

The Secretary-General

Paris, 24 June 2022

2022 Human Rights Prize of the French Republic Call for Applications

Dear Sir or Madam,

Applications are now open for the 2022 “Liberté-Égalité-Fraternité” Human Rights Prize of the French Republic, awarded by the Prime Minister of the French Government.

This Prize, created in 1988, is awarded in recognition and support for the completion of individual or collective projects carried out in the field, in France or abroad, regardless of nationality or borders, to promote and protect human rights.

1 – Theme

For the 2022 Prize, there will be one theme.

Sexual and reproductive rights: protecting the rights of LGBTQIA+ people and the fight against gender inequalities

As they are a part of the human rights corpus, sexual and reproductive rights have the same characteristics: they are universal, indivisible and interdependent. The fulfilment of these rights contributes to that of other fundamental freedoms and rights of the person, especially the rights to privacy, protection against violence, education and information, equality, protection against all forms of discrimination, and the highest attainable standard of health. In this regard, several international instruments and standards recognize important principles related to gender, sexuality and procreation.

As such, in accordance with international law, everyone has the right to make decisions freely concerning their sexuality and to exercise control in that respect. Sexual rights concern health as well as physical, mental and social well-being. Pursuant to these rights, everyone is free to decide whether or not to engage in sexual relations, the time of such relations and with what partner, irrespective of gender. Furthermore, reproductive rights, relating to fertility, concern both reproductive health (fertilization, pregnancy, childbirth, etc.) and non-reproductive health (abortion, contraception, sterility). These rights allow individuals to freely

decide on when they will have children, the number of children they will have and the periods between births.

However, in many places in the world, LBGTQIA+ people lack freedom in their sexual orientation and gender identity. Sexual relationships between people of the same sex are illegal in 69 countries, the medicalization of transgender people remains the norm in a significant number of them and procedures to change their sex on civil documents are often humiliating and degrading. Similarly, in many States, women and girls cannot decide on their own sexuality, are victims of sexual violence and forced marriage, and cannot freely decide whether or not they wish to have children, the number of pregnancies they wish to have or find the support they need in the event of miscarriage, pathological pregnancies or post-partum issues. Some States continue to criminalize obstetric emergencies. More generally, pregnant women, those about to give birth, and young mothers often have insufficient access to healthcare services. Menstruation and its impact on daily life continues to be a topic that is for the most part ignored by public authorities. Sexuality and procreation are still, much too often, controlled or criminalized.

Applications are open to the following:

- Projects on sex education activities, and information programmes on sexual and reproductive health;
- Projects that aim to prevent and fight against stereotypes and discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation and violence against women, girls and LBGTQIA+ people;
- Projects that assist or support women, girls and LBGTQIA+ people so they may enjoy the highest attainable level of health possible, in particular by enabling them to access sexual and reproductive health services and helping them to exercise their rights;
- Projects on activities promoting and protecting the rights of LBGTQIA+ people: awareness-raising and fighting anti-LGBTI discrimination; facilities to support LBGTQIA+ people; the fight against “pathologizing” LBGTIA+ persons, etc.

As the Prize aims to be universal, non-governmental organizations, or individual candidates, irrespective of nationality and borders, should submit an application corresponding to the theme proposed for 2022. This application should contain field activities or a project to be implemented in France or abroad.

2 – Award ceremony

The five prize winners will be invited to Paris for the official ceremony. They will receive a medal and share a total sum of €70,000, awarded by the CNCDH and to be used to implement their projects. They may introduce themselves as 2022 laureates of the Human Rights Prize of the French Republic.

Five runners-up will be awarded a “special mention” medal by the French ambassador in their country of origin.

3 – Rules

Applications must comply with the Prize rules, which are available upon request.

They can also be found on the CNCDH website: <https://www.cncdh.fr/presentation-du-prix-des-droits-de-lhomme>.

4 – Application

The application must be written in French and include:

- a) A letter of application presented and signed by the president or legal representative of the NGO concerned, or by the individual candidate;
- b) The application form, which is attached to this call for applications and can be downloaded from the CNCDH website: www.cncdh.fr/edition-2022-du-prix-des-droits-de-lhomme
This form should present, in detail, the actions conducted by the association or individual.
- c) A presentation of the NGO (statutes, operations, etc.), where appropriate.
- d) The postal address and bank details of the NGO or individual candidate.

Candidates must send their complete application **by the deadline of 10 October 2022** to the Secretariat-General of the CNCDH:

- CNCDH – For the attention of Cécile RIOU-BATISTA, TSA 40 720 – 20 avenue de Ségur, 75007 PARIS – France
- or by email to: prixdesdroitsdelhomme@cncdh.fr

Once the panel has announced the results, the 2022 Prize will be awarded in Paris by the Prime Minister, or another French minister, around 10 December 2022.

Please circulate this call for applications widely.

Yours faithfully,



Magali Lafourcade
Secretary-General of the CNCDH