



**Cunoaște-ți drepturile
și luptă pentru ele**

REGULATIONS

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

UN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS 2023

I. BACKGROUND

The promotion of human rights is a cross-cutting priority of the United Nations globally and in the Republic of Moldova in particular. Starting with 2004, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Moldova has, with some exceptions, annually awarded civil society organisations (CSOs) and civic activists for their best actions, initiatives, and efforts to promote and protect human rights on both banks of Nistru river during a Human Rights Awards Gala ceremony. This event is traditionally organized around 10 December – the International Human Rights Day.

The year 2023 marks the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights (UDHR). To celebrate this milestone, the “Human Rights 75” global initiative was launched under the leadership of UN Human Rights (OHCHR). The 75th anniversary is an opportunity to rejuvenate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, demonstrate how it can meet the needs of our time and advance its promise of freedom, equality and justice for all. One of the special focuses of the “Human Rights 75 initiative” is youth participation.

At the same time, 2023 continues to be marked by the war in Ukraine and important national stakeholders, including CSOs are supporting the refugees, including the most vulnerable, to live a life in dignity and exercise their human rights. Given the Human Rights Gala of Awards did not take place in 2022 with all efforts being focused on supporting the refugee response, the Gala 2023 will cover two years, ie 2022 and 2023.

With the 2023 Human Rights Gala, UNCT Moldova aims to mark and celebrate the achievements of CSOs and individuals in various human rights fields .

The Human Rights Gala 2023 is organized by the UN in Moldova, in particular by 8 UN Agencies: OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN Women, UNAIDS, UNHCR and WHO.

II. GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Human Rights Gala is an open competition, which consists of a public nomination and self-nomination process to identify best actions in the promotion and protection of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including with a focus on supporting the refugee response and promotion of youth participation.
2. A public process will be organized to solicit proposals for nominees and 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.
3. 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.
4. A Technical Team of 2 consultants will be 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).
5. 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 years, as per the agreed indicative categories. The members of the Independent Awards Board, who are selected through a process conducted by the UNCT with the support of the Resident Coordinator 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.
6. 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.
7. The Awards Board designates up to 3 awards. Indicative categories for the awards nominations are:
 - **General Award for an Outstanding Human Rights Achievement at national and/or local level between January 2022 and 6 November 2023** – award for general promotion of human rights at national and/or local level on both banks of Nistru river (individuals and legal entities are eligible for this award);
 - **Special Award for Outstanding Human Rights Achievement in supporting the refugee response between February 2022 and 6 November 2023** – awards for best actions and initiatives to promote and respect human rights of refugees from Ukraine, on both banks of Nistru river (individuals and legal entities are eligible for this award);

- **Special Award for Outstanding Human Rights Achievement for active involvement in the promotion of youth participation between January 2022 and 6 November 2023** – award for actions which contributed outstandingly to promoting and supporting inclusive and meaningful participation of youth, including most vulnerable youth (individual and legal entities are eligible for this award).

III. ELIGIBILITY and NOMINATIONS

8. The nomination should cover nominee's/self-nominee's human rights work during the period January 2022 and 5 November 2023, except for the Award for Outstanding Human Rights Achievement in supporting the refugee response that should cover the period 24 February 2022 to 5 November 2023.
9. Actions of a longer implementation period may also be taken into consideration if they were fully realized in the period January 2022 to 5 November 2023. 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.
10. 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;
 - Sustainability;
 - Professionalism and compliance with the highest standards of ethics.

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

11. 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.
12. The candidates should not have received UN Moldova Human Rights Awards in the last 4 years.
13. **The actions that form the object of award should not have been implemented by means of UN funding and/or with UN entities' support.**
14. 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:
 - The name of the nominated person or entity, including contact information;
 - The name of the nominating person or entity, including contact information;

- Details as to the relationship between the nominating person or entity, and the nominated person or entity;
- 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).
 - c. Mention of the category under which the nomination should be considered. This categorization may be changed by the Independent Awards Board, if deemed appropriate.

15. 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.

16. 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.

IV. SELECTION PROCEDURES and the AWARDS CEREMONY

17. The public consultation process, involving an invitation of nominations from the public, runs from **6 October** with a **deadline of 6 November 2023**.

18. The Independent Awards Board will convene at the beginning of November with a view to arriving at a decision on the Award Winners by no later than 15 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.

19. Results of the competition will be made public during the **Human Rights Gala of Awards**, which will take place on 8 December 2023, in the International Human

Rights Day eve.

20. 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.

V. USE OF NOMINATION MATERIALS

21. 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.

22. Submission of nominations to the competition implies acceptance of the present Regulation.

23. 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.moldova.un.org