



Young Humanitarian Writers Competition 2016

The Power of Humanity

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and The National Press Club Malaysia (NPC) have launched the Young Humanitarian Writers Competition 2016 in cooperation with the Malaysian Red Crescent (MRC). The competition aims to enhance and inspire discussion on the most pressing humanitarian challenges today, and to enable a better understanding of the issues related to conflicts and other situations of violence. It also calls on “the power of humanity” - the strength of individual commitment and the force of collective action - to relieve suffering, ensure respect for human dignity and, ultimately, create a more humane society.

Background

Humanitarian crises have caused devastation worldwide. Millions are killed, injured, detained, reported missing or displaced, and separated, as well as seek refuge in neighbouring countries, causing increasingly complex humanitarian situations and needs.

Attacks on civilian populations and objects are commonplace. International humanitarian law is often flouted. Highly destructive natural disasters continue to shatter the lives of large numbers of people. New and old diseases cause widespread suffering. Health services and social and economic systems struggle to cope with increasing demands. The weakest around the world continue to suffer most.

In the face of this, millions have stepped up to bring help and comfort, wherever they are needed, to save and improve the lives of those in need. Humanitarian workers, volunteers and ordinary people across the world embody the humanitarian commitment daily to help protect life and human dignity, without discrimination, to mitigate the consequences of disasters and war. Amidst this, there are increasing calls from individuals, organisations and states to reinforce collective commitment to international humanitarian law to limit suffering and consequences of armed conflict.

For this reason, the ICRC and NPC, with the support of MRC, are privileged to call for a time for reflection, and a time for concern. It is time for us to commit to and recognise the ‘power of humanity’!

More information

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

- www.icrc.org
- www.nationalpressclub.org.my
- www.redcrescent.org.my
- www.ifrc.org
- www.healthcareindanger.org
- 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 with any media organisation

Journalist category:

- To qualify for 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 of more than 500 words;
 - was published in a newspaper or on a news website of a media organisation in Malaysia in 2016; and
 - is in the format of a news report, feature or interview.
- Entries must be submitted via email with the email subject: Young Humanitarian Writer Competition 2016 – Journalist.
- Each submission must include:
 - a completed entry form with the article text using the template (in word document format only). 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:
 - is self-authored on one of the required topics;
 - is in Malay or English and does not exceed 2,000 words; and
 - is in the format of a news report, feature or interview.
- Entries must be submitted via email with the email subject: Young Humanitarian Writer Competition 2016 – Non journalist
- Each submission must include:
 - a completed entry form with the article text using the template (in word document format only). No accompanying images, tables or graphics will be accepted.
 - the number of words stated at the end of the article.



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Themes

Entries must directly address one of the following themes:

1. Responses to human suffering as a result of armed conflicts, other situations of violence or natural disasters, with the underlying fundamental humanitarian principles: humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality
2. A true story on one of the following elements:
 - a. Humanitarian workers, including health care personnel, who work in armed conflict or 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
3. Strengthening international humanitarian law that limits the sufferings in armed conflicts.
4. Promoting respect and preventing misuse of the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems that protect lives.

Selection criteria

- Composition 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 **by 31 October 2016**

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

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.
- 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 organiser via telephone or email in November 2016. 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.

For further information, please contact:

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