

# **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

## **Human Rights Prize of the French Republic**

*Adopted unanimously by the Plenary Assembly on 21 November 2024*

### **Article 1 : Purpose of the Prize**

1. In accordance with Article 3 of Decree No. 2007-1137 of 26 July 2007 on the composition and functioning of the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (CNCDH), the "Human Rights Prize of the French Republic: Liberty – Equality – Fraternity," funded by the Prime Minister of the French Government, is awarded annually by the National Consultative Commission on Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as "the Commission").
2. The Prize recognizes field actions and/or projects /aiming at the protection and promotion of Human Rights, in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
3. The Prize is open to both individuals and organizations, regardless of nationality or borders. It is possible to apply for several consecutive years.  
Members of the Commission are not eligible to apply. These suggestions do not preclude proposals from other members of the Commission.
4. Each year, the Prize focuses on one or two themes related to the protection and promotion of Human Rights. The themes are adopted by the Commission's Plenary Assembly. To prepare for the discussion, the outgoing jury (see Article 6 below) suggests themes for the next edition of the Prize. These suggestions do not preclude proposals from other members of the Commission.
5. Applications must relate to one of the themes adopted by the Plenary Assembly.

## **Article 2 : Awarding of the Prize**

1. The Prize is awarded to up to the first five winners selected by the jury's vote.
2. "Special mentions" may be awarded by the jury's vote, up to a maximum of five, to recognize particularly noteworthy but non-winning applications.
3. The Prize is awarded in Paris by the Prime Minister or a member of the Government on Human Rights Day, proclaimed by the United Nations, on 10 December each year.
4. Special mentions are awarded in the laureates' countries of residence by French embassies. French special mention laureates are invited the Paris ceremony in Paris.

## **Article 3 : Financial Award**

The total amount of the Prize's financial award is determined by the Prime Minister as a global and fixed sum. This amount is divided equally among each of the laureates.

## **Article 4 : Protection**

For Prize laureates and recipients of special mentions, the Commission undertakes to alert the French authorities in the event of threats to their activities or safety.

## **Article 5 : Application Procedure**

1. Each year, the Commission issues a call for applications, specifying the annual theme(s) and the deadline for submission, after which no applications will be accepted.
2. Applications must be submitted to the Commission's General Secretariat. Applicants must complete the application form attached to the call for applications. This includes a detailed description of the organization, its statutes if applicable, a detailed description of the action or project, and its financial evaluation. The application must be accompanied by a cover letter. All documents must be written in French.

## **Article 6 : Jury**

1. The Prize is awarded by a jury composed of at least five voluntary members of the Commission. Member organizations may appoint a volunteer from within their ranks. The jury is chaired by the President of the Commission. The jury operates under delegation from the Plenary Assembly of the Commission. The General Secretariat of the Commission provides administrative support to the jury.
2. Jury decisions are made by majority vote. Proxy voting is allowed but limited to one mandate per person. The jury can only deliberate if at least two-thirds of its

members are present or represented. In the event of a tie, the President's vote is decisive.

3. If a jury member has any relationship with a candidate that may influence or appear to influence their impartiality, they must inform the jury at the first meeting and disclose the nature of the relationship. They may not act as rapporteur for that application and must recuse themselves from deliberation and voting on the case.
4. The jury sets the schedule of deadlines and meetings, appoints rapporteurs for the applications, reviews applications, and conducts the vote. Each application must be reviewed by at least two jury members.
5. Jury decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

## **Article 7 : Obligations of Recipients**

1. Prize laureates must send a report to the General Secretariat of the Commission, within thirteen months of receiving the financial award, detailing the implementation of their action or project and the use of the funds received. Laureates and special mention recipients agree not to speak or act on behalf of, or under the authority of, the French Government or the Commission.
2. Beneficiaries of the financial award agree in advance to repay all or part of the funds if the action or project is not carried out, or if they fail to meet the obligations stated in Article 7-1 of these rules. The Commission may also prohibit a beneficiary from claiming association with the Prize or the special mention in case of proven non-compliance.
3. At the time of application, candidates must acknowledge and accept these rules. The call for applications includes a link to the regulations, available on the CNCDH website in French, English, and Spanish.

## **Article 8 : Liability**

Prize and special mention recipients do not engage the responsibility of the French Government or the Commission through their behavior or expression of opinions.