

# Amnesty International

# YOUTH AWARDS



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What do you mean by ‘consent’?**

To ask for consent simply means to ask for permission. The person giving permission must understand what they are agreeing to.

### **Why do I need to get consent to participate in the Amnesty Youth Awards?**

We ask you to get permission to ensure that everyone involved is comfortable with participating in the competition, and to ensure that nobody is unnecessarily put at risk by entering. We also need permission to use the materials you create, and to feature you and your photo in the press.

### **I see you have three different consent forms. How do I know which one to use?**

- If you are submitting your own work (such as an article or photograph) and you are under 18 years of age, you will need to send us the **Parental Consent Form**, completed by your parent or guardian.
- If you are submitting your own work and you are over 18, you will need to complete and send us the **Contributor Consent Form**.
- If you are submitting work which features another person in a way that makes them identifiable (for example, if their face is visible in a photograph or film, or if you are telling a very personal story) you will also need to send us a **Featured Individual Consent Form** signed by each person featured. If they are under 16 years of age, they will need to ask a parent/guardian to fill this in on their behalf.

**You will only need to send us these forms if you are shortlisted or if we contact you to request them.**

### **CONSENT TO ENTER THE COMPETITION**

#### **I’m entering one of the group categories. Can I just fill in one consent form for our group?**

Even if you are submitting the entry on behalf of a group of people, you will need to make sure you have the consent of all the individuals involved in creating the entry (so, everyone who is in the group, or everyone who has written lyrics for your song, etc).

#### **I’m under 18 but this is my work, not my parents’ work. Why can’t I sign my own consent form?**

When you are giving permission for someone to use work you have created (such as a photograph, report or film) UK law states that you must be a legal adult for your consent to be considered lawful. If you are over 18, you can sign your own consent form.

#### **I’ve left it a bit late to enter. I can get consent, but not in time to make the entry deadline. Should I still enter?**

Yes. We will only ask you to send us your consent forms if you are shortlisted. If you are confident that you will be able to get consent, you should still enter.

#### **I can’t get permission from the people in my group to enter the competition. I have permission though. Can I still enter my group’s work by myself?**

If you have worked with a group to create your entry but they do not want to enter the competition any more, you should not enter that work. It is important that everyone involved in your entry is happy to enter, and understands what will happen if your entry is shortlisted or wins. For many of the award categories, you can enter as an individual, so you might want to think about entering by yourself instead with work you have completed on your own.

#### **I’d like my whole year group to enter the competition. Is it really necessary to get consent for every single student?**

We won’t ask you to send in individual consent forms unless your entry is shortlisted, but at that point it will be necessary.

### **CONSENT FROM PEOPLE FEATURED IN PHOTOGRAPHS**

#### **Do I need to get consent of the people shown in my photograph before I send it in?**

It is always best to get the permission of anyone who can easily be identified in your picture that they are happy to be included. So, if you can see their

face, you should get them to fill in a consent form before you enter your photo. If the person in your photograph is under 16, they will need to get their parent or guardian to sign the form. However, we won't ask you to send the consent forms to us unless you are shortlisted.

**My photograph is of a crowd. I can't possibly get the permission of everyone in it. Does that mean I can't enter it?**

If your photograph was taken in a public place (such as a city street, at an outdoors football match, or on a protest march) and is of people who appear to be over 16 years old, you do not need to get consent of the people in it. However, if they are (or look like they are) under 16, you will need to get consent from their parents. If this is impossible, as in a crowd scene, Amnesty may pixelate out the images of anyone we think might be under 16.

If your photograph was taken in a place where people could have a reasonable expectation of privacy (such as a school, office or someone's home) you must get the permission of anyone whose face is visible in your photograph. For people who are under 16, the consent form will need to be signed by a parent or guardian. If you are unsure whether someone's consent is needed please ask your teacher, parent or guardian to help or contact us at [est@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:est@amnesty.org.uk).

**The person in my photograph is hiding their face in their hands. Do I still need to get them to fill in the consent form?**

Usually not. If they cannot be clearly identified in the photo, you do not need to submit a form to show you have consent. It's always best to ask if it's okay to take someone's photo if you can, though, even when you do not ask them to fill in a form.

**I've got the consent of almost everyone in my photograph, but there is one person who has not agreed to be featured. Can I still submit my entry?**

Yes, you can still enter, but you must make it clear to Amnesty which person is not happy to be included. Amnesty will then pixelate the face of anyone for whom consent is not provided. This will not affect how your photograph is judged.

**CONSENT FROM PEOPLE WHOSE PERSONAL STORIES ARE TOLD**

**I've written an article about my friend, and they're happy to share their story. Do I still need to get them to sign a consent form?**

You should make it clear to them that your article might be widely published and ensure that you have their permission to your own satisfaction. If you are at all concerned, or your friend doesn't want to be identified, you can change the names used in your entry. If you do this, you must make it very clear

which names you have changed when you send us your entry.

**My article mentions a celebrity's personal story. Do I need to get their permission to include them in my article?**

No, you do not need to do this. If the person you mention is already a public figure and they have shared their story elsewhere, you do not need to get direct permission to quote or report it.

**STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

**I still have questions about consent. Who can I talk to?**

Give us a call on 020 7033 1596 or email [est@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:est@amnesty.org.uk) with your questions.