

REGULATION

on the organization and conduct of the **COMPETITION FOR BEST ACTIONS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS UN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS 2021**

BACKGROUND

1. The promotion of human rights is one of the major priorities of the United Nations in Moldova. Starting with 2004, the UN Country Team in Moldova has annually awarded the best actions to promote and protect human rights on both banks of Nistru river, except for 2020 which was marked by a public health emergency – the COVID-19 pandemic - that affected the entire world, all socio-economic sectors and our way of working and living. The awards are presented during the Human Rights Gala of Awards ceremony, organized annually around 10 December — the International Human Rights Day. Given the Human Rights Gala of Awards did not take place in 2020 for mentioned reasons, the Gala 2021 will cover two years, ie 2020 and 2021.
2. The year 2021, marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), etc. Therefore, besides the two general awards for achievements in various fields of human rights, one award will be dedicated to the promotion of equality, inclusion, non-discrimination, and to the combat of hate speech. Furthermore, the UN believes that efforts made by organizations/individuals in promoting and protecting human rights in the context of COVID-19 need to be recognized. This will be recognized through an award dedicated to the efforts made by organizations and individuals who implemented initiatives that contributed to a better respect and protection of human rights in their response/recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

3. The competition is organized by the United Nations Country Team in Moldova (UNCT) and consists of a public nomination/self-nomination process to identify best actions in the promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, but also on promoting equality and non-discrimination.
4. A public process will be organized to solicit proposals for nominees or self-nominations from both banks of Nistru river. Members of the public are encouraged to provide reasoned and detailed nominations for individuals, civil society organisations, journalists, media organisations or other organizations and institutions they believe have recently made an outstanding and genuine contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights and equality in Moldova.

5. Based on materials derived from this public consultation process, as well as based on other materials available, including through independent research, awards will be decided as follows.
6. A Technical Team of 2 consultants is engaged by UNCT to review materials received through the public consultation process, as well as to conduct independent research, to develop detailed recommendations on the nominations for the awards, and to present these recommendations to the Independent Awards Board (see below).
7. With due regard to the recommendations by the Technical Team, the Independent Awards Board will decide on the awards to be provided, based on materials they deem appropriate to reach such decisions, and with a view to the most appropriate profile of awards for the given year, as per the agreed indicative categories. The members of the Independent Awards Board, who are selected through a process conducted by the UN Resident Coordinator and his office, serve in a voluntary capacity and are derived from among international development partners, diplomatic missions, civil society organisations and National Human Rights Institutions. The Board is formed of 7 members and they shall decide by consensus.
8. The members of the Technical Team and of the Independent Awards Board are expected to work based on an understanding that all human rights are indivisible and interconnected. The Technical Experts and the Members of the Independent Awards Board will also be expected to declare any formal or informal conflicts of interest, and to recuse themselves from any decisions or recommendations where a conflict of interest may exist or be perceived to exist.
9. The Awards Board designates up to 4 awards. Indicative categories for the awards nominations are:
 - **General Award for an Outstanding Human Rights Achievement at national level between 2020 and 2021** – award for general promotion of human rights at national level (individuals and legal entities are eligible for this award);
 - **Award for an Outstanding Human Rights Achievement at the local level between 2020 and 2021** – award for an outstanding action in human rights at the level of local communities (individuals and legal entities are eligible for this award);
 - **Special award for Outstanding Achievements related to the rights to health, education, labour and/or social protection in the context of COVID-19 pandemic in the period March 2020 to 15 October 2021** – awards for best actions and initiatives to promote and respect human rights in the context of COVID-19 pandemic (individuals and legal entities are eligible for this award);
 - **Special Award for groups/organizations for active involvement in the promotion of equality and non-discrimination between 2020 and 2021** – award for actions which contributed outstandingly to the promotion of equality and non-discrimination, especially among vulnerable groups.

ELIGIBILITY and NOMINATIONS

10. The nomination should cover nominee's/self-nominee's human rights work during the period 15 October 2019 to 15 October 2021, except for the Award for an Outstanding Human Rights

Achievement in the context of COVID-19 pandemic that should cover the period 7 March 2020 to 15 October 2021.

- 11.** Actions of a longer implementation period may also be taken into consideration if they were fully realized in the period 15 October 2019 to 15 October 2021. Eligible activities and materials of the nominee/self-nominee should cover the indicated period, should be an outstanding human rights achievement and should have produced a significant positive human rights impact and/or should have demonstrated unique creativity, innovation, perseverance, engagement, diligence or heroism in the field of human rights, or which otherwise merit recognition for human rights distinction. Thematic areas are understood as any area of human rights as set out under the relevant international human rights standards.
- 12.** Nominations/self-nominations will be assessed according to criteria including the following:
 - Human rights impact;
 - Innovation and creativity;
 - Dedication and commitment;
 - Bravery in addressing difficult themes or issues;
 - Outreach and visibility;
 - Professionalism and compliance with the highest standards of ethics.

Award winners do not have to necessarily fulfil all the above criteria!

- 13.** Nominations and self-nominations for/of persons or entities whose means or purposes are contrary to human rights, democracy or the rule of law are not eligible for award.
- 14.** The candidates should not have received UN Moldova Human Rights Awards in the last 5 years.
- 15.** The actions that form the object of award should not have been implemented by means of UN funding and/or with UN entities' support.
- 16.** Nominations/self-nominations are sought from any person or entity. Submitted nominations should include the following information in Romanian, English, Russian, or in any other minority language of the Republic of Moldova:
 1. The name of the nominated person or entity, including contact information;
 2. The name of the nominating person or entity, including contact information;
 3. Details as to the relationship between the nominating person or entity, and the nominated person or entity;¹

¹ The provision of information as to the relationship between the nominator and the nominee is a required part of the application, in order to assist technical experts and the Independent Awards Board in arriving at a full assessment of all aspects of the nomination. In no cases will the fact of a relationship between nominator and nominee result in automatic disqualification for award. Nominations are encouraged from anyone, regardless of relationship to the nominee.

4. Detailed reasoning as to why the person, organisation or entity should be provided with an award. An indicative length for the detailed reasoning is 750-2000 words. In providing the detailed reasoning, due regard should be given to:
 - a. Explaining, in clear, factual language, why the nominee should receive a human rights award (providing relevant factual description of the acts undertaken by the nominee which merit award);
 - b. Reflecting on the nominee's human rights work considering the selection criteria (human rights impact, innovation and creativity, dedication and commitment, bravery in addressing difficult themes or issues, outreach and visibility, professionalism and highest standards of ethics).
5. Mention of the category (see para 9) under which the nomination should be considered. This categorization may be changed by the Independent Awards Board, if deemed appropriate.
17. If possible and relevant, other relevant examples of activities and practices should be provided in support of the nomination. Such examples might include evidence attesting the results and impact of the action (publications, photographs, videos, audio, press clips, partnership agreements, testimonials or letters from beneficiaries, etc.), as well as other relevant materials or description of activities. Nominations/self-nominations for journalists or media must include a representative sample of the work of the nominee/self-nominee. In addition, Letters of Recommendation or other statements by third parties attesting to the merit of the person, organization or entity for the award are very welcome.
18. Persons and entities submitting nominations may be contacted and requested to provide further information with respect to the nomination. As a rule, the UNCT does not return nomination materials.

SELECTION PROCEDURES and the AWARDS CEREMONY

19. The public consultation process, involving an invitation of nominations from the public, runs from 15 October with a **deadline of 15 November 2021**.
20. The Independent Awards Board will convene during November with a view to arriving at a decision as to awards by no later than 25 November. The Independent Awards Board may summon the technical consultants for consultation and/or request further information from them, with a view to arriving at final decisions on persons or entities to be awarded.
21. Nominations can be submitted electronically by filling in the online Google form: <https://bit.ly/2YLPFzZ>. The nominee/self-nominee is expected to send an electronic confirmation message at rco.moldova@un.org.
22. Results of the competition will be made public during the **Human Rights Gala of Awards**, which will take place around 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

- 23.** Each Award winner will receive a memorial award trophy with its name and designation of the UN Human Rights Awards edition. The organisers reserve the right to determine the type of the award.

USE OF NOMINATION MATERIALS

- 24.** In many cases, the UNCT uses materials submitted for nominations in future promotional activities and other publications. Nominees/self-nominees are requested to indicate if such usage is not allowed. The nominations submitted to the competition will remain in the archive of the UN Office in Moldova.
- 25.** Submission of nominations to the competition implies acceptance of the present Regulation.
- 26.** Organizers have the right to cancel, postpone or change the terms and conditions for conducting this competition.

Further information on the UN Human Rights Awards is available on www.un.md