



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

30/10/2015

Ref.: CL/4139

Subject: **Call for nominations for the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence (2016)**

Sir/Madam,

I have the honour to invite your Government to submit nominations for the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence (2016). The Prize is intended to honour significant activities in the scientific, artistic, cultural or communication fields that aim to promote a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

Established in 1995 to mark the United Nations Year for Tolerance and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, it was renewed by decision of the Executive Board (192 EX/Decision 35) in 2014. The Prize has been awarded biennially since 1996, on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance and the anniversary day of the founding of UNESCO – 16 November. In 2016, it will be awarded for the tenth time.

As stipulated in its Statutes, the Prize consists of a financial award from a donation made graciously by the Madanjeet Singh Foundation. The Prize amount of US \$100,000 may be divided equally between two winners. The prize-winner(s) is (are) selected by me on the basis of assessments of, and recommendations on, the nominees for the Prize, made to me by the Prize Jury.

Nominations may be submitted to me by Member States in consultation with their National Commissions, as well as by non-governmental organizations and foundations maintaining official relations with UNESCO and active in a field covered by the Prize. Former Laureates of the Prize, qualified eminent personalities, and any suitable person or civil society organization working for the advancement of a culture of peace, human rights, non-violence and tolerance in the world also may nominate candidates worthy of receiving this outstanding international distinction.

In conformity with Article 3 of the Statutes, candidates should be men, women, institutions or non-governmental organizations that have distinguished themselves, through particularly remarkable initiatives and extending over several years, in the promotion of understanding and the resolution of international or national problems in a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

Confident as I am of your Government's interest in the promotion of tolerance and non-violence in the world as a precondition of sustainable peace and development, I am sure you will give this Prize all due attention and will be in a position to propose the most qualified candidates of your country.

I should be grateful if your submission of candidates could be made using the attached form (Annex I), which should be completed in either English or French – the working languages of the UNESCO Secretariat – on the basis of the provisions contained in the Prize's "Note for the Nominators". Each candidate nomination must include an explanation of the choice on the basis of the goals and objectives clearly defined in the attached Statutes (Annex II). Additional materials (publications, video, audio and other teaching materials, etc.) may be attached to the nomination form. They will be presented to the Prize's Jury and will remain at UNESCO. You are requested kindly to return the nomination form to the address indicated on it before **29 February 2016**, to ensure its due consideration by the Jury.

Ms Nada Al-Nashif, Assistant Director-General of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, and her colleagues stand ready to provide you with any additional information you may require in this regard. All inquiries initially should be addressed directly to Ms Golda El-Khoury, Secretary of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, in the same Sector (UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris Cedex 15; tel. : +33 1 45 68 45 47 or +33 1 45 68 45 57; tolerance.prize@unesco.org).

Information about the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, as well as the nomination form, also can be found on the Sector's website (www.unesco.org/shs/toleranceprize).

Accept, Sir/Madam, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Irina Bokova
Director-General

Encs. 2

cc: National Commissions for UNESCO
Permanent Delegations and Observers to UNESCO
UNESCO field offices

ANNEX I

UNESCO-MADANJEET SINGH PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND NON-VIOLENCE 2016

Nomination Form

Note for the nominators:

1. No self-nomination can be considered.
2. Each government of a Member State or any other qualified nominator may present a maximum of two nominations if it considers them eligible for the Prize.
3. **Nomination form must be completed in full in English or French**, which are UNESCO's working languages.
4. Nominators must sign or initial every page of the nomination form, date and, if nominators are institutions, place a stamp on its last page. The nominators are kindly invited to send the nomination form to UNESCO accompanied by a cover letter, duly signed.
5. Nominators are invited to submit two letters of support, at least, duly signed, from an institution/personality, not related to the nominee, emphasizing the relevance of the nomination vis-à-vis the requirements of the Prize, to accompany the nomination.
6. **Nominations should be submitted by 29 February 2016.** To optimize the handling of nominations, advanced copies of the nomination documents can be sent by electronic mail or fax to the address indicated in item 7 below.
7. **Nominations should be sent directly to: Ms Golda El-Khoury**, Secretary of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence in the same Sector (UNESCO, 7 Place de Fontenoy, 75007 Paris Cedex 15; tel.: +33 1 45 68 45 47 or +33 1 45 68 45 57; email: tolerance.prize@unesco.org).

1. Information about the nominator:

1.1 Nomination submitted by Member State:

Country:

Nominator (Please indicate the name and title of the officials and organizations, qualified to submit nominations for the Prize on behalf of their Government.):

In consultation with the National Commission for UNESCO of:

(In conformity with Article 6.3 of the Statutes, nominations shall be submitted by the governments of Member States in consultation with their National Commissions for UNESCO. Please indicate the [National Commission](#)(s) of which UNESCO Member States have been consulted on the nomination.

If the nominator(s) and the nominee are nationals of different Member States, it is recommended that the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the National Commission for UNESCO of the nominee's Member State be informed of the nomination.

The nominators are kindly invited to forward the original nomination form directly to the Secretary of the Prize via the [Permanent Delegation to UNESCO](#) of their country, whenever possible).

or

1.2 Nomination submitted by non-governmental organization (NGO):

NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO <input type="checkbox"/>	Foundation maintaining official relations with UNESCO <input type="checkbox"/>	Other civil society organization <input type="checkbox"/>
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Name and acronym:

Country:

Responsible person:
(Please indicate the name and title of the official qualified to submit nomination on behalf of the NGO.)

or

1.3 Nomination submitted by qualified personalities:

Ms **or Mr** **Surname:** **First name:**

1.4 Contact details (both for institutional and individual nominators)

Full address: No. <input type="checkbox"/> Street <input type="checkbox"/> Bld. <input type="checkbox"/> Av.
Post Code: City:
Country:
Person(s) in charge (full name and function):
Telephone (please indicate country and city codes):
Fax:
Email:
Internet:

2. Information about the nominee

2.1 For institutional candidates

Name and acronym:	
Date and place of creation (please provide a copy of the General Rules/Statutes):	
City and country of the headquarters:	
Field of activity:	
Financial sources:	

or

2.2 For individual candidates

Ms <input type="checkbox"/> or Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Surname: First name:
Date and place of birth:
Nationality:
Education and profession:

2.3 For institutional and individual candidates: contact details

Full address: no.	<input type="checkbox"/> Street	<input type="checkbox"/> Bld.	<input type="checkbox"/> Av.
Post Code:	City:		
Country:			
Telephone (please indicate country and city codes):			
Fax:	Email:		
Internet:			

3. Presentation of the candidate

3.1 A description of the candidate's background and achievements extending over several years (1/2-1 page).

- 3.2** A summary of the nominee's activities or results of activities, publications and other relevant documents of major importance, including audio and video materials, pedagogical tools, etc. (1/2-1 page).

- 3.3** Activity/project undertaken to contribute to the promotion of a spirit of tolerance and non-violence for which the candidate is nominated for the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, 2016 (1/2-1 page), and the impact it has produced, in accordance with Article 3 (a) of the Statutes of the Prize.

3.4 Conclusion: (1/2-1 page).

3.5 Referees: Please provide the names of three persons, not related to the candidates, who are familiar with his/her/their/its work:

(i) **Name:** _____

Profession: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

(ii) Name:

Profession:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

(iii) Name:

Profession:

Address:

Tel:

Fax:

E-mail:

3.6 Signature of the nominator and stamp (for institutions only)

ANNEX II

STATUTES OF THE UNESCO-MADANJEET SINGH PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND NON-VIOLENCE

Article 1 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence is to honour significant activities in the scientific, artistic, cultural or communication field aimed at the promotion of a spirit of tolerance and non-violence. The prize, which was established in 1995 on the occasion of United Nations Year for Tolerance and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi, may be awarded to institutions, organizations or persons who have contributed in a particularly meritorious and effective manner to tolerance and non-violence, and to the families of intellectuals who have fallen victim to intolerance. The contribution should be in line with the Charter of the United Nations and UNESCO's Constitution and should fully correspond to the principles and standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international instruments.

The objective of the Prize conforms to the UNESCO Strategy on Human Rights, the UNESCO Integrated Strategy to Combat Racism, Discrimination, Xenophobia and Intolerance, adopted by the General Conference at its 32nd session in 2003, and the policies and priorities for the entire Organization, in particular UNESCO's two overarching objectives: "Peace – Contribution to peace" and "Equitable and sustainable development – Contributing to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty" [Medium-Term Strategy 2016-2021 (37 C/4) and the Programme and Budget 2016-2017 (37 C/5)].

Article 2 – Designation, amount and periodicity of the Prize

2.1 The Prize shall be entitled "The UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence".

2.2 The Prize and all expenses related thereto shall be funded by the Donor – the Madanjeet Singh Foundation (MSF), established in conformity with the last will of Mr Madanjeet Singh, and shall consist of a sum of a recurrent payment of US \$150,000. The value of the Prize shall be determined by the Director-General in consultation with the Donor on the basis of the contribution received from the Donor, the interest on the sum deposited in the Special Account, in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, and the charges to be borne by the account for the cost of administering the Prize.

2.3 The financial contribution for the Prize shall be made by the Donor every two years and shall be transferred by the Donor during the third trimester of the year preceding the year of the award of the Prize. All funds received and the interest accrued thereon shall be kept in the Special Interest-Bearing Account for the Prize in conformity with its Financial Regulations (see Appendix). The Prize will be awarded in an even year of UNESCO's Programme and Budget.

2.4 The full staff support and operating/management costs of the Prize, including all costs related to the meeting of the International Jury, award ceremony and public information activities, estimated at US \$50,000, shall be fully covered by the contribution from the Donor, received to the Special Account for the Prize. To this end, the Director-General will determine a mandatory overhead cost amount to be applied and charged against the funds in the Special Account, which is to be established under the Financial Regulations for the Prize.

2.5 The Prize shall be awarded every two years, or once every UNESCO biennium, in an even year of UNESCO's programme cycle, on an initial basis for three biennia. The Prize amount may be equally divided between two winners, each of which is considered to merit the Prize.

Article 3 – Conditions/Qualifications of candidates

3.1 Candidates shall have made exceptional contributions and demonstrated leadership in the field of the promotion of tolerance. The prizewinner(s) shall be required to have taken one or more particularly remarkable initiatives to promote the development of tolerance and non-violence, namely:

(a)

by directly carrying out an educational activity;

by implementing international, national, regional or local programmes aimed at the promotion of tolerance and non-violence;

by mobilizing initiatives and/or means likely to contribute to the implementation of such programmes;

by producing teaching materials or other special aids designed for the development of programmes to teach tolerance and non-violence;

by undertaking, coordinating or encouraging research in those fields or fields related to specific aspects of tolerance;

by conducting special surveys or launching original undertakings that have made for significant development in the promotion of tolerance and non-violence.

(b) In addition, the following criteria will be taken into consideration:

the activity must have lasted long enough for its results to be evaluated and its effectiveness verified;

it must represent an outstanding contribution to the fundamental objectives of UNESCO and the United Nations in the fields of tolerance and non-violence;

the work accomplished must be exemplary and likely to instigate similar initiatives;

it must have shown itself to be effective in mobilizing new intellectual and material resources;

it must represent a contribution to the understanding and solution of international or national problems in a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

3.2 The Prize may be conferred upon an individual, a group of individuals, institutions and other entities or non-governmental organizations.

Article 4 – Designation/Selection of the prizewinner(s)

The prizewinner(s) [up to two laureates] shall be selected by the Director-General of UNESCO on the basis of the assessments and recommendations made by an international jury.

Article 5 – Jury

5.1 The Jury shall consist of three independent members, of different nationalities and gender, appointed by the Director-General for a period of two years, eligible for re-election for a maximum term of three consecutive two-year periods. Members of the Jury should have an internationally recognized reputation in the field of peace, human rights, tolerance and non-violence. Representatives and alternatives of Members of the Executive Board may not serve as jurors. Jurors involved in a real or potential conflict of interest shall recuse themselves from further

deliberations or be asked by the Director-General to do so. The Director-General may replace members of the jury for this reason.

5.2 The Jury shall elect its own Chairperson. Members shall receive no remuneration for their work, but will receive allowances for travel and accommodation, where required. A quorum of two jurors present will be required for Jury deliberations to proceed. The working languages for deliberations by the Jury shall be English and French. When circumstances so require, the Jury may conduct its business and deliberations through electronic means, including telephone or video conference or E-mail.

5.3 The Jury shall conduct its business and deliberations in conformity with these Statutes and shall be assisted in the performance of its task by the Secretary of the Prize (a member of the UNESCO Secretariat), designated by the Director-General. Decisions shall be taken by consensus to the extent possible, and otherwise by secret ballot until a simple majority is obtained. A member shall not take part in a vote concerning a nomination from his or her country.

5.4 The Jury shall hold its deliberations once every two years for two working days two months after the closing date for the submission of nominations, to make its recommendations to the Director-General for the selection of that year's prizewinner.

5.5 The Jury shall send an assessment on nominations and accompanying recommendations to the Director-General of UNESCO following its meeting at UNESCO Headquarters and no later than 30 September of the year of the award of the Prize.

Article 6 – Nomination of candidates

6.1 When UNESCO has received the funding of the prize, as indicated in Article 2 above, the Director-General of UNESCO shall officially invite the submission of nominations to the Secretariat of the Prize, by 1 March of the year of the award of the Prize, from the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, from non-governmental organizations and foundations maintaining official relations with the Organization and active in a field covered by the Prize, as well as from former laureates of the Prize, eminent persons qualified in the opinion of the Director-General and from any person or civil society organization working for the advancement of a culture of peace, human rights, non-violence and tolerance in the world and considered suitable.

6.2 The Director-General shall also take all necessary steps to encourage an increased number of nominations, in particular by calling upon all persons and civil society organizations working for the advancement of a culture of peace, human rights, non-violence and tolerance in the world, in line with the Charter of the United Nations, UNESCO's Constitution and the principles and standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and other relevant international instruments.

6.3 Nominations shall be submitted to the Director-General by the governments of Member States, in consultation with their National Commissions, by non-governmental organizations and foundations maintaining official relations with the Organization and active in a field covered by the Prize, as well as former laureates of the Prize, eminent persons qualified in the opinion of the Director-General and by any person or civil society organization working for the advancement of a culture of peace, human rights, non-violence and tolerance in the world and considered suitable. A self-nomination cannot be considered.

6.4 The Director-General of UNESCO shall encourage Member States, in addition to any other qualified "nominator", to submit nominations duly justified on the basis of the goals and objectives clearly defined in the present Statutes governing the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence. In particular, each nomination shall be accompanied by a written recommendation, signed by the nominee, if an individual, or by a responsible authority, if an institution, of not more than five standard pages in length, which shall include, in English or

French, *inter alia* (all other materials may be attached as an annex; they will not be returned to nominators):

- (a) a description of the candidate's background and achievements;
- (b) a summary of the work or the results of the work, publications and other supporting documents of major importance, submitted for consideration;
- (c) a definition of the candidate's contribution to the Prize's objectives.

6.5 The Secretariat of the Prize shall be authorized to bring to the Jury's attention any nominations failing to meet all the criteria set forth in the present Statutes of the Prize.

Article 7 – Procedure for the awarding of the Prize

7.1 The Prize shall be awarded by the Director-General at an official ceremony held for that purpose at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris on the occasion of International Day for Tolerance, 16 November. UNESCO shall present to the prizewinner(s) a check for the amount of the prize. UNESCO shall officially announce the name/s of the prizewinner(s).

7.2 If a work being rewarded has been produced by two or three persons, the Prize shall be awarded to them jointly. In no case may a prize amount be divided between more than three persons.

7.3 The prizewinner(s), if possible, shall give a lecture on a subject relevant to the work for which the Prize has been awarded. Such a lecture shall be organized during or in connection with the Prize ceremony.

7.4 The work produced by a person since deceased shall not be considered for a prize. If, however, a prizewinner dies before he has received the Prize, then the Prize may be presented posthumously (awarded to relatives or institution).

7.5 Should a prizewinner decline the Prize, the Jury shall submit a new proposal to the Director-General.

Article 8 – Sunset clause – mandatory renewal of the Prize

8.1 Six months prior to the agreed end of the term of the Prize, the Director-General of UNESCO together with the donor will undertake a review of all aspects of the Prize and decide about its continuation or termination. The Director-General will inform the Executive Board of UNESCO about the results of this review through a document summarizing all pertinent developments in this regard so that the Executive Board could adopt a final decision on whether to pursue or discontinue a prize accordingly.

8.2 In case of termination of a Prize, the use of any unspent balance of funds shall be determined by the Director-General, in accordance with the financial regulations for the Prize.

Article 9 – Appeals

No appeals shall be allowed against the decision of UNESCO with regard to the award of the Prize. Proposals received for the award of a Prize may not be divulged.

Article 10 – Amendments to the Statutes of the Prize

Any amendment to the present Statutes shall be submitted to the Executive Board for approval.

APPENDIX
FINANCIAL REGULATIONS
OF THE SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR THE UNESCO-MADANJEET SINGH
PRIZE FOR THE PROMOTION OF TOLERANCE AND NON-VIOLENCE

Article 1 – Creation of a Special Account

1.1 In accordance with Article 6, paragraph 6, of the Financial Regulations of UNESCO, there is hereby created a Special Account for the “UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence”, hereafter referred to as the Special Account.

1.2 The following regulations shall govern the operation of the Special Account.

Article 2 – Financial period

The financial period shall correspond to that of UNESCO.

Article 3 – Purpose

The purpose of the UNESCO-Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence is to honour significant activities in the scientific, artistic, cultural or communication field aimed at the promotion of a spirit of tolerance and non-violence.

Article 4 – Income

The income of the Special Account shall consist of:

- (a) a sum of a recurrent payment of \$150,000 which shall be made by the Donor – the South Asia Foundation (SAF), every two years to the Special Account for the Prize;
- (b) voluntary contributions from States, international agencies and organizations, as well as other entities;
- (c) such amounts provided from the regular budget of the Organization as might be determined by the General Conference;
- (d) such subventions, endowments, gifts and bequests as are allocated to it for purposes consistent with the object of the Special Account;
- (e) miscellaneous income, including any interest earned on the investments referred to in Article 7 below.

Article 5 – Expenditure

The Special Account shall be debited with the expenditure relating to its purpose as described in Article 3 above, including administrative expenses specifically relating to it.

Article 6 – Accounts

6.1 The UNESCO Comptroller shall maintain such accounting records as are necessary.

6.2 Any unused balance at the end of a financial period shall be carried forward to the following financial period.

6.3 The accounts of the Special Account shall be presented for audit to the External Auditor of UNESCO, together with the other accounts of the Organization.

6.4 Contributions in kind shall be recorded outside the Special Account.

Article 7 – Investments

7.1 The Director-General may make short-term investments of sums standing to the credit of the Special Account.

7.2 Interest earned on these investments shall be credited to the Special Account.

Article 8 – Closure of the Special Account

The Director-General shall decide upon the closure of the Special Account at such time as he deems that its operation is no longer necessary and inform the Executive Board accordingly. The Director-General shall decide about the use of any unspent balance of funds.

Article 9 – General provision

Unless otherwise provided in these Regulations, the Special Account shall be administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations of UNESCO.