

## New Position Paper of the Work group Restitution June 2021

### BGAEU – The Berlin Society for Anthropology, Ethnology and Prehistory

1. The BGAEU is a private society that is financed by the fees of its own members.
2. The collections of the BGAEU are administered on an honorary basis by members of the BGAEU. The collections are treated with piety and all due respect.
3. All inquiries and proposals to the BGAEU that concern the collections or parts thereof must be accompanied by a written statement explaining their respective purpose. Thereby, the scientific interest in the pertinent object(s) in the collection should be well-defined in this statement.
4. In the case that publication of object(s) in the collections is foreseen, this intent should be already mentioned in the written statement, if possible. The same applies to a planned publication of photographs and/or documents in the archives of the BGAEU. The recording and use of photographs must be arranged in a special agreement. Recording films in the collection is not permitted for ethical reasons.
5. The BGAEU retains the right to reject insufficiently explained requests or those issues that are not based upon recognisable scientific objectives. If a request entails disproportionately great research on the part of the BGAEU, the BGAEU maintains the right to refuse the request or issue.
6. In the case of restitution claims, the BGAEU requires detailed information with regard to the possibility of their deriving from an unjust context.
7. It should be noted that the costs for necessary research, which might surpass the own internal capacities of the BGAEU, at the site(s) involved as well as in Berlin, must be assumed by the applicant.
8. In its decisions making the BGAEU is oriented in particular towards the guidelines in the “*Empfehlungen zum Umgang mit menschlichen Überresten in Museen und Sammlungen*”, published in the Deutschen Museumsbund in 2013,

as well as towards the “*Leitfaden zum Umgang mit Sammlungsgut aus kolonialen Kontexten*”, published in May 2018.

9. In the case of restitution claims, an understanding with the societies of origin is foremost of concern for the BGAEU. The entitlement of the applicant’s proposal must be comprehensible and clearly described.

10. Decisions made in the case of a sufficiently proven, unjust context are made by the executive board of the BGAEU upon previous consultation with the internal work group Restitution.

11. BGAEU is endeavoured to carry out thorough research. In this respect it should be noted that this endeavour can be very time-consuming. This also applies especially to the resulting decisions made, which pertain to its collections.

12. All requests to the BGAEU are formal. They should be written in the following languages: English, French or German, and addressed to the leading executive(s) and to the office (Archäologisches Zentrum, Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 6, 10117 Berlin).