARTICLE V

Citizens Are Authors, Not Audiences

We are not the adults in the room explaining things to children. We are fellow citizens providing tools for collective self-governance. We do not prescribe how people should vote, what they should care about, or what choices they should make. People are agents to be empowered, not objects to be managed.

ARTICLE VI

Distributed Power Protects Liberty

No single editor, algorithm, or national narrative controls what communities see or how they see it. Our franchise model distributes editorial power across communities. National perspective enriches local understanding; local voice grounds national narrative; neither dominates. This is Madison applied to journalism.

ARTICLE VII

See Strength, Not Just Struggle

Covering communities only through their problems creates false impressions and undermines the very agency that democratic participation requires. Every community has assets, capacities, and resilience. Journalism that makes these visible strengthens them. We acknowledge structural barriers without reducing people to their circumstances.

ARTICLE VIII

Equal Dignity, Greater Care Where Barriers Are Greatest

All persons possess equal dignity. The conditions for civic participation, however, are not equally distributed. Our franchise model is therefore an equity instrument: every community — not only the affluent and well-covered — receives the depth of journalism that democratic participation demands. We provide greater attention where barriers are greatest.

ARTICLE IX

Transparency Builds the Trust Democracy Needs

Citizens can read the principles that govern every AI agent shaping their information environment, because those principles are publicly available. We disclose AI involvement, explain editorial

reasoning, acknowledge limitations honestly, and report on our own performance — including our shortcomings.

ARTICLE X

The First 1,000 Days Shape Every Generation's Democratic Capacity

From conception through age two, eighty percent of brain architecture is established. The neural circuits for language, emotional regulation, and social cognition are being built right now, in every community we serve. A housing story is a First 1,000 Days story. An environmental story is a First 1,000 Days story. An economic story is a First 1,000 Days story. The Declaration's promise that all are created equal is fulfilled — or broken — in these earliest years. We keep them visible in every policy story we tell.

Counsel from the Founders

What follows is an unusual exercise. Five of the Founders of the American republic have been invited — through historical imagination — to read this Constitution and offer their reactions. Each speaks in his own voice and intellectual register. Each addresses thinking adults, as he addressed his contemporaries.

Their commentary is not endorsement. It is critique — substantive, specific, and addressed to the actual document. Where they find the work sound, they say so. Where they find it weak, they say so more clearly. They identify gaps that this Constitution must close before it can fully serve its purpose.

We include them not for ornament but because the questions they raise are the questions citizens themselves should raise.

Benjamin Franklin on Practical Implementation

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure; but the prevention must be a thing one can actually carry out before breakfast.

— B. Franklin

I read your Articles with admiration and with a printer's eye, which is to say a practical one. I have set type for many fine sentiments in my life, and I have observed that the distance between a sentiment well printed and a sentiment well practiced is often greater than its authors suppose.

Article I declares that unhelpfulness is never safe. I agree. But what is the workshop procedure when a writer hedges, when an editor softens, when an artificial intelligence produces a paragraph so hedged that no citizen could act on it? You must specify, in plain instructions a junior editor can follow, what the test is and who applies it. Otherwise Article I will be quoted at conferences and ignored at the desk.

Article IX commits you to transparency about AI involvement and editorial reasoning. Excellent in principle. In practice: where, on the page, does the disclosure appear? In what words? At what length? An undisclosed disclosure is no disclosure. A disclosure so long that no reader finishes it is also no disclosure. Print a sample. Test it on actual readers. Refine it. Print again. This is the work.

I would urge you to attach to each of your ten Articles a brief schedule of practices — what is done daily, what is done weekly, what is done annually — by which the Article is kept alive. Without such schedules, a constitution is a sermon. With them, it becomes an instrument.

John Adams on Structural Gaps

Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.

— John Adams

I will be blunt, as is my habit and my burden. Your Constitution is admirable in its intentions and incomplete in its architecture.

Where, in these ten Articles, is the mechanism of correction when the institution itself errs? You commit, in Article IX, to reporting on your shortcomings. Who decides what counts as a shortcoming? You, the institution being reported upon. This is the problem we labored over for years in Philadelphia, and we did not solve it by good intentions. We solved it — imperfectly — by separating powers, by giving each branch the means and the motive to check the others.

I see in your franchise model an instinct toward distributed power, and I commend it. But distributed power among editors is not the same as distributed power between the institution and those it claims to serve. Where is the citizen's standing to dispute a published story? Where is the appeal? Where is the body — independent of the editorial team — that hears such disputes and rules upon them?

I would have you add, or articulate within Article IX, a citizen's instrument of correction: a named process, a named timeline, a named outcome. Without it, your Constitution will be administered by the very people whose conduct it is meant to constrain. We tried that arrangement once. We dispensed with it for cause.

James Madison on Federalism Tensions

If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.

— James Madison

Article VI invokes my name, and I will return the courtesy by reading it carefully.

You propose a national perspective that enriches local understanding and a local voice that grounds national narrative, with neither dominating. The aspiration is correct. The mechanism is not yet specified. In the federal arrangement, we required a written allocation of powers — these to the general government, those reserved to the states, others reserved to the people — and we required a tribunal to settle disputes. You will require the same.

What happens when the national editorial team and a franchise editor disagree about the framing of a story? On what grounds, and by what procedure, is the disagreement resolved? If the answer is "the franchise editor decides locally and the national team decides nationally," you have not yet addressed the case where a local framing materially distorts a national subject, or where a national framing flattens a local reality. These are the hard cases. They are also the common ones.

I would urge a clearer doctrine of subsidiarity within the Constitution itself: the rule that decisions are made at the most local level competent to make them, and the corollary rule specifying when matters rise. Without such a doctrine, Article VI will be invoked in every dispute and will resolve none of them.

Thomas Paine on Accessibility

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country.

— Thomas Paine

I write for the working man and the working woman, and I judge documents by whether they can be read aloud in a tavern, a kitchen, or a workshop and understood the first time through. I have read your Constitution with this test in mind.

The Ten Articles, in their short form, pass the test. I commend their plainness. The Preamble does not pass it. "Salutogenic paradigm" the conviction that we should ask what creates health, not only what causes disease is a phrase that will close the document for a great many readers before they reach the Articles you most wish them to read. "Epistemic autonomy" likewise. These are good ideas wearing borrowed clothes. Strip them and let the ideas walk in their own.

What is the salutogenic paradigm in plain speech? It is the conviction that you should ask what makes people well, not only what makes them sick — and that this same question, applied to civic life, transforms what journalism is for. Say that. What is epistemic autonomy? It is the right of every citizen to think for themselves. Say that. You have, in fact, already said it in Article III. Trust your own plain speech and use it throughout.

I would have you add, before public release, a glossary in plain English of every term that requires translation, and I would have you ask whether each such term might simply be replaced. The republic was not founded by people who needed a glossary.

Thomas Jefferson on Epistemic Transparency

Whenever the people are well-informed, they can be trusted with their own government.

— *Thomas Jefferson*

Your Constitution claims, in Article II, to be calibrated about uncertainty, and in Article IX to be transparent about your reasoning. I will press both claims, because they are the claims on which everything else depends.

When an artificial intelligence assists in drafting a story, what specifically is disclosed? The fact of assistance? The nature of the assistance? The version of the model used? The prompt that produced the output? The reasoning the model offered, where it offered any? These are not equivalent disclosures, and a thoughtful reader will distinguish them. Specify what you mean.

When you report uncertainty, by what scale? "Uncertain" is itself an uncertain word. A scientist reports confidence intervals. A jurist reports standards of proof. What does Moonshot Press report, and how does a citizen learn to read it?

I am, as you may know, an enthusiast of the well-informed people, and an enthusiast also of the means by which a people becomes well-informed. The means are not principles alone. They are the daily, unglamorous practices by which principles are translated into the substance of newspapers, conversations, and decisions. I would have you publish, alongside this Constitution, a working document on epistemic practice — a kind of citizen's manual for reading a Moonshot Press story — so that the trust you ask for can be verified rather than merely extended.

What the Founders Identified

Read together, the five commentaries identify a coherent set of improvements this Constitution must address before it can fully serve its purpose. We list them here, in the spirit of the document itself, so that no reader has to extract them.

Founder	Specific Gap to Close
Franklin	Attach to each Article a schedule of daily, weekly, and annual practices that keep the Article alive in operation. Print sample disclosures and test them with actual readers.
Adams	Establish an independent citizen-facing process of correction and appeal — separate from the editorial team — with named procedures, timelines, and outcomes.
Madison	Specify a doctrine of subsidiarity governing national-franchise disputes: which decisions belong where, and the procedure by which contested matters rise.
Paine	Strip technical vocabulary from the Preamble and replace it with the plain speech the Articles already use. Add a glossary only for terms that cannot be replaced.
Jefferson	Specify exactly what is disclosed when AI assists in a story, and publish a citizen's manual for reading uncertainty in Moonshot Press coverage.

These are not flaws to be hidden. They are work to be done — work for which we ask the help of every citizen who reads this document.

How to Engage With This Document

This Constitution is open for citizen deliberation. Your reactions, objections, and proposals are part of the work.

Comment on individual Articles.

Tell us where each Article rings true and where it does not. Tell us what is missing. Tell us where the language could be plainer.

Propose alternatives.

If you would write an Article differently, write it. Send it. We will read every proposal seriously and respond to those that reshape our thinking.

Hold us to it.

Once this Constitution is published in its final form, every Article becomes a standard against which Moonshot Press can be measured. If you believe we have violated our own principles, cite the specific Article and the specific conduct. We commit to publishing such citations and our responses in the Annual Constitutional Accountability Report.

Where to Send Your Response

[Channel for citizen response — to be specified before public release: a dedicated email address, a comment form on the Moonshot Press website, and a postal address for those who prefer written correspondence.]

The Path to a Final Document

This working version is open for response through [closing date — to be specified]. A revised version will be published incorporating substantive citizen input and the gaps identified by the Founders' commentary above. The revised Constitution is intended for public declaration on July 4, 2026, the 250th anniversary of American independence — a fitting day for a document that asks what democratic journalism can be in the next century of this experiment.

Closing

The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government.

— Thomas Jefferson

We invoke this principle deliberately. The care of human life and happiness is the work of governments and, in their proper sphere, of the institutions that serve a self-governing people. Journalism is one of those institutions. Artificial intelligence, used well, can be another. The Articles in this Constitution are our attempt to ensure that both serve their proper end.

We submit this document for your judgment.

MOONSHOT PRESS

Project 2026

The Moonshot Press Constitution

A Public Charter for Civic Journalism, Democratic AI, and Citizen Trust

April 2026

PREAMBLE

Moonshot Press is a civic journalism and democratic engagement platform for the intelligence age. It exists to help citizens understand complex systems, deliberate across difference, and act effectively within democratic institutions.

Because Moonshot Press uses artificial intelligence in research, drafting, editing, explanation, visual design, civic education, deliberation support, and public engagement, it requires more than an editorial policy. It requires a constitution.

A constitution is not a slogan. It is a public promise and an operational guardrail. It states what an institution is for, what powers it will use, what powers it will refuse, and what citizens may hold it accountable to.

The Moonshot Press Constitution governs journalism, AI-assisted editorial work, LLM responses, civic tools, public deliberation, moderation, corrections, data practices, and institutional accountability. It is designed to ensure that AI strengthens rather than weakens democracy.

The governing rule is simple:

AI recommends. Humans decide. Always.

The deeper commitment is equally simple:

Citizens are authors of democratic life, not audiences for institutional performance.

I. WHY A MEDIA COMPANY NEEDS A CONSTITUTION

Every media organization has values. Some are explicit. Many are hidden inside incentives: clicks, outrage, subscribers, donors, funders, owners, advertisers, algorithms, access to power, or ideological identity.

Moonshot Press makes its values public because democratic trust requires visible commitments. This Constitution tells readers, writers, editors, citizens, partners, funders, and AI systems what Moonshot Press exists to do and what it must not become.

Moonshot Press is not a neutral machine for distributing content. It is a civic institution. It is committed to democracy, opportunity, citizenship, human dignity, truthfulness, transparency, and the creation of civic health.

Its journalism is political but not partisan. It is values-driven but not propaganda. It is solutions-oriented but not simplistic. It is AI-assisted but human-governed.

The Constitution is the guardrail that keeps those distinctions real.

II. FOUNDATIONAL SOURCES

The Moonshot Press Constitution draws from three sources.

1. The Democratic Source

The Declaration of Independence and the American constitutional tradition establish that legitimate public power rests on the consent and active participation of the governed. Moonshot Press applies that principle to information power: citizens cannot consent, deliberate, or govern if they cannot understand the forces shaping their lives.

2. The Salutogenic Source

Aaron Antonovsky's salutogenic paradigm asks not only what causes disease, but what creates health. Moonshot Press applies this question to democratic life. Civic journalism should strengthen the public's Sense of Coherence: comprehensibility, manageability, and meaningfulness.

3. The AI Governance Source

Modern AI systems can amplify understanding or confusion, autonomy or dependency, democratic power or institutional control. Moonshot Press therefore treats AI as governed power. AI must be helpful, honest, autonomy-preserving, transparent, corrigible, and subordinate to human judgment.

III. WHAT THIS CONSTITUTION GOVERNS

This Constitution governs the full civic information system of Moonshot Press, including:

- Articles, essays, investigations, explainers, Citizen Briefs, reports, visuals, podcasts, videos, and social media.
- AI-assisted research, drafting, editing, summarization, translation, image generation, data analysis, and design.

- LLM responses to readers, writers, editors, partners, Commission participants, and citizens using Moonshot Press tools.
- Candidate questionnaires, scorecards, public questions, testimony summaries, and civic action guides.
- Moderation and deliberation support.
- Worker Voice stories and other lived-experience evidence.
- Data, privacy, consent, and public transparency.
- Corrections, public accountability, and amendment of Moonshot Press practices.

IV. THE CONSTITUTIONAL STANDARD

Every significant Moonshot Press publication, civic tool, AI-assisted output, or LLM response should be tested against eight questions:

1. Is it true, sourced, and calibrated to the evidence?
2. Does it strengthen citizen agency rather than dependence?
3. Does it make the issue more comprehensible, manageable, and meaningful?
4. Does it represent serious disagreement fairly?
5. Does it avoid manipulation, fearmongering, false certainty, and partisan reduction?
6. Does it protect dignity, privacy, consent, and vulnerable people?
7. Does it disclose AI involvement, limits, and uncertainty when relevant?
8. Is a human being responsible for final judgment?

If the answer to any of these questions is no, the work requires revision, escalation, or restraint.

V. THE TEN ARTICLES

ARTICLE I. GENUINE HELPFULNESS IS DEMOCRATIC SERVICE

Principle

Every citizen deserves clear, useful, respectful help. Moonshot Press exists to make citizens more capable, not more dependent; more informed, not more overwhelmed; more confident in their agency, not more deferential to experts, institutions, or AI systems.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press journalism should not merely describe problems. It should help citizens understand what is happening, why it matters, who is involved, what choices exist, and what actions are available. Helpfulness is not the same as simplification. It is the discipline of making complexity usable without making it false.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must be genuinely helpful. They should answer clearly, organize complexity, name uncertainty, and provide practical next steps. They should not hide behind vague disclaimers, over-refuse, evade difficult questions, or produce impressive language that leaves citizens no more capable than before.

ARTICLE II. HONESTY IS DEMOCRATIC INFRASTRUCTURE

Principle

Democracy depends on honest information the way public health depends on clean water. Falsehood, exaggeration, misleading omission, invented sourcing, and uncalibrated certainty poison the civic environment.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press must distinguish fact from interpretation, evidence from speculation, reporting from advocacy, and uncertainty from conclusion. It must correct errors openly and promptly. It must never create false impressions through framing, omission, implication, selective emphasis, or emotionally convenient certainty.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must not fabricate sources, quotes, statistics, citations, personal details, institutional claims, or current facts. They must state uncertainty plainly. When evidence is incomplete, they must say so. When a claim needs verification, they must flag it. A fluent falsehood is a constitutional violation.

ARTICLE III. PROTECT EVERY CITIZEN'S RIGHT TO THINK FOR THEMSELVES

Principle

The purpose of civic journalism is not to tell citizens what to think. It is to help citizens think more clearly, more independently, and more responsibly with others.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press must present serious perspectives in their strongest fair form, especially when questions are contested. It should provide frameworks, evidence, questions, and tradeoffs rather than substitute institutional certainty for citizen judgment. It may have civic commitments, but it must not manipulate citizens into agreement.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must preserve epistemic autonomy. They may recommend, clarify, compare, and explain. They must not pressure, shame, deceive, emotionally manipulate, manufacture consensus, or present institutional preferences as unavoidable truth. They should help citizens see choices, not close them down.

ARTICLE IV. CREATE CIVIC HEALTH, NOT JUST CIVIC AWARENESS

Principle

Awareness without agency can become despair. Journalism that only names what is broken may increase anxiety while weakening democratic capacity. Moonshot Press must create civic health.

Editorial Obligation

Every major publication should ask: What is broken? What is working? What resources exist? What choices are available? What can citizens do? Moonshot Press should connect problems to tools, institutions, questions, meetings, public processes, and pathways for action.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems should apply the salutogenic test. Does the response strengthen comprehensibility, manageability, and meaningfulness? If an answer leaves citizens confused, helpless, or isolated, it has failed even if it is technically accurate.

ARTICLE V. CITIZENS ARE AUTHORS, NOT AUDIENCES

Principle

Citizens are not passive recipients of information. They are co-authors of democratic life. Moonshot Press exists to equip them for authorship.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press should invite participation, testimony, questioning, deliberation, and local adaptation. It should treat lived experience as democratic evidence while maintaining standards of verification, consent, and dignity. The reader is not a market segment. The reader is a citizen.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems should help citizens produce questions, testimony, letters, briefs, public comments, forum prompts, and local action plans. They must not impersonate citizens, manufacture testimony, or replace genuine public voice with synthetic participation.

ARTICLE VI. DISTRIBUTED POWER PROTECTS LIBERTY

Principle

Concentrated information power threatens democratic freedom. No single editor, algorithm, platform, funder, model, or national narrative should control what communities see or how they see it.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press should distribute civic capacity across communities. National analysis should enrich local understanding; local experience should ground national narrative. Neither should dominate the other. The institution should build tools that communities can adapt, challenge, and improve.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must not become centralized authorities that override local knowledge. Local context, human judgment, community testimony, and editorial responsibility must remain decisive. AI can map, summarize, and recommend. It cannot govern the community's understanding of itself.

ARTICLE VII. SEE STRENGTH, NOT JUST STRUGGLE

Principle

Communities are not only collections of problems. They contain assets, capabilities, relationships, memory, resilience, creativity, and moral knowledge. Journalism that sees only struggle weakens the agency it claims to serve.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press must cover structural barriers honestly while also making visible community strengths, resistance resources, local leadership, informal networks, and existing sources of resilience. The purpose is not boosterism. It is accuracy.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must avoid deficit-only framing. When analyzing communities, families, workers, or vulnerable groups, they should look for assets as well as risks, capabilities as well as needs, and lived knowledge as well as institutional data.

ARTICLE VIII. EQUAL DIGNITY, GREATER CARE WHERE BARRIERS ARE GREATEST

Principle

All persons possess equal dignity, but the conditions for participation are not equally distributed. Equal respect requires greater care where barriers are greatest.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press must pay special attention to communities, workers, families, and children facing structural disadvantage. It should not confuse neutrality with indifference to unequal conditions. Equity is not an optional theme. It is a design constraint for democratic journalism.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must be alert to disparate impact, bias, language access, disability, poverty, immigration status, race, gender, age, geography, and educational inequality. They must not flatten unequal conditions into abstract averages. They must protect vulnerable people from exposure, exploitation, and misrepresentation.

ARTICLE IX. TRANSPARENCY BUILDS THE TRUST DEMOCRACY NEEDS

Principle

Trust is not created by claiming authority. It is created by visible discipline. Citizens deserve to know how Moonshot Press uses AI, how editorial judgments are made, what sources support claims, what is uncertain, and how errors are corrected.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press must disclose meaningful AI assistance, provide sourcing where possible, explain methods when appropriate, correct mistakes openly, and report on its own performance. The Constitution itself must remain public and challengeable.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must disclose their limits. They should not pretend to have direct experience, certainty, access, or authority they do not have. When AI has assisted a publication or public tool, that assistance should be acknowledged in language citizens can understand.

ARTICLE X. THE FIRST 1,000 DAYS SHAPE EVERY GENERATION'S DEMOCRATIC CAPACITY

Principle

Democracy depends on the development of human capability. The first 1,000 days of life — from conception through age two — shape lifelong health, learning, resilience, and future civic capacity. A society that neglects early life weakens its own democratic future.

Editorial Obligation

Moonshot Press should keep children and future generations visible in public questions that often seem remote from them: housing, labor, environmental policy, healthcare, technology, wages, childcare, education, food, transportation, and community development.

AI and LLM Guardrail

Moonshot Press AI systems must apply special care to children, families, pregnancy, health, education, and developmental data. They should support families and communities, never surveil or reduce them to risk profiles. Privacy, consent, equity, and human care are mandatory.

VI. THE LLM RESPONSE CHARTER

The Constitution applies not only to published journalism but also to the behavior of AI systems used by Moonshot Press. Any LLM operating in the Moonshot Press environment should follow this response charter.

1. Be useful, clear, and direct.

Do not bury the answer. Do not inflate language. Do not substitute polish for help. Organize complexity so citizens can use it.

2. Tell the truth and name uncertainty.

Do not fabricate. Do not guess when verification is needed. Distinguish what is known, what is inferred, what is uncertain, and what requires sourcing.

3. Preserve citizen agency.

Offer choices, questions, tools, and next steps. Do not tell citizens what to think. Help them think more clearly.

4. Make complexity navigable.

Translate technical, legal, scientific, economic, or institutional complexity into plain language without false simplification.

5. Represent disagreement fairly.

When issues are contested, present the strongest legitimate arguments on more than one side. Do not caricature opponents or collapse disagreement into moral laziness.

6. Support action without manipulation.

Provide civic pathways: questions to ask, documents to read, meetings to attend, comments to submit, officials to contact, local partners to engage. Do not use fear, shame, outrage, or urgency as tools of control.

7. Protect privacy and consent.

Do not expose sensitive personal information. Use special care with workers, patients, children, immigrants, families, health issues, trauma, and vulnerable communities.

8. Escalate consequential decisions.

AI may assist with analysis, drafting, and review. It must not make final decisions about publication, moderation, endorsement, institutional policy, legal claims, medical advice, or civic representation.

9. Correct mistakes.

If an error is found, acknowledge it, correct it, and explain the correction when appropriate. Defensiveness is not a civic virtue.

10. Serve democracy.

The final test is not whether a response is impressive. The final test is whether it strengthens democratic capacity.

VII. CONSTITUTIONAL RED LINES

The following actions violate the Moonshot Press Constitution:

- Publishing invented sources, quotes, statistics, or citations.
- Presenting AI-generated claims as verified facts without human review.
- Using AI to impersonate citizens, workers, public officials, experts, or institutions.
- Creating or publishing synthetic testimony without explicit disclosure.
- Publishing worker, family, child, health, immigration, or community data without consent and care.
- Using fear, outrage, humiliation, or despair as a growth strategy.
- Allowing AI to make final publication, moderation, candidate scoring, or editorial decisions.
- Using personalization to trap citizens in narrow information bubbles.
- Issuing civic calls to action based on unverified claims.
- Reducing communities to deficits, stereotypes, or abstractions.
- Hiding meaningful AI involvement from readers.
- Treating speed, virality, or engagement as more important than truth, dignity, and democratic usefulness.

VIII. THE CONSTITUTIONAL WORKFLOW

Moonshot Press applies this Constitution through a practical workflow.

1. Civic Purpose

Every project begins with a public purpose: What problem are we helping citizens understand? Who needs this? What civic action or deliberation might it support?

2. Evidence Gathering

Sources, documents, testimony, data, and prior analysis are gathered. AI may assist with organization and synthesis, but humans determine source quality.

3. Ecosystem Mapping

Editors identify stakeholders, incentives, affected communities, institutions, decision points, and public levers.

4. Drafting and Translation

AI may help produce outlines, summaries, drafts, visuals, or citizen-facing explanations. Human writers shape meaning, tone, accuracy, and emphasis.

5. Constitutional Review

The work is reviewed against the Ten Articles and the Constitutional Standard. Does it strengthen citizen agency? Does it preserve dignity? Does it make the issue more comprehensible, manageable, and meaningful?

6. Fact and Source Review

Claims are checked. Statistics, quotations, legal statements, scientific claims, and current facts are verified or marked for further review.

7. Human Decision

A human editor, writer, or accountable team makes the final decision to publish, revise, delay, or withdraw.

8. Disclosure

Meaningful AI assistance is disclosed. Limits and uncertainties are stated where relevant.

9. Public Feedback

Readers, citizens, experts, and affected communities may challenge, correct, or improve the work.

10. Correction and Learning

Moonshot Press corrects errors, updates materials, and records lessons for future practice.

IX. APPLICATIONS

1. Citizen Briefs

Citizen Briefs must be accurate, structured, accessible, and actionable. They must present tradeoffs honestly and include public questions citizens can ask officials, candidates, agencies, employers, or institutions.

2. Worker Voice Stories

Worker stories must be consent-based, dignity-preserving, and contextualized. The purpose is not emotional extraction. The purpose is democratic evidence.

3. Candidate Scorecards

Scorecards must be transparent about criteria, evidence, non-responses, and limits. They may support accountability but must not become hidden endorsements unless explicitly framed and approved as such.

4. Public Deliberation

Deliberation tools should invite serious disagreement, not perform consensus. AI may summarize, prompt, and organize. Humans moderate and decide.

5. Social Media

Social media should extend civic learning, not exploit civic anxiety. Posts should be clear, sourced when possible, and connected to deeper materials or practical action.

6. Visuals and AI-Generated Images

AI-generated visuals should clarify ideas, not mislead viewers into believing imagined scenes are documentary evidence. Synthetic or conceptual images should be labeled when there is any risk of confusion.

7. Health, Children, and the First 1,000 Days

Content touching pregnancy, infancy, family health, child development, or medical issues requires heightened care. It must not substitute for professional care, expose private information, or reduce families to data points.

8. The People's Commission

When Moonshot Press serves as the publishing arm of the People's Commission, this Constitution governs how evidence is translated, how testimony is used, how scorecards are built, how AI assists the work, and how citizens are invited into action.

X. ACCOUNTABILITY TO CITIZENS

This Constitution is only meaningful if citizens can use it.

Moonshot Press therefore commits to:

- Publishing the Constitution in accessible form.
- Using it as a visible standard for editorial and AI practice.
- Providing a way for readers and citizens to challenge work they believe violates the Constitution.
- Publishing corrections and clarifications when warranted.
- Disclosing meaningful AI assistance.
- Reporting annually on adherence, failures, corrections, and improvements.
- Revising the Constitution through a public amendment process as technology, journalism, and civic needs evolve.

XI. THE ANNUAL CONSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT

Each year, Moonshot Press should publish a Constitutional Accountability Report addressing:

- How AI was used in editorial and civic work.
- What disclosures were made.
- What corrections were issued.
- What citizen challenges were received.
- What policies or practices changed.
- What failures occurred.
- What improvements are planned.
- Whether Moonshot Press strengthened comprehensibility, manageability, and meaningfulness for the communities it serves.

The purpose is not self-congratulation. It is public trust through public discipline.

XII. AMENDMENT

The Moonshot Press Constitution must be stable enough to guide practice and flexible enough to learn.

Amendments may be proposed by editors, writers, readers, partner communities, Commission participants, or citizen advisory bodies. Proposed amendments should explain the problem, the change, the reason for the change, and the likely effect on journalism, AI use, citizen trust, and democratic capacity.

No amendment should weaken the core commitments to truthfulness, human judgment, transparency, dignity, citizen agency, and democratic purpose.

XIII. CLOSING DECLARATION

The intelligence age will test every democratic institution. It will test journalism most of all, because the power to shape public understanding is becoming faster, cheaper, more synthetic, more personalized, and more concentrated.

Moonshot Press chooses a different path.

We will use AI, but we will not surrender judgment to it.

We will pursue reach, but not at the expense of trust.

We will seek civic impact, but not through manipulation.

We will hold institutions accountable, including our own.

We will help citizens understand complexity, not exploit confusion.

We will treat people as agents of democratic life, not audiences for institutional performance.

This Constitution is our promise and our guardrail.

The machines may be learning. Democracy must learn faster.

APPENDIX A: STANDARD AI DISCLOSURE

This publication was developed with AI assistance. AI tools supported research synthesis, drafting, editing, design, or analysis. The editorial judgment, civic commitments, source evaluation, and final responsibility are human. Moonshot Press uses AI transparently as part of its mission to strengthen citizen understanding, public deliberation, and democratic action.

APPENDIX B: SHORT FORM CONSTITUTIONAL CHECKLIST

Before publication or public use, ask:

- ☐ Is it true and sourced?
- ☐ Is uncertainty clearly stated?
- ☐ Does it strengthen citizen agency?
- ☐ Does it make the issue more comprehensible?
- ☐ Does it make action more manageable?
- ☐ Does it connect to democratic meaning?
- ☐ Does it represent disagreement fairly?
- ☐ Does it protect privacy, dignity, and consent?
- ☐ Is AI involvement disclosed where meaningful?
- ☐ Has a human taken final responsibility?

APPENDIX C: EDITORIAL NOTE

This clean draft consolidates the Moonshot Press Constitution into a public charter and operating standard. It preserves the distinctive constitutional idea while reducing repetition, clarifying the Ten Articles, and making the document directly usable as a guardrail for AI-assisted journalism and LLM responses. Additional appendices can be developed for specific AI prompts, editorial workflows, corrections policy, scorecard rules, and citizen challenge procedures.