



GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD

2027 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

award.pluralism.ca



Do you know a pluralism champion?



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INTRODUCTION

The Global Pluralism Award recognizes pluralism in action.

Presented every other year to organizations, individuals, public entities, non profits and private enterprises from around the world, the Award celebrates the inspiring and brave work that is helping to build more inclusive societies where diversity is valued and protected.

The Award is conferred by the Global Centre for Pluralism (“the Centre”) and made possible in part by the generous support of TD Bank Group.

The Global Centre for Pluralism is an independent, charitable organization founded by His Late Highness the Aga Khan IV and the Government of Canada. The Centre works with policy leaders, educators and community builders around the world to amplify and implement the transformative power of pluralism.



Image: Winners of the 2023 Global Pluralism Award—From left to right: Esther Omam (Cameroon), Jesús Herrera (Red de Intérpretes y Promotores Interculturales Asociación Civil, Mexico), Oday Abu Karsh (REFORM: The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development)—CREDIT: ©Patrick Doyle



THE AWARD

Three Award winners will share a total prize pool of \$150,000 (CAD). The monetary prize will be equally divided among the three Award winners (CAD 50,000 each).

In late 2027, each of the three Award winners and up to seven honourable mention recipients, or their delegates, will be invited to the Award ceremony.

The winners and honourable mention recipients will join a global network of pluralism leaders and benefit from a program of in-kind support and engagement. This will include access to a global community of peers advancing pluralism, invitations to events, workshops, thematic exchanges, opportunities for visibility and storytelling, potential cross-regional collaborations and direct connection with the Award & Leaders Network team for going support.



Image: Mohamed Adam Jr., representing 2025 Global Pluralism Award laureate Sudanese Youth Network for Ending the War and Establishing a Democratic Civil Transformation at the Award Ceremony, in Ottawa, Canada, November 25, 2025—CREDIT: MELODY MALONEY/WELLINGTON IMAGERY



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates from any country are eligible. Candidates from any sector are eligible, including:

- + Civil society organizations (e.g., NGOs, trade professional associations, faith-based organizations, labour unions, social movements, think tanks, and research or institutes, networks and platforms, faith-based organizations, etc);
- + Social enterprises;
- + Corporations (public or private);
- + Educational, health, research and policy institutions (public or private);
- + Individuals (e.g., artists, entrepreneurs, journalists, academics, policymakers, filmmakers, etc.);

Candidates must meet the following requirements:

- + Candidates must be living. The Award cannot be given posthumously.
- + Candidates may not have applied for the Award more than once previously.
- + Candidates must not have previously received the Global Pluralism Award or an honourable mention.
- + GCP employees, partners, and grantees are not eligible.
- + Candidates must not be an agency, employee or institutional project of any of the Centre's founding partners, namely the Government of Canada and the Aga Khan Development Network. Partner or grantee organizations of the aforementioned, however, are eligible to apply.
- + Candidates must not be members of the Jury, the Centre's Board or staff, a Centre's Director emeritus, former juror or a consultant receiving remuneration from the Centre at the time of nomination. Close relations and organizations owned or operated by members of the Jury, the Centre's Board members, Centre's Director Emeriti, former jurors and staff are also ineligible.
- + Candidates for the Award must not directly or indirectly, support terrorism, criminal activity, convicted persons where the funding would further unlawful activity, or any person or organization listed under Canadian anti-terrorism laws or on the United Nations Security Council sanctions list.



To learn about past Award winners and honourable mentions, and the diverse range of initiatives and sectors that they represent, please visit our website at: award.pluralism.ca



SELECTION CRITERIA

An independent international Jury of experts will evaluate submissions using the following criteria:

Relevance to pluralism (40%)

Candidates need to demonstrate an exceptional and sustained contribution to pluralism. The Centre defines pluralism as a positive response to diversity. Those working towards pluralism recognize, value and respect diversity as a basis for more just, peaceful and equitable societies.

Pluralism is intersectional, considering multiple dimensions and expressions of identity to include race, ethnicity, indigeneity, religion, culture, language, neurodiversity, dis/ability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

Pluralist societies go beyond simply including diverse peoples and communities into existing institutions and cultures. By embracing pluralism, societies make changes that lead to the recognition, belonging and full participation of every person.



Image: Jurors gather to select the finalists for the 2025 Global Pluralism Award in London, UK.
From left to right: Comfort Ero, Reeta Roy, Yásnaya Aguilar Gil, Stephen Toope, Gam Shimray, Antonio Zapulla, Marwan Muasher, —CREDIT: ©Alejandro Unai Arrieta

This allows people's lives, communities and institutions to be enriched with new perspectives and ideas.

Because this touches all aspects of society, pluralism requires multi-dimensional efforts and leadership, from the local to the national to the transnational. Leadership for pluralism occurs therefore in multiple domains, including policy-making, inclusive citizenship, education, media, peacebuilding, interreligious dialogue, social entrepreneurship, the arts, and so on.

Impact (40%)

What is different now, as a result of your work, compared with before? When measuring impact, the Award Jury will focus on the direct results of an individual's or organization's activities. The candidate's actions, initiative or approach must demonstrate:

- + A clear, logical connection to pluralism outcomes, for example, this could look like a social enterprise that brings together individuals from different ethnic groups, that creates livelihoods and better understanding among underrepresented communities; it could also look like an initiative bridging diverse and/or divergent groups that results in greater understanding and stronger social cohesion; among other things.

- + Progress to improve the inclusion of diverse individuals or groups in the economy, society, culture, politics, health services, education sector, and so on. This could look like improved access to healthcare, legal representation and/or basic rights for underrepresented communities; a new technology that promoted and/or supported social inclusion; art that influenced public policy or shaped perceptions of marginalized groups; and so much more.

Integrity & Sustainability (20%)

Candidates must demonstrate that, through their activities and day-to-day actions, they have committed in an exceptional and sustained way to the inclusion of diverse individuals in their field, their community and even within their institution/organization. They should consider the following:

- + If applying as an institution/organization, do you practice pluralism in your management practices and policies, in the composition of your team, and in your engagement with stakeholders?
- + If applying as an individual, have you defended and supported pluralism principles, professionally and personally?
- + Can you demonstrate sustainability of your work through a track record of achieving goals/impacts, strong references, a resilient network, or other factors?



AWARD TIMELINE

July 10,
2026
5pm ET

Submission process
closes



CREDIT: ©Karen Ng-Hem

Submissions accepted
until 5:00 PM Eastern
Time.

Mid-July
– August
2026

Submission processing



Credit: ©Learning History that is
not yet History (LHH)

The Centre's Secretariat
processes and screens
submissions received.

September –
December
2026

Selection of shortlist



CREDIT: ©Soliya

Shortlist candidates are notified
and required to provide
additional documentation.

February
2027

Jury meeting



CREDIT: ©Alejandro Unai Arrieta

The independent
international Jury selects
finalists.

April –
June 2027

Site visits to finalists



CREDIT: ©Estevan Padilla

As part of the due diligence
process, the Centre conducts
site visits to finalists.

September –
October 2025

Announcement of
Award winners and
honourable mention
recipients



CREDIT: ©Patrick Doyle

Award winners and
honourable mention recipients
are officially notified and
announced.

November
2027

Award ceremony



CREDIT: Andrea Cardin

The Award is presented to
three winners and up to seven
honourable mention recipients.



SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submissions are accepted directly from candidates or through nomination by a third party. Consideration by the Jury will not depend on the type of submission.

The Centre is able to accept submissions in English and French. If you wish to apply in another language, please contact us through the submission process so we can discuss possible accommodations.

The submission process opens on **June 1, 2026** and closes on **July 10, 2026** at at **5:00 pm Eastern Time**. Because all nominated institutions/organizations and individuals are also required to complete an application prior to the deadline, we encourage nominees to submit nominations prior to **June 19, 2026**.

All submissions must be completed and submitted online via the Global Pluralism Award website at:

award.pluralism.ca

For more information, contact us at:

award@pluralism.ca

Submission by: **Candidate**

STEP 1:

The candidate creates an online profile and completes the “**Candidate Form**”.

STEP 2:

The candidate is responsible for submitting the completed form by the deadline of July 10, 2026 at 5:00 pm ET.

STEP 3:

The candidate receives a confirmation email.

Submission by: **Nominator**

STEP 1:

The candidate creates an online profile and completes the “**Nominator Form**”, providing basic information about themselves and the candidate they wish to nominate.

STEP 2:

The Centre notifies the candidate of their nomination. The candidate creates an online profile and completes the “**Candidate Form**”.

STEP 3:

The candidate is responsible for submitting the completed form by the deadline of June 19, 2026 at 5:00pm ET.

STEP 4:

Both the candidate and the nominator receive a confirmation email.



Complete a Submission or Nomination by:
July 10, 2026

Terms & Conditions

1. All personal data provided to the Global Centre for Pluralism (the Centre) will be kept confidential. By completing a submission, candidates agree to the publication of their name and/or the name of the participating organization on the Centre's and the Award's websites and any media now existing or subsequently developed, for any purpose of the Centre. Candidates grant the Centre the right to disseminate the products of the Award grant through awareness-building and educational activities in Canada and globally.
2. Three Award winners and up to seven honourable mention recipients will be invited to attend our Award ceremony in late 2027. All costs, including economy airfare, accommodation and daily allowance will be covered for each of the three Award winners and honourable mention recipients or their delegate.
3. Award winners will receive a CAD 50,000 cash prize. In order to receive the cash award, Award winners must be willing and able to enter into a contractual agreement with the Centre, in line with Canada Revenue Agency policies governing charities and the Income Tax Act. Award funds must be used for charitable activities. Further documentation, including a budget and proof of legal status in the country of residency/operation may be required.
4. The Centre reserves the right to not select any candidates, or to cancel the Award for any reason at any time. The Centre accepts no liability for cancelling the Award or for anyone's failure to receive actual notification of cancellation.