



Young Humanitarian Writers Competition **Respecting Life and Human Dignity**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and The National Press Club Malaysia (NPC) have launched a Young Humanitarian Writers Competition. In cooperation with the Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC), the competition aims to raise awareness on the most pressing humanitarian challenges today, and to enable a better understanding of the issues related to conflict and other situations of violence.

Background

Humanitarian crises have caused devastation worldwide. Millions are killed, injured, detained, reported missing or displaced, separated and seeking refuge in neighbouring countries, causing increasingly complex humanitarian situations and needs. In contemporary conflicts, civilians are the primary victims of violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) – also known as the law of armed conflict or the laws of war – committed by both State and non-State parties to the conflict. The nature of armed conflicts continues to provide challenges for the application and respect of IHL in a number of areas, ranging from the classification of conflicts to the use of new technologies. There is a need to understand and respond to these challenges to ensure that IHL continues to perform its protective function in such situations.

In the field, humanitarian actors are increasingly affected by the high fragmentation in armed conflicts and multiplicity of armed groups. They also face increased risk due to complex security environments. These constraints have made it even more difficult for humanitarian actors to address the multiple needs of the people affected. Today, the humanitarian landscape is also more challenging due to the increased number of actors, some of whom, deliver aid with no emphasis on neutrality, impartiality and independence, arguably diluting the importance of principled humanitarian action.

Many conflicts unfortunately fail to receive media coverage or the attention of the world that would be proportionate to the resulting suffering. More often than not, conflicts that are intense, sudden, dramatic, or politically sensitive receive more attention than those that are long drawn out or less well known. As a result, humanitarian organisations face difficulty in raising funds for such lesser-known crises. Increased media coverage and intellectual discussion on various issues related to conflicts can contribute to improving the response to the problem, mobilise attention publicly, and remind various parties of their responsibilities to ensure the compliance of IHL.

More information

The following websites and resources may be of use for background information and ideas:

- www.icrc.org
- www.redcrescent.org.my
- www.ifrc.org
- www.icrc.org/eng/what-we-do/safeguarding-health-care/index.jsp
- www.fundamentalprinciples.today



Young Humanitarian Writers Competition **Respecting Life and Human Dignity**

Criteria for participation

The competition is open to anyone:

- aged between 18 and 30 residing in Malaysia
- not an employee of ICRC, IFRC, MRC or exco member of NPC
- falls within either of these categories
 - Journalist category - A journalist (full time, freelance or former) attached to a media organisation
 - Non-journalist category - Someone who has never worked with any media organisation

Journalist category:

- To qualify as an entry, the article has to meet the following conditions. It:
 - is self-authored on one of the required topics
 - is in Malay or English and is more than 400 words
 - was published in a newspaper or on a news website of a media organisation in Malaysia between January and November 2015
 - is in the format of a news report, feature or interview
- Entries must be submitted by email, with attachments no more than 5MB file size. Ensure the email subject is: Young Humanitarian Writer Competition – Journalist.
- Each submission must include:
 - a completed entry form (word document)
 - proof of the published article – scanned copy or PDF file of the published print / online article
 - the article (word document)

Non-journalist category:

- To qualify as an entry, the article has to meet the following conditions. It:
 - is self-authored on one of the required topics
 - is in Malay or English and is between 400 to 1,000 words
 - is in the format of a news report, feature or interview
- Entries must be submitted by email, with attachments no more than 5MB file size. Ensure the email subject is: Young Humanitarian Writer Competition – Non journalist
- Each submission must include:
 - a completed entry form (word document)
 - the article (word document)



Young Humanitarian Writers Competition **Respecting Life and Human Dignity**

Topics

Entries must directly address the following:

1. Responses to human suffering as a result of armed conflict, other situations of violence or natural disasters.
2. Health care in danger or the protection of health workers and health facilities in conflict or violence zone.
3. Current challenges in international humanitarian law – use of weapons, new treaties such as the Arms Trade Treaty, new technologies like cyber warfare or autonomous weapons or detention in international or non-international armed conflict.
4. Role of international (governmental / non-governmental) organisations such as ASEAN (that has adopted in its Charter to uphold the principles of IHL) in promoting international humanitarian law, delivering effective aid and assisting the most vulnerable (for example people injured by landmines or unexploded ordinances).
5. Humanitarian action, identity and upholding fundamental humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.
6. A true story on one of the following elements:
 - a. An ordinary person who helped victims of armed conflict or violence
 - b. A first-person account of humanitarian response
 - c. People whose lives have been touched by Red Cross and Red Crescent

Selection criteria

- Composition i.e. form, structure and quality
- Fair, balanced and objective reporting
- Humanitarian reporting
- Informative and well-researched
- Originality, style and independence

Submission and closing date

Entries must be submitted via email by **30 November 2015** to kualalumpur@icrc.org

Prizes

In the respective categories of Journalist and Non-journalist, the following prizes will be awarded:

English language:

- First Prize: Electronic gadget worth RM1,500 & cash RM500
- Second Prize: Electronic gadget worth RM1,000 & cash RM500
- Third Prize: Cash RM500

Malay language:

- First Prize: Electronic gadget worth RM1,500 & cash RM500
- Second Prize: Electronic gadget worth RM1,000 & cash RM500
- Third Prize: Cash RM500



Young Humanitarian Writers Competition **Respecting Life and Human Dignity**

Terms and conditions

- Participation in the competition is considered acceptance of the terms of the competition.
- No entry fee.
- Each entry must include an entry form. The entry must be the entrant's own original work.
- Each person is eligible to enter only one category (Journalist or Non-journalist) but may submit multiple articles (English or Malay). Each person is eligible to win only one prize.
- Prizes are non-exchangeable.
- Entrants may be required to provide identity documentation as proof of their age. Universities/organisations/companies may be contacted for verification of an entrant's background.
- By entering the competition it is deemed acceptance that ICRC / NPC may use the winning works for the publicity of the competition or humanitarian issues, credited to the winners. All entries may also be used by ICRC / NPC in their whole or edited form.
- Plagiarism or writing that contains libel or slander against any person / organisation or contains profanity will invalidate an entry.
- No identifying information (including name, name of media organisation, name of university, etc.) should be included anywhere other than on the first page of the written article (in word document).
- Entries not conforming to contest guidelines / rules will be disqualified. The judges reserve the right to reject entries found to contain false information at their discretion.
- The decision of the judges is final. No correspondence will be entered into.
- Winners shall be notified by the ICRC via telephone or email in December 2015.

For further information, please contact:

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
Unit 50-11-1, Level 11, Wisma UOA Damansara,
No. 50, Jalan Dungun, Damansara Heights,
50490 Kuala Lumpur
T: 03 2084 1800
F: 03 2084 1999
E: kualalumpur@icrc.org

The National Press Club Malaysia
84 Jalan Tangsi,
50480 Kuala Lumpur
T: 03 2694 0525
F: 03 2691 6331
E: nationalpressclub@gmail.com

Co-organised by :



In cooperation with :



Young Humanitarian Writers Competition

Respecting Life and Human Dignity

ENTRY FORM

Full name:

Date of birth:

Email address:

Contact phone number:

Postal address:

Category: Journalist / Non-journalist

Article title:

Topic (1 to 6):

Name and contact details of your organisation/ company / university:

How did you hear about the competition?

(Please delete whichever is not applicable)

- Media reporting
- ICRC / NPC / MRC website or Facebook page
- Competition poster
- Social media
- Friends / family
- Others (please specify)

Entry to be emailed by the entrant to kualalumpur@icrc.org accompanied by a completed Entry Form.