



GLOBAL PLURALISM AWARD

2025 SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

award.pluralism.ca

A vibrant, close-up photograph of a woman in the center, smiling broadly. She is wearing a blue denim hat with a white stripe, dark sunglasses, and a denim jacket over a striped shirt. A green lanyard is around her neck. She is surrounded by a diverse group of people, some with their arms raised, suggesting a festive or celebratory event. The background is slightly blurred, focusing attention on the woman.

Do you know a pluralism champion?



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	04
The Award	05
Eligibility Criteria	06
Selection Criteria	07
Award Timeline	09
Submission Process	10
Terms & Conditions	12



INTRODUCTION

The Global Pluralism Award recognizes pluralism in action.

Presented every other year to individuals, organisations, governments and businesses 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 Highness the Aga Khan 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: Oday Abu Karsh, representing 2023 Global Pluralism Award Winner REFORM: The Palestinian Association for Empowerment and Local Development with Meredith Preston McGhie, Secretary General at the Award Ceremony, in Ottawa, Canada, November 14, 2023—CREDIT: ©Andrea Cardin



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 2025, each of the three Award winners and up to seven honourable mention recipients, or their delegates, will be invited to the Award ceremony.

In addition to the financial Award, the Centre will work with Award winners and honourable mention recipients to develop a program of in-kind support and engagement in 2026. This may include communications support, collaboration through events and global convenings or opportunities to engage in the research and educational activities of the Centre.



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



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates from any country are eligible, including:

- + Individuals (e.g., artists, journalists, academics, policymakers, filmmakers, etc.);
- + Civil society organizations (e.g., professional associations, faith-based organizations, labour unions, non-profit research or educational institutions, local community groups, non-governmental organizations, foundations, think tanks, etc);
- + Social enterprises;
- + Corporations (public or private);
- + Educational, research and policy institutions (public or private);
- + Local/municipal, regional or federal/national branches or agencies of government.

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.
- + 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 have been found guilty of committing violent crimes, terrorism, or other criminal activities; or have publicly held extremist views.



SELECTION CRITERIA

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

Relevance to pluralism

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 2023 Global Pluralism Award in London, UK.
From left to right: Reeta Roy, Kim Ghattas, Marwan Muasher, Annika Söder, Yásnaya Aguilar Gil, Bishop Precious Omuku, the Honourable Ratna Omidvar—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

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.
- + Progress to improve the inclusion of diverse individuals or groups in the economy, society, culture, politics, health services, education sector, and so on.
- + A high likelihood of long-term sustainability.

Authenticity

Candidates must demonstrate that, through their activities, they have committed in an exceptional and sustained way to the inclusion of diverse individuals in the economy, society, culture, politics, health services, education sector, and so on.

- + If applying as an institution, candidates must have adopted equality and diversity policies and practices as reflected in their human resource policies, composition of their staff, membership and activities.
- + If applying as individuals, candidates must have defended and supported pluralism principles in their professional and personal lives.



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



AWARD TIMELINE

May 17
2024

Submission
process closes



CREDIT: ©Karen Ng-Hem

Submissions accepted until 5:00 PM Eastern Standard Time.

June 2024 –
September
2024

Submission processing
and initial screening



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

The Centre's Secretariat processes and screens submissions received.

October
2024

Selection of shortlist



CREDIT: ©Soliya

Shortlist candidates are notified and may be required to provide additional documentation. Unsuccessful candidates are notified.

March
2025

Jury meeting



CREDIT: ©Alejandro Unai Arrieta

An independent international Jury of experts reviews shortlisted submissions and selects a list of finalists. Unsuccessful candidates are notified.

May –
June 2025

Site visits to finalists



CREDIT: ©Estevan Padilla

As part of the due diligence process, the Centre may visit some candidates in person. The scope, dates and length of the visit will be agreed with candidates beforehand.

September –
October 2025

Public announcement
of Award winners



CREDIT: ©Patrick Doyle

Awareness-raising and in-country press conferences follow.

Late
2025

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 regrets that submissions are only accepted in English and French at this time.

The submission process closes on **May 17, 2024** at 5:00 pm Eastern Time.

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 May 17, 2024 at 5:00 pm ET.

STEP 3:
The candidate receives a confirmation email.

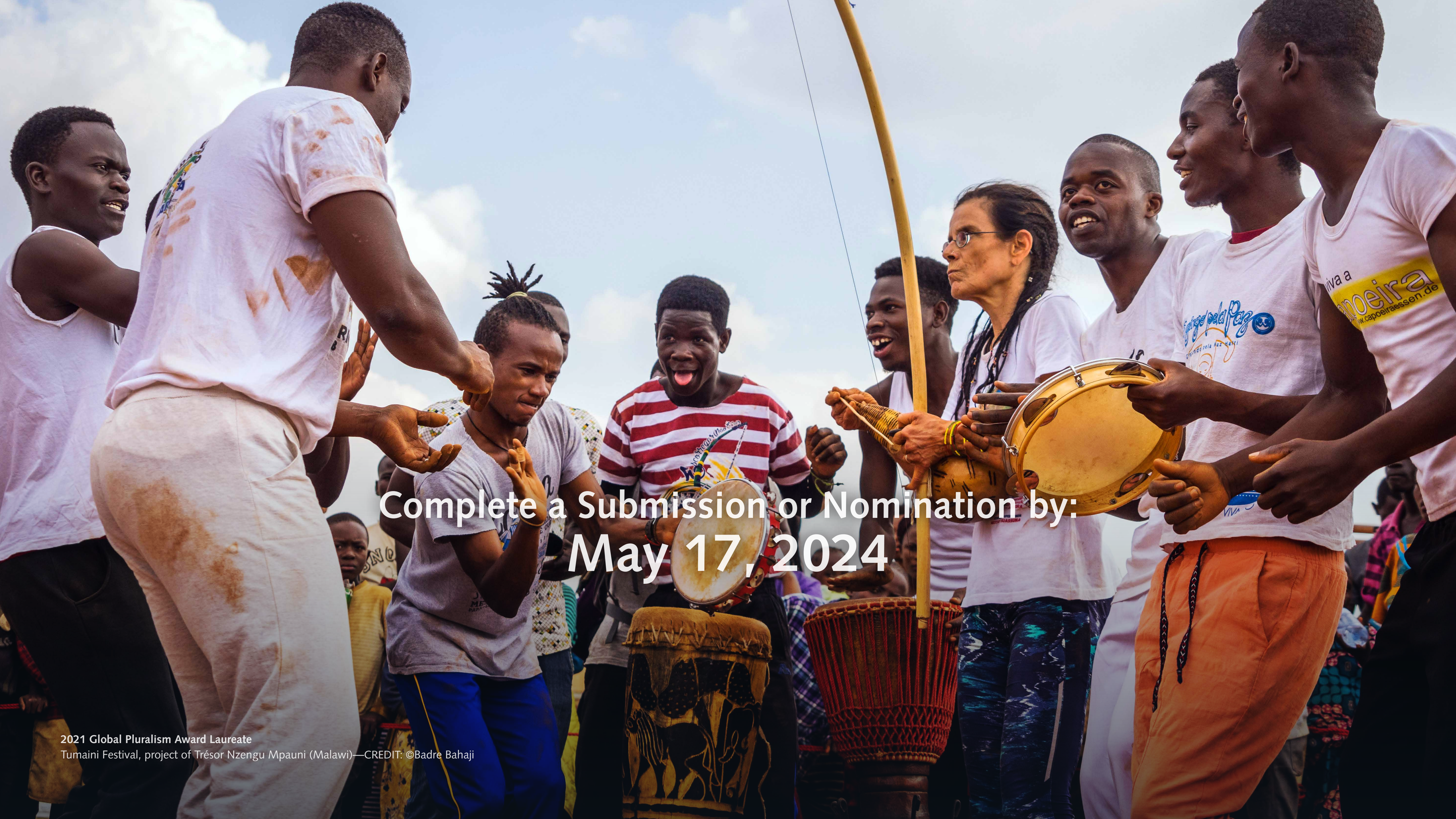
Submission by: **Nominator**

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 May 17, 2024 at 5:00 pm ET.

STEP 4:
Both the candidate and the nominator receive a confirmation email.



Complete a Submission or Nomination by:
May 17, 2024

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 2025. 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.