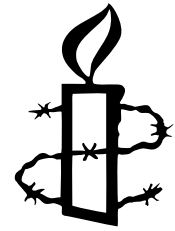


Amnesty International

YOUTH AWARDS 2016

REPORTING



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Guidelines

We want to unearth and encourage the journalists of tomorrow to find hard-hitting, humorous or heartfelt human rights stories.

Your article could be from your own personal experience, your take on or analysis of human rights, or a celebration of human rights and those who stand up for them. It could be about bullying, discrimination, refugees, world poverty, child labour, political prisoners, the death penalty, the human rights record of a particular country, or human rights achievements.

Write about a personal experience or give us your interpretation of a human rights news story. A successful article will contain a balance of factual information and analysis, and opinions of the writer. It should be no longer than 500 words. We expect the information included to be factually accurate.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

The reporting strand is divided into four age categories:

- **Upper Primary** (pupils in Years 3-6 in England and Wales, Years 4-7 in Northern Ireland and Primary 3-7 in Scotland)
- **Lower Secondary** (pupils in Years 7-9 in England and Wales, Years 8-10 in Northern Ireland and Secondary 1-2 in Scotland)
- **Upper Secondary** (pupils in Years 10-11 in England and Wales, Years 11-12 in Northern Ireland and Secondary 3-4 in Scotland)
- **FE** (pupils in Years 12-13 in England and Wales, Year 13-14 in Northern Ireland and Secondary 5-6 in Scotland).

There will be one winner and two runners-up in each category.

JUDGING CRITERIA

In the Upper Primary and Lower Secondary categories, the judges will be looking for entries which best meet the following criteria:

- **Content:** The chosen subject is interesting and has 'news value'. The information is factually accurate and clearly explained.
- **Language and style:** The article uses language effectively to engage interest. The headline is eye-catching, and the article is well structured with a strong opening paragraph and clear conclusion. Direct speech (quotes) and indirect speech may be used.
- **Analysis/Opinion:** The article analyses rather than just describes the issue, helping to increase the reader's understanding.

In the Upper Secondary and FE categories, the judges will be looking for entries which meet all of the above criteria, and also:

- **Sources:** The article shows evidence of drawing on different sources, including quotes and statistics where relevant. Sources should be referenced in the article.

GETTING CONSENT

You must ensure that you have the consent (permission) of any individuals you know who feature in your article – for example if you write about someone at your school, make sure that you have their permission to tell their story. You must also let people who are featured know that the article will be submitted to this national competition and may be published. If your article is about a well-known person or someone whose story is already in the public domain (for example if it has already been widely reported on) you may not need to get their consent. If you are unsure about consent needed, please ask your teacher, parent or guardian to help. Please read the FAQs provided at www.amnesty.org.uk/youthawards for more information on the consent you will need to provide with your

Download the Rules for the reporting strand at www.amnesty.org.uk/youthawards

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entry. Copies of the consent forms and the Rules for the competition can be found at www.amnesty.org.uk/youthawards. If you are shortlisted, we will notify you and you will need to send the correct, completed consent forms to us.

SAFETY

Professional journalists sometimes take great risks in order to write ground-breaking stories. But we **don't** want you to do the same. Make sure that you always consider your safety first and the safety of others when researching and writing your articles. Tell your parents/teachers about your plans and ask them to accompany you when undertaking research. You might want to ask them to help you when completing the consent forms too. Please also consider whether you are putting anyone at risk because they are identifiable in any materials you include in your entry and make sure you have asked for appropriate permission.

ETHICS

Your entry should be factually accurate and must not contain offensive, bullying or defamatory content and should respect the rights of others. Your entry must be your own individual work and must not contain any material that you do not have permission to use.

ENTERING THE AWARDS

All entries should be submitted using the online entry form at www.amnesty.org.uk/youthawards. Your entry should not be longer than 500 words. Please ask your teacher or parent/guardian to complete the entry form for or with you – they will need to indicate on the form that the necessary consent forms have been obtained.

The closing date for all entries is 5pm on **24 February 2016**. The judges' decision will be announced no later than **6 May 2016**.

PRIZES

There will be a winner and two runners up in each category. Winners will receive an Amnesty Youth Awards 2016 trophy, certificate and a goody bag.

Runners-up will receive a certificate and a goody bag. All of the winners and runners-up will be invited on a day trip to London for a ceremony at AIUK's offices.

Please note: attendees of the ceremony must make their own travel arrangements and pay for the cost of this. An access fund may be available to support those travelling long distances and/or who are unable to cover their own travel costs in full.

All entrants will receive a certificate of participation.

THE PURPOSE OF THESE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are for purposes of general information only. Please read the official Rules of the competition at www.amnesty.org.uk/youthawards.

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

All photographic, recorded material and written entries will be screened for child protection and safeguarding purposes. If an entry contains troubling content AIUK may take steps to safeguard the entrant and anyone potentially affected by the content. Such steps may include taking advice from the NSPCC, contacting the entrant or person who submitted the entry on their behalf, and referring the matter to the relevant authorities and/or child protection officer.