

REGULATION

on the organization and conduct of the

Human Rights Gala and Awards Ceremony

Background: Promotion of human rights is one of the major priorities of the United Nations Country Team in Moldova. Apart from the support provided to the Government in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP), the UN has been undertaking over the past years a series of awareness and communication campaigns to promote in the society a behaviour and attitude in the spirit of human rights which can be achieved only when all actors join their efforts to defend and promote human rights. The Human Rights Communications Strategy "Human rights are your rights: Know and fight for them", developed with UNDP support, included training, information and promotion materials, projects funded through Small Grants Programme.

Starting with 2004, UNDP and other UN Agencies have been organizing a competition for the best promotion of human rights aimed at awarding the most valuable initiatives and actions promoting human rights carried out by non-government organizations and mass media. The results of the competition are made public during the **Human Rights Gala and Awards Ceremony**, which is organized annually on **December 10, Human Rights Day**.

In 2008, the Human Rights Gala was organized under the overall theme of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2009, the Gala will highlight the **20th anniversary of the Convention for the Rights of the Child**, the **15th anniversary of the International Conference for Population Development**, the **30th anniversary of the Convention for Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** and the **90th anniversary of the International Labour Organization** (90 years working for social justice).

GENERAL PROVISIONS

The competition is organized by the United Nations Country Team in Moldova (with the participation of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM Moldova), and other organizations active in the promotion of human rights in Moldova.

The competition aims to encourage effective promotion of human rights in Moldova.

PARTICIPANTS

The competition has two **sections** for the following categories of participants:

Section I: NGOs, initiative groups, individuals;

Section II: Mass-media.

COMPETITION TIMETABLE

The competition will be held during **7 September-10 December 2009** as follows:

- Registration: **September 7-October 15**
- Pre-selection of applicants: **October 15-19**
- Evaluation of applications: **October 22 - November 7**
- Announcement of winners: December 10

REGISTRATION

Registration of participants is done by submitting applications or nominations, which content varies from Section to Section (see Part II - **Special provisions**). Submission of incomplete applications or nominations may result in the exclusion of participants from the competition.

Upon organizers' request, persons submitting applications or nominations may be requested to submit evidence to prove the statements or information included in the application. Where discrepancies are found or the participant is not able to prove the information in the application, he/she shall be excluded from the competition.

DEADLINE

Deadline for submission of applications is **15 October 2009, 17.00.**

Applications will be submitted in a sealed envelope by mail or to the office:

*UN House
131, 31 August 1989 St., MD 2012 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova*

The envelope should be marked with the title "Human Rights Gala of Awards 2009", as well as with the full name and address of applicant.

The organizers have the right to extend the deadline for applications.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Materials and activities covering the period of October 2008 – October 2009 which had significant and measurable results are eligible for the competition.

These should pertain to:

1. **Rights of the Child**, including access to education, housing, health and social services; actions to challenge or redress violence against children and/or neglect, including in the context of parents' migration; equality and non-discrimination; the right to an opinion and participation; access to information about child's rights.
2. **Gender equality and woman's rights**, including the prevention of domestic/gender-based violence; ensuring the right to reproductive health; the right to work; women's participation in decision making; the fundamental rights of sexual minorities; other elements of equality and non-discrimination.
3. **Ensuring, protection and promotion of human rights**, including actions to disseminate information and education on human rights; actions in the struggle to end torture and other forms of cruel and degrading treatment or punishment; actions to secure the rights of ethnic and religious minorities, including actions to challenge discrimination based on ethnicity, perceived race or religion; securing rights of access to information; freedom of expression and assembly; access to justice; protection of victims of human trafficking and/or measures and actions to prevent trafficking; the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the context of economic crisis; prevention of discrimination against persons living with HIV/AIDS, as well as other actions to secure the fundamental rights of such persons; actions to secure, protect or promote the rights of migrants; other relevant areas falling within the ambit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or international and regional human rights law.
4. **Fundamental principles and rights at work**, including freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining, elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, effective abolition of child labour, and elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be reviewed by an independent panel of experts with strong professional background and experience in the field of human rights.

While reviewing applications or nominations submitted to the competition, panel members will apply separate assessment criteria for each section as specified in Part II of the Regulation - **Special provisions**. Candidates should consider these criteria when filling in the application.

In selecting relevant candidates for receipt of the awards, particular regard will be had to the recognition of acts of genuine heroism in the service of the promotion and/or the protection of human rights, as well as to efforts or actions making a genuine contribution in human rights terms to the public good.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

Results of the competition will be made public during the **Human Rights Gala of Awards**, which will take place on 10 December 2009, International Human Rights Day.

AWARDS

One or more Grand Prize(s) will be awarded, as well as multiple thematic awards, according to the criteria above. Monetary award may be provided but is not guaranteed. The jury reserves the right to design the final parameters of the overall award, as well as of individual awards.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS

SECTION I: NGOs, initiative groups, individuals

Eligible participants:

- Local and national NGOs
- Initiative Groups
- Individuals.

Third parties are encouraged to nominate persons or groups of merit, on the understanding that such persons would welcome receipt of such an award, were it given.

Applications should include:

1. Application or nomination form* (electronic format)
2. Copy of registration certificate (for organizations);
3. CV of the candidate (NGO, initiative group, individual) and of key people involved in carrying out the action;
4. Evidence attesting the results and impact of the action (publications, photographs, videos, audio, press clips, partnership agreements, letters from beneficiaries, etc.).
5. Other relevant materials, including statements by third parties attesting to the merit of the person or organization for the particular award.

**The application form can be downloaded from www.un.md or requested via e-mail address: lilia.surdu@undp.org, indicating the subject: "Human Rights Gala of Award 2009".*

Assessment Criteria:

- Relevance of actions (activities, services, projects, campaigns, etc.) to meet the needs of the target group and of the community as a whole;
- Partnerships created and level of partners' involvement;
- Visibility of activities - working with the media;
- "Resources vs. impact";

- Final results, changes at the community level as a result of the action;
- Impact on beneficiaries;
- Sustainability of undertaken actions;
- Degree of novelty, originality.

Criteria for granting awards:

Awards will be given for:

- The most successful action (activity, service, project, campaign, etc.) promoting human rights with major impact at the local or national level;
- The most sustainable and efficient partnership created at the local or national level (NGO-NGO, NGO-LPA, NGOs - educational establishments, NGOs - businesses, NGOs - medical institutions, NGOs-housing centres, NGOs - church, etc.);
- The most effective collaboration with the media at the local or national level (newspapers, news agencies, TV, radio).

As noted above, in selecting relevant candidates for receipt of the awards, particular regard will be had to the recognition of acts of genuine heroism in the service of the promotion and/or the protection of human rights, as well as to efforts or actions making a genuine contribution in human rights terms to the public good.

SECTION II: MEDIA

Eligible participants:

- *Journalists*
- *Freelance reporters*
- *Local and national TV stations*
- *Local and national Radio stations*
- *Local and national newspapers*
- *Local and national news agencies*
- *Information portals, registered as periodical publications, blogs and related new media*

Applications should include:

1. **Media:** up to 3 investigation stories or 5 articles (articles, reports, interviews); **news agencies and information portals registered as periodical publications, blogs and related new media:** up to 10 materials (news, reports, interviews, analysis); **TV:** up to 5 programmes or 5 TV reports; **Radio:** up to 5 programmes or 5 reports;
2. Curriculum vitae.
3. Other relevant materials.

Assessment Criteria:

- Prospective approach to human rights: consistent, proactive, positive (see Eligibility Criteria)
- Professionalism (depth of analysis, accuracy of facts, originality of style and ability to work with sources), the difficulty of the subject,
- Investigation degree,
- Compliance with the highest standards of journalistic ethics,
- Accessibility, utility, meeting the public interest,
- Outreach and impact.

Criteria for granting awards:

For high-quality, independent media stories in the public interest published during October 2008-October 2009 as follows:

- Series of stories published in national and local media;
- Materials published by news agencies and information portals registered as periodical publications;

- Series of TV programmes and reports;
- Series of programmes, radio reports aired on national and local stations.

FINAL PROVISIONS

Rights and obligations

a) Participants have the following rights:

- Submit one or more applications or nominations to the competition;
- Request additional information during the period of the competition,
- Participate in the Human Rights Gala Awards Ceremony;
- Communicate through all means about their participation in the competition and awards received at the Human Rights Gala of Awards.

b) Participants have the following obligations:

- Observe the regulations of the competition;
- Respect panel's decisions;
- Provide the organizers or jury, if necessary and possible, with additional documents that provide details about the information included in the application;
- Work with organizers in developing documentaries related to stories submitted to the competition (for e.g.: audio-video materials, testimonials from beneficiaries, etc.);
- Participate in further promotional activities as specified by the organizers.

Copyright

Organizers have the right to use names and materials produced and submitted by applicants in the promotional materials about the Human Rights Gala of Awards. Materials protected by copyright or patents are further under the Law on copyright and related rights. The organizers have no obligation to keep the information from applications confidential, but may elect to do so at their own discretion upon request, if the interests of justice so require, for reasons of privacy or confidentiality, or for other reasons. The applications submitted to the competition will remain in the archive of the UN Office in Moldova.

Conflict of interest

Conflict of interests may include (i) a situation wherein an applicant has in the management of his/her organization, as member of the initiative group or as a relative, a member of the jury; (ii) where an employee or member of an organization has submitted an application nominating a person in a supervisory or other position of authority; (iii) other situations manifestly indicating conflict of interest. The organizers and the jury reserve the right to assess the existence and/or extent of a conflict of interest, and to decide upon relevant measures to respond to such a conflict of interest, including potential recusement from a decision on a particular application, or other relevant measures.

Participation in the competition implies acceptance of the present Regulation.

Organizers have the right to cancel, postpone or change the terms and conditions for conducting this competition.

Regulation for the organization and conduct of the Competition for the most successful promotion of human rights can be downloaded from www.un.md or requested by e-mail address: lilia.surdu@undp.org

For more information please contact: Tel./ Fax.: (022) 269 210 or (022) 269 112