

REGULATIONS

of the International Youth Creative Competition

“Human Rights in Focus”

2026

1. General Provisions

1.1. These Regulations establish the procedures for organizing and conducting the competition, as well as the selection criteria and evaluation standards for competition entries (hereinafter referred to as the “Competition”).

1.2. The organizers of the Competition are the nonprofit organizations **Youth for Human Rights International** and **Human Rights in Focus**.

1.3. The Competition is open to students in the following educational and age categories: Middle School, High School, College and University, aged **11 to 22 years inclusive** as of the submission deadline.

1.4. The Competition is international and is conducted in English.

2. Goals and Objectives of the Competition

2.1. The goals of the Competition are:

- to educate young people about human rights;
- to develop students’ creative skills.

2.2. The objectives of the Competition are:

- to encourage students’ interest in the content of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- to promote an understanding of the concept of human dignity;
- to encourage awareness of personal responsibility for respecting and protecting human rights;
- to develop students’ teamwork skills;
- to develop young people’s video production and video editing skills;
- to foster creativity.

3. Competition Participants

3.1. The Competition is open to students of schools, vocational education institutions, colleges, universities, and other higher education institutions who are between **11 and 22 years of age inclusive** as of the submission deadline.

3.2. The Competition is conducted in the following categories:

- **Middle School — Category 1;**
- **High School — Category 2;**
- **College and University — Category 3.**

3.3. Participants may submit their entries individually or as a group. For group entries, the group leader must be identified in the application as the primary participant. The remaining group members must be listed in the designated group-members section of the application form.

4. Competition Stages and Timeline

4.1. Participants must register and submit their competition entries electronically no later than **October 15, 2026**. The registration form will be available on the official Competition website, **humanrightsinfocus.org**, and may also be published on the organizer's website. Applications must be submitted through the online form available at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqKMDXAFsOHM1w0YhLrem0R6_kDTG-vvXASlgYFZooF_fQhg/viewform?usp=header

4.2. Competition entries will be evaluated by the jury between **October 15 and November 30, 2026**.

4.3. The Competition results will be announced, and the winners will be recognized during an online awards ceremony on **December 10, 2026**. Only prize-winning entries and entries receiving special recognition from the jury will be announced.

4.4. The results will be published on the official Competition website and the Competition's social media pages and will also be sent to participants by email. Participants are responsible for providing a correct and valid email address.

5. Competition Entry Categories

5.1. Entries are accepted in the following categories:

- **Live-action video or public service announcement** with a total duration of no more than **40 seconds**, including credits. The video must address one human right. Participants may independently select any right included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- **Animated video** with a total duration of no more than **40 seconds**, including credits. The entry may use hand-drawn animation, sand animation, AI-assisted animation, or any other creative method, including clay, construction sets, drawings, or similar materials.

Every video must clearly communicate the meaning of the selected human right and encourage viewers to respect and uphold human rights.

6. Competition Conditions

6.1. Competition entries may be filmed or created using any available equipment or tools.

6.2. An entry submitted in any category must address only one right from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6.3. Each participant may submit only one application and one competition entry under their own name.

6.4. Videos created entirely from borrowed or pre-existing video materials are not eligible.

6.5. Borrowed materials from other sources or materials generated using artificial intelligence may constitute no more than **50% of the total duration of the video**, except for entries submitted in the animation category.

For the purposes of these Regulations, borrowed materials include pre-existing images and videos obtained from the Internet.

6.6. Plagiarism, meaning the use of another person's work without identifying the author, is prohibited. The sources of all borrowed materials must be credited in the video's end credits.

6.7. The following entries will not be accepted:

- commercial advertising;
- content that insults or demeans the dignity or feelings of other people;
- content that does not correspond to the theme of the Competition.

7. Entry Requirements

For the purposes of this section, a competition entry is referred to as a "video."

7.1. Videos must be submitted in **MP4** or **MOV** format.

7.2. Participants are not required to appear in the video as actors.

7.3. Participants may choose which software, applications, equipment, and other tools to use when filming and editing their videos.

7.4. Participants should use appropriate image stabilization equipment or features during filming, including a tripod, a built-in camera stabilizer, or other devices and methods intended to reduce image shaking.

7.5. Any speech or dialogue in the video must be clearly understandable and must not be drowned out by background noise.

7.6. Photographs and other graphic elements may be used in the video, subject to the requirements of Section 6.6 of these Regulations.

7.7. A competition entry may be submitted in one of the following two formats:

- **horizontal format**, with an aspect ratio of **16:9**;
- **vertical format**, with an aspect ratio of **9:16**, suitable for Reels, Shorts, and other vertical video platforms.

The selected orientation must remain consistent throughout the entire video. The video must not contain unintended black bars around the image resulting from incorrect export settings or an incorrect aspect ratio.

The minimum resolution of a competition video must be **Full HD**:

- **1920 × 1080 pixels** for horizontal videos;
- **1080 × 1920 pixels** for vertical videos.

Entries submitted in a lower resolution may be rejected by the Organizer.

7.8. Videos previously created for another competition with a similar theme that do not comply with these Regulations will not be evaluated by the jury.

7.9. Video content must comply with generally accepted standards of morality and must not contain explicit or excessively aggressive material.

- All materials must be appropriate for a broad audience of children and young people.
- Entries must not contain political campaigning or propaganda.
- Entries must not address sexual content or intimate relationships.
- Entries must focus on the human rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and must not promote political, partisan, or ideological views.

7.10. The video file must be named in English using the following format:

“First Name Last Name, City or Locality.”

The information in the file name must correspond to the participant information provided in the Competition application.

8. Evaluation Criteria

8.1. Entries will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- compliance with these Regulations;
- the ability of the entry to inspire respect for human rights and demonstrate the importance of protecting and observing them;
- aesthetic quality;
- originality.

9. Results and Awards

9.1. Winners will be selected by the Competition's expert jury based on the established evaluation criteria in each age category and entry category. The jury will award first, second, and third place in each category.

9.2. The Competition may also include a People's Choice Award and special awards.

9.3. The Competition's expert jury will consist of representatives from the fields of art and culture, public figures, human rights advocates, and other professionals with relevant experience and qualifications.

The Competition organizers reserve the right to determine the composition of the expert jury and invite selected individuals to participate in its work.

9.4. Competition winners will receive diplomas.

9.5. An official online awards ceremony will be organized to recognize the winners. The ceremony will be open to everyone who wishes to attend.

9.6. All Competition participants will receive an electronic certificate of participation.

10. Copyright and Intellectual Property Rights

10.2. Participants are responsible for ensuring compliance with all copyright and intellectual property requirements applicable to the work submitted to the Competition.

10.3. By submitting an entry to the Competition and selecting the relevant consent option in the application form, the participant grants the Competition organizers the right to use and distribute the submitted material, including by publishing it online, broadcasting it on television, using it in creative projects, publishing it in the media, and reproducing it in other formats.

10.4. By submitting an entry to the Competition, the participant confirms that they are the author of the entry or possess all rights, permissions, and authorizations necessary to submit and use the entry in accordance with these Regulations.

Copyright in the competition entry remains with its author.

By submitting an entry to the Competition, the participant grants the Organizer, free of charge, a worldwide right to use the competition entry, in whole or in part, for the purposes of organizing, conducting, promoting, reporting on, and publicizing the Competition, the Organizer's activities, and the ideas and principles promoted by the Competition.

The Organizer has the right to:

- publish and display the competition entry on the official Competition website, the Organizer's websites, video platforms, social media platforms, and other digital channels;
- publicly display the entry during ceremonies, exhibitions, presentations, educational events, cultural events, and other activities;

- reproduce and distribute the entry in informational, educational, promotional, advertising, and presentation materials connected with the Competition and the Organizer's activities;
- use individual frames, images, fragments, and short excerpts from the entry in announcements, publications, reports, and other Competition-related materials;
- make technical modifications to the entry, including changing its format, resolution, file size, or duration and adding subtitles, logos, credits, or other technical information, provided that the principal content and meaning of the entry are preserved.

These rights are granted without limitation on the number of uses and without payment of additional compensation to the participant.

When using a competition entry, the Organizer will, whenever reasonably possible, identify the author, team, or educational institution, provided that this information was supplied by the participant and that its publication is permitted under applicable law and the consents obtained.

The Organizer may not sell a competition entry to third parties or use it separately from the purposes of the Competition and the Organizer's activities without obtaining additional consent from the author or the author's legal representative.

10.5. Participants submit their entries free of charge. The Organizer's use and distribution of submitted materials are also carried out on a non-remunerated basis.

10.6. Competition participants consent to the processing of their personal data, including their first name, last name, patronymic or middle name where applicable, email address, and any other personal data submitted in connection with the Competition.

The Personal Data Processing Consent Form is available on the official Competition website, and participants must confirm their consent when submitting the application.

10.7. Competition entries will not be reviewed individually or returned to participants.

11. Contact Information

11.1. All questions regarding the Competition should be sent to:

support@humanrightsinfocus.org

July 20, 2026