

Justice for Children Award – 2nd edition

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Objective

The “Justice for Children Award” is a prize that is handed out for the best academic paper written by students enrolled in higher education institutions in Europe on the subject of violence against children in the justice system.

Defence for Children International and the World Organization against Torture have initiated this prize to:

- a. Promote the protection of children’s rights within justice systems
- b. Encourage research on violence against children in justice systems

2. Conditions for participation

- a. Applicants shall be students or former students enrolled in a Master’s programme in Europe (28 country members of the European Union, Switzerland and Norway):
 - Students currently enrolled in a Master’s programme
 - Master students that have graduated from a Master’s programme after 30 April 2016 and are currently not enrolled in an academic program
- b. Students and former students can submit a paper:
 - Individually: one (1) applicant submits one (1) paper
 - Jointly: a maximum of two (2) applicants jointly submit one (1) paper. **Please note that if a joint submission is declared winner, the monetary prize will be equally split among the two applicants. Moreover, DCI and OMCT will only be able to fund the travel of one (1) applicant to Geneva for the award-winning ceremony and related activities.*
- c. Contestants must have read and agreed with the rules and regulations as laid down in this document.

3. Application Process

Participants shall submit their applications by sending the following documents electronically to award@defenceforchildren.org **no later than Sunday 15 October 2017** (deadline extended):

- academic paper;
- completed application form;
- confirmation of enrolment or graduation from a European University;

Incomplete and/or late applications will not be taken into consideration.

4. Academic Paper - Terms and conditions

The paper shall:

- a. Not have been previously published;
- b. Be clearly related to the theme of this second edition: “violence against girls in the justice system” (see concept note for more details) and make clear references to relevant international legal standards (e.g. UN Convention on the Rights of the Child);
- c. Be written in French or English;
- d. Not exceed 10'000 words (annexes and footnotes excluded)

Plagiarism and referencing:

All sources used by participants shall be clearly and correctly referenced both in the text (either using footnotes or in text (author, date, page number)) and in the references section at the end of the paper.

Plagiarism means the misrepresentation of the words or ideas of another as one's own. It applies to published material (whether in print or electronically), as well as unpublished material, such as the work of another student.

Plagiarism will be treated as a form of fraud and will lead to the automatic exclusion of the applicant's paper from the competition;

In order to avoid any case of plagiarism, DCI and OMCT strongly recommend to all participants to align to their University's regulations regarding plagiarism and encourage them to consult the followings website for additional information:
<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism> &
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/01/>

5. Criteria

The papers will be judged by a jury on the following criteria:

- a. **academic quality**;
- b. **social and/or legal relevance**;
- c. **originality**

6. Jury

- a. The jury consists of maximum 5 experts in the field of children's rights and academics, selected by DCI and OMCT
- b. One member of the Jury will play the role of Chairperson. A member of the jury can be replaced with another jury member in case he or she:
 - is the mentor/supervisor of one of the contestants;



- is a first degree relative of the contestant;
 - is unable to participate as a juror due to other circumstances
- c. The jury will put together a shortlist of maximum 5 finalists.
 - d. The jury will then consider the (maximum) five shortlisted papers and the majority rule will apply for the designation of the award-winning paper.
 - e. In case the majority cannot be reached, the Chairperson of the jury will have a final say.
 - f. Only one (1) paper can be declared as winner.
 - g. Honorary mention: after selecting the winning paper, the Jury can decide to attribute an honourable mention to one (1) other paper.
 - h. In case the jury unanimously rules that none of the submitted papers are eligible for receiving the award, the prize will not be handed out.

7. Prize and ceremony

The Justice for Children Award consists of:

- a. A monetary prize;
- b. The publication of the winning paper on the websites of DCI and OMCT;
- c. Participating in the award-winning ceremony as well as attending a session of a UN Human Rights mechanism (Human Rights Council, Committee on the Rights of the Child or Committee against Torture) and visit other relevant international. **As stated above, should a joint submission be declared winner, DCI and OMCT will only be able to fund the travel of one (1) applicant to Geneva for the award-winning ceremony and related activities.*

Honourable mention: should a contestant be awarded an honourable mention, his/her paper will be published on DCI and OMCT websites.

8. Ceremony

The award ceremony will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, in November/December 2017 (date to be confirmed)

9. Final Provisions

In all matters unforeseen in the rules and regulations, the Chairperson of the jury will have a final say.