



# Cunoaște-ți drepturile și luptă pentru ele

## REGULATION

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

#### UN HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS 2025

## **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/Dniester river. The event for providing awards is traditionally organized around 10 December – the International Human Rights Day.

The 2025-year marks two important anniversaries in the field of human rights for the Republic of Moldova, significant to celebrate measurable progress and impactful achievements, specifically referring to:

- 15-th anniversary of the ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by the Republic of Moldova;
- [60-th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\)](#).

The 2025 Human Rights Awards aims to mark and celebrate the achievements of CSOs and individuals that contributed to promotion and protection of human rights of persons with disabilities and persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities, as well as other various human rights fields.

The competition for Human Rights Awards 2025 is organized by the UN in Moldova.

## **II. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. The UN Human Rights Awards 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, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, including with a focus on the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities in all their diversity and the rights of persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities in Moldova.
2. A public process will be organized to solicit proposals **for nominees and self-nominations from individuals and legal entities from both banks of Dniester/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. **All nominations and self-nominations will be analysed and shortlisted by the representatives of the participating UN Agencies. The shortlisted applications will be submitted for further decision of the Independent Awards Board.**
5. An 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 her 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 Independent Awards Board are expected to work based on an understanding that all human rights are indivisible and interconnected. 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 (three) awards** for human rights achievements in the period **November 2024 – 21 November 2025**. Indicative categories for the awards nominations are:
  1. General award for an outstanding and sustainable human rights achievement at national and/or local level with direct and sustainable impact on rights holders;
  2. Special award for remarkable achievement in promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, in the context of 15th anniversary of the ratification by Moldova of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD);
  3. **Special award for an outstanding achievement at national or local level in protection and promotion of the Rights of Persons belonging to ethnic, linguistic or religious minorities and refugees, including the context of 60-th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD).**

### III. ELIGIBILITY and NOMINATIONS

8. The nomination should cover nominee's/self-nominee's human rights work during the period November 2024 – 21 November 2025.
9. 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:

1. The name of the nominated person or entity, including contact information;
  2. Details as to the relationship between the nominating person or entity, and the nominated person or entity<sup>1</sup>;
  3. 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).
  4. 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

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 **27 October 2025** with a **deadline of 21 November 2025**.
18. The Independent Awards Board will convene in the middle of November with a view to arriving at a decision on the Award Winners by no later than 28 November 2025.
19. Nominations can be submitted electronically by filling in the online Google Form: -----.
20. Results of the competition will be made public during a dedicated event that will take place on 10 December 2025, on International Human Rights Day.
21. 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. DUE DILIGENCE CLAUSE**

22. The UNCT Moldova reserves the right to withdraw the award if the recipient institution or individual is found guilty of human rights violations, hate speech, or proven acts of discrimination.

#### **VI. USE OF NOMINATION MATERIALS**

22. 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.
23. Submission of nominations to the competition implies acceptance of the present Regulation.
24. 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](http://www.moldova.un.org)