



## **Young Humanitarian Writers Competition 2017**

### **Themes: Even wars have limits**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and The National Press Club Malaysia (NPC) have launched the Young Humanitarian Writers Competition 2017 in cooperation with the Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC). The competition aims to encourage young people to promote humanitarian law and principles and to raise awareness of the needs of people affected by armed conflict and violence.

### **Background**

Millions of people were torn apart by turmoil and endless cycles of armed conflict and other situations of violence worldwide, suffering the terrible humanitarian consequences and personal tragedies. Inexcusable attacks on humanitarian and health workers disrupt relief and life-saving services. These make conditions worse for civilians.

Humanitarian access has remained deeply problematic in several contexts. The humanitarian community as a whole continued to face numerous challenges and perception difficulties in some contexts. As global levels of forced displacement reach a record high owing to war, persecution, natural disasters and poverty, urgent solutions are needed to ensure the most vulnerable are assisted and protected.

On a positive side, there are numerous examples of the humanitarian law and action protecting people, making a huge difference to people in conflict. Aid and health workers continue to risk their lives to deliver much needed assistance, save and protect the vulnerable despite deteriorated humanitarian situations. For our shared humanity, the need to call for greater respect for international humanitarian law and humanitarian action is of utmost importance now!

### **More information**

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

- [www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)
- [www.nationalpressclub.org.my](http://www.nationalpressclub.org.my)
- [www.redcrescent.org.my](http://www.redcrescent.org.my)
- [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)
- [www.healthcareindanger.org](http://www.healthcareindanger.org)
- [www.fundamentalprinciples.today](http://www.fundamentalprinciples.today)



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#### Criteria for participation

The competition is open to anyone who:

- is aged between 16 and 30 and residing in Malaysia
- is 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 for any media organization

#### Journalist category:

- To qualify for entry, the article has to meet the following conditions. It must be:
  - self-authored on one of the required topics;
  - in Malay or English
  - of more than 500 words;
  - published in a newspaper or on a news website of a media organisation in Malaysia in 2017; and
  - in the format of a news report, feature or interview.
- Entries must be submitted via email with the email subject: **Young Humanitarian Writer Competition 2017 – Journalist.**
- Each submission must include:
  - a completed entry form with the article text using the template (in Word document format only with file name ends with .doc or .docx). No accompanying images, tables or graphics will be accepted.
  - the number of words stated at the end of the article;
  - proof of the published article – scanned copy or PDF file of the published print or online article.

#### Non-journalist category:

- To qualify as an entry, the article has to meet the following conditions. It must be:
  - self-authored on one of the required topics;
  - in Malay or English
  - not exceeding 2,000 words; and
  - in the format of a news report, feature or interview.
- Entries must be submitted via email with the email subject: **Young Humanitarian Writer Competition 2017 – Non journalist.**
- Each submission must include:
  - a completed entry form with the article text using the template (in Word document format only with file name ends with .doc or .docx). No accompanying images, tables or graphics will be accepted.
  - the number of words stated at the end of the article.



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#### Topics

The entries shall address directly one of the following topics. Using journalism writing style, the entries must be based on facts, real events and real people.

1. **International humanitarian law (IHL)** on one of the following elements:
  - a. How to generate greater respect for IHL
  - b. New weapons and technology in warfare
  - c. Protection of the emblems of Red Cross and Red Crescent
  
2. **Humanitarian action** on one of the following elements:
  - a. Operationalizing humanitarian principles, in particular humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence
  - b. Innovations in humanitarian aid delivery
  
3. **A true story** on one of the following elements:
  - a. Humanitarian workers, including health care personnel, who work in armed conflict or situations of violence
  - b. A bystander who protects the life and human dignity of someone in armed conflict or violence
  - c. People whose lives have been touched by the Red Cross and Red Crescent

#### Selection criteria

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

#### Submission and closing date

Entries (using the article template with entry form) must be submitted via email **by the entrant** to [kualalumpur@icrc.org](mailto:kualalumpur@icrc.org) **by 31 October 2017**

#### Prizes

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

#### English language:

- First Prize: Electronic gadgets worth RM1,500
- Second Prize: Electronic gadgets worth RM1,000

#### Malay language:

- First Prize: Electronic gadgets worth RM1,500
- Second Prize: Electronic gadgets worth RM1,000

**The top five finalists in each category shall receive a certificate of achievement.**



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### **Terms and conditions**

- Participation in the competition means that an entrant has accepted the terms of the competition.
- There is no entry fee.
- Each entry must include an entry form and use the article template. 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 that the entrant allows ICRC / NPC to use the winning work for 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 entry form.
- Winners shall be notified by the organiser via telephone or email in November 2017. If there is no response from the chosen winner within five working days, another winner will be selected. The organiser is not responsible for and shall not be liable for late, lost or misdirected entries, or unsuccessful efforts to notify winners.
- Winners will be required to attend a prize-giving ceremony within three months after the announcement of results.
- 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.

*For further information, please contact:*

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E: [kualalumpur@icrc.org](mailto:kualalumpur@icrc.org)

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