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# International Competition for the Permanent Memorial at the United Nations to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade

## COMPETITION GUIDELINES AND RULES

### I. Introduction

In keeping with resolution A/RES/63/5 and A/RES/65/239 adopted by the United Nations General Assembly; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Permanent Memorial Committee are delighted to launch an international competition and call for designs. Participants are invited to submit designs for the creation of the Permanent Memorial at the United Nations to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.

### II. Theme of the Competition

The memorial is formally titled: The Permanent Memorial at the United Nations to Honour the Victims of Slavery and Transatlantic Slave Trade. The theme of the Permanent Memorial initiative is: "Acknowledging the Tragedy; Considering the Legacy; Lest We Forget".

### III. About the Partners

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Permanent Memorial Committee are the implementing Partners of the competition, with Member States from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the African Union (AU) playing a primary role in the implementation process.

#### 1. The Permanent Memorial Committee

The Permanent Memorial initiative was developed out of a process at the United Nations, designed to implement paragraph 101 of the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action Plan which calls for the international community to honour the memory of the victims of slavery.

The Permanent Memorial Committee was established in 2007. Its role is to manage the overall project and provide oversight of the Trust Fund for the permanent memorial initiative, and in so doing, seeks to ensure implementation of successive United Nations General Assembly resolutions on the permanent memorial project.

The Members of the Committee are: Brazil, Ghana, Jamaica (Chair), the Netherlands, Portugal, Qatar, Senegal, Suriname, the United Kingdom, the African Union, the Chair of CARICOM, the Chair of the African Group of Ambassadors at the United Nations, the United Nations Office for Partnerships (UNOP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI), the New York Public Library Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, and the Chairperson of the Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism of the NGO Committee on Human Rights. The Ambassador/Permanent Observer of CARICOM is also an ex-officio member of the Committee.

For more information, visit the website of the Permanent Memorial: [www.unslaverymemorial.org](http://www.unslaverymemorial.org)

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## 2. UNESCO

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) works to create the conditions for dialogue among civilizations, cultures and peoples, based upon respect for commonly shared values. It is through this dialogue that the world can achieve global visions of sustainable development encompassing observance of human rights, mutual respect and the alleviation of poverty, all of which are at the heart of UNESCO's mission and activities.

UNESCO brings substantial experience in undertaking a wide range of international competitions. Its work on the Slave Route project and its standing as a respected member within the UN family will enhance its collaboration as an implementing partner for the international design competition.

For more information, visit UNESCO website: <http://www.unesco.org/>

## IV. Competition Objectives

The Permanent Memorial to Honour the Victims of Slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade represents an effort to acknowledge the tragedy of slavery; and to educate future generations about the lingering consequences of the centuries-long enslavement of and trade in Africans supplied to the colonies of the Americas, the Caribbean, and Europe. This includes the legacy of hatred, bigotry, racism, racial prejudice, and xenophobia – which are linked to current economic and social inequalities worldwide that continue to pervade the international community.

The goal of the competition is to identify and select an outstanding design for the Memorial to enshrine the legacy of millions of African captives whose untold stories, memories and contribution to humanity forever changed the world's societies. The Memorial's aesthetic appeal must complement the landscape of the UN Headquarters in New York City. [See: Site Information in Annex I below] The selected design must have the potential to be an iconic monument that deepens the visitor's visual and spiritual experience at the United Nations Headquarters as they acquire an understanding of this historical and social tragedy. The winning design will highlight the cross cultural and global impact of the Transatlantic Slave Trade, while honouring the memory of those who died and those who have shared their struggle.

## V. Brief Description

The Permanent Memorial competition is an Open International Design Competition to be conducted in two stages.

In the first stage, organized by UNESCO (Phase I), all submitted designs shall be initially reviewed for qualification. Qualifying Participants shall then be further reviewed for selection of 16 semi-finalists by a Selection Committee composed of UNESCO staff and experts. The selected 16 semi-finalists shall be forwarded by UNESCO to the Permanent Memorial Committee at United Nations Headquarters where an international panel of judges will be established in Phase II of the Competition.

In Phase II, organized by the Permanent Memorial Committee, the international panel of judges will review the sixteen (16) semi-final designs and identify seven (7) finalists, who shall be invited to New York for interviews. The panel of judges will subsequently select a winning design.

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## The general competition schedule is anticipated as follows:

Sequence of Activities	Time Table
1. Launch of design competition and dissemination of Guidelines and Rules	August-September 2011
2. Closure of submissions	23 January 2012
3. Notify sixteen (16) selected artists and relevant Member States of selected semi-finalist applications;	February 2012
4. Review of sixteen (16) semi-finalists applications, and selection of seven (7) finalists	February 2012
5. Notify seven (7) selected finalists and relevant Member States; and press announcements as appropriate	March 2012
6. Interview of seven (7) finalists in New York	March 2012
7. Selection of winner	1st April 2012
8. Press announcements	1st April 2012

## VI. Site Information

Specific indications with regard to the site for the establishment of the permanent memorial and general information on United Nations Landscape are provided in annex I.

## VII. Competition Regulations

### A. Acceptance of the Competition Guidelines and Rules

By participating in this competition, the Participants accept unconditionally the present Guidelines and Rules.

### B. Eligibility

1. The design competition for the Permanent Memorial is open to all artists, including graphic designers, sculptors, architects, new media and other visual arts professionals from all geographic regions of the world.
2. The participants shall enroll in their private and personal capacity, and shall not be acting on behalf of any organization, governmental or non-governmental; corporate or private entity.
3. Designs from Participants who are minors at the time of submission must be supervised by a creative professional, and submitted by a person having legal responsibility for them.
4. Designs from both individuals and collaborative groups are acceptable.
5. The sixteen (16) semi-finalists must avail themselves the opportunity to forward any reasonable modification requested to the Selection Committee within a reasonable time.

### C. Judging Criteria

Criteria for Permanent Memorial Design Selection include the following requirements:

1. Basic Criteria
  - i) Be a symbol that acknowledges the tragedy and legacy of slavery and the slave trade;
  - ii) Have resonance with all human beings, but especially for the global community of people of African descent and its Diaspora; and the descendants of the victims of slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade;
  - iii) Encourage reflection on the common heritage resulting from the interactions generated by this history;

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- iv) An educational and learning component is desirable and would enhance the winning design;
- v) Should be durable and be able to withstand the prevailing outdoor climatic conditions for New York City at the UN Headquarters location; and
- vi) Reflect the theme: “Acknowledging the Tragedy; Considering the Legacy; Lest we Forget”.

## 2. Conceptual Criteria for appreciation:

- i) Capacity to address the pertinence or relevance of remembering the magnitude, duration, and scale of the tragedy; and legacy of slavery and the slave trade;
- ii) Ability to embody the affected regions of the Transatlantic Slave Trade and in particular Africa, the Americas, including the Caribbean, and Europe;
- iii) Sensitivity to gender and generational experiences of enslavement;
- iv) Quality and originality of its visual presentation, and use of relevant iconography with a creative interpretation;
- v) Comprehensive and inspiring interpretation of this massive inhumane experience that has shaped and continues to shape humanity;
- vi) Capacity to illustrate and celebrate the dignity of enslaved peoples in their struggle and resilience; and
- vii) Aesthetic value.

## D. Submission of Designs

1. All entries for Phase I of the design competition must reach UNESCO by 5:00pm, on Monday, 23 January 2012 (GMT+1).
2. The designs are to be sent by postal mail or courier service to UNESCO Headquarters at the address mentioned below. Designs forwarded by courier are at the expense of the Participant. The designs can also be sent by e-mail and should be in TIFF, JPEG or PDF format.
3. Each Participant or group of participants may submit a single design to be sent in its final form and accompanied by the Application Form and other required materials.
4. All documentation submitted should be written either in English or in French.
5. Participants are required to submit their proposal together with:
  - (a) The Application Form providing their full contact details (name, address, e-mail, phone number);
  - (b) The Authorship Declaration, duly dated and signed;
  - (c) The Declaration of the Partner's Terms, duly dated and signed;
  - (d) Resume(s) or Curriculum Vitae;
  - (e) A signed “Artist's Statement” (two (2) standard pages single-spaced, maximum) that provides insight into the Participant's creative process, vision for the Permanent Memorial, expertise, and “connection” to slavery and the Transatlantic Slave Trade; and
  - (f) Two (2) color sketches and one (1) written narrative (see Technical Format below);
  - (g) Under no circumstance should the proposed design itself indicate either the contact details, or any information on age, gender or national origin of the artist.

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6. The Partners shall not be responsible for damages, losses or delay of the submission before reaching UNESCO.
7. Any person (or team) submitting a design within the framework of the Competition certifies that his/her/their design does not violate the rights of a third party or any copyright.
8. Designs sent to UNESCO will not be returned to the Participants.
9. Deadline for Phase II: Further details will be provided to the selected semi-finalists regarding the submission deadline for Phase II.

## E. Technical Format of Proposal Design

### Each proposal should include:

1. Two (2) sketches - one perspectival and one elevation drawing. As submitted, the sketches should fill about two-thirds (2/3) of the space of an A4 page (19.5cmx14cm minimum).
2. Two (2) photographs or digital prints may also be submitted.
3. One (1) written narrative explaining the piece, including its dimensions and material(s). This narrative should not exceed two (2) A4 pages with single-spaced line spacing.
4. If submitted by postal mail, all designs, including digital prints, are to be fixed on card-stock (A4 format, 300g/m<sup>2</sup>, minimal resolution of 300dpi and 500Ko maximum).
5. A three-dimensional (3D) maquette will be required for the sixteen (16) selected semi-finalists according to specific instructions to be provided after selection.

## F. Official Contact

### 1) For Phase I

#### By postal mail or courier service to:

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)  
History and Memory for Dialogue Section  
1, rue Miollis  
75732 PARIS CEDEX 15  
FRANCE  
ATTENTION: Permanent Memorial International Design Competition

#### OR

By e-mail at: [slaverymemorial@unesco.org](mailto:slaverymemorial@unesco.org)

**Subject:** Permanent Memorial International Design Competition

**Websites:** [www.unslaverymemorial.org](http://www.unslaverymemorial.org) / [www.unesco.org/culture/slaveroute](http://www.unesco.org/culture/slaveroute)

### 2) For Phase II

Information on additional requirements, as well as place of delivery, will be communicated only to the sixteen (16) selected semi-finalists.

#### Particular Note:

- Questions from Participants concerning Phase I of the competition should be addressed by mail to its Secretariat at [slaverymemorial@unesco.org](mailto:slaverymemorial@unesco.org), not later than 13 January 2012.
- The Competition Guidelines and Rules shall be made available at all UNESCO Field Office, and National Commissions around the world, as well as on the website.

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## G. Principle of Confidentiality

The Secretariat of the competition will ensure that any information received relating to age, gender or national origin of the Participant remains strictly confidential at all stages of the competition prior to selection. Statistical information regarding the number of submitted designs as well as general information on the Participants may be communicated as long as it does not concern a particular proposal.

## H. Disqualification

**Disqualification may arise for any of the following reasons:**

1. The entry is in violation of the present Competition Guidelines and Rules;
2. The entry is a copy or plagiarized version of existing projects;
3. The entry or any part thereof is published prior to notification of the jury's final decision;
4. The entry is submitted by members of the Jury, UNESCO staff members and experts or of the United Nations Secretariat, and their relatives up to the third degree; or by any person ineligible by law or under special regulations, unless otherwise officially authorized.

## I. Prize of the Competition

1. Sixteen (16) designs will be short listed for the final selection of a winner. The sixteen (16) entries will be further evaluated to identify seven (7) finalists. The seven (7) finalists will be awarded a trip to New York including airfare, accommodation and per diem to participate in the final judging process in Phase II of the competition.
2. The winner will be awarded USD 50,000 by the Permanent Memorial Committee.

## J. Copyright and Right of Ownership

1. Any person submitting a design within the framework of the competition certifies and warrants that his/her proposal does not violate the rights of a third party and/or any copyright.
2. The Partners and pre-selected applicants shall sign a specific agreement referring to a temporary transfer of copyrights for submitted artworks, for the duration of 5 years, permitting its use (on-line and off-line publications, catalogues, promotion and media dissemination...).
3. 3. The Partners shall enjoy the same temporary transfer of copyrights to use, in part or in whole, the pictures, images, prototypes, sketches and drawings of the submitted projects for such purposes as photocopying, publishing, promotion and exhibition in relation to the competition.
4. 4. All of the submitted designs remain the intellectual property of their creators, even in the case of subsidiary and temporary transfer of copyrights to the Partners.
5. The winner(s) shall enter into an agreement with the Permanent Memorial Committee, confirming the terms and conditions on the ownership including all the intellectual property rights and the award he/she will receive, as defined in the present Guidelines and Rules, and setting forth the terms and conditions on the construction of the piece, the timeframe for execution, use of the artist's name, and related promotional activities.



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## K. Use of the Results of the Competition for Public Information

By the submission of their designs, the Participants authorize the Partners to use their designs for purposes of public information, for example to publish the results of the competition in the spoken, written and/or electronic media — with the name of the creator — and to exhibit or publish any of the submitted designs anywhere in the world.

## L. Claims

1. The Partners shall bear no responsibility in the event of loss, delay of delivery or deterioration of designs.
2. The Partners will not cover any cost relating to the creation of the design or the sending/ submission of the designs.

## M. Arbitration

The Partners reserve the right in their absolute discretion to disqualify any entry or participant, or to waive any rules in the event of circumstances arising outside the Partners' control which, in their opinion, make it desirable to cancel the competition at any stage. On all matters the Partners' decision shall be final.