

NOMINATIONS for THE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S PEACE PRIZE ANNOUNCED



Amsterdam, 9 November 2008 – The nominations for the International Children's Peace Prize '08 are known. From the 45 entries, an Expert Committee has nominated five children for this prestigious prize. The winner will receive his or her prize on 4 December, from none other than Nobel Peace Prize Winner Desmond Tutu.

The International Children's Peace Prize will be presented for the fourth consecutive year in the Ridderzaal in The Hague. The five nominations are:

- Lovetta (15 years) from Liberia, who is devoted to improving the living conditions of child-asylum seekers and former child-asylum seekers, victims of the civil war in Liberia.
- Baruani (15 years) and Meshack (18 years), both refugees from the Congo, living in a refugee camp in Tanzania. They are devoted to the rights of child-asylum seekers, victims of the civil war in the Congo.
- Mayra (17 years) from Brazil, who is devoted to peace in the violent shantytowns of Brazil.
- Rishika (18 years) from India, who is devoted to the rights of underprivileged children, victims of child labour and child prostitution.

Children's Peace Prize

The International Children's Peace Prize is an initiative of KidsRights and is presented annually to a child for his or her devotion to the rights of the child, anywhere in the world. The goal of the prize is twofold: it is a sign of recognition for the winners and it also offers them a platform on which they can promote their ideals. In this way these young heroes' message has more impact, and they reach a larger public. The prize money of €100,000 that is attached to the Children's Peace Prize, is spent on projects that are closely connected to the winner's area of work. Everyone is free to propose someone for the Children's Peace Prize. It is important that it concerns a child that, in his or her way, makes a difference in the area of children's rights, anywhere in the world. An independent Expert Committee assesses the entrants and then selects the nominees. ABN AMRO has committed itself to be main sponsor of the Children's Peace Prize. The bank not only donates money, but also intensively involves its employees in the prize. Each year, many hundreds of employees help voluntarily on different projects organised by KidsRights.

Previous Winners

The first Children's Peace Prize was dedicated posthumously to Nkosi Johnson, for his work to offer a more dignified existence to South African children with HIV and AIDS. In 2006, the honour went to Om Prakash Gurjar from India. He received the prize from the Ex-President de Klerk of South Africa, for his unceasing work to combat child labour and liberate child slaves in India. Last year, the honour fell to Thandiwe Charma from Zambia. She received the Children's Peace Prize from Bob Geldof and Nobel Prize Winner, Betty Williams, for her devotion to the rights of children in her country, especially their right to education.

In the coming days, the Expert Committee will discuss who is to receive this beautiful statue on this fourth occasion on 4 December. The Committee comprises:

- Marc Dullaert, Founder and Chairman of the KidsRights Foundation and spiritual father of the Children's Peace Prize.
- Frans Roselaers, former Director of the ILO's (International Labour Organisation) International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).
- Prof. Jaap Doek, former Chairman of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

- Jeroo Billimoria, Founder and Chair of Child Helpline International and Founder and Director of Aflatoun, Child Savings International.
- Nevena Vuckovic, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

KidsRights

The Dutch Foundation, KidsRights, stands up for the position of vulnerable children across the world. To achieve this, KidsRights offers direct, tailored support to these children and generates attention for their position and rights. KidsRights helps by financing existing, well-organised local projects. It offers a platform to children, who themselves are usually unable to attract the eyes and ears of the world. As Nobel Peace Prize Winner, Desmond Tutu already so movingly said: "KidsRights seeks to give a voice to the voiceless. "

Further information regarding the Children's Peace Prize, the presentation on 4 December and the programme, can be found on www.kindervredesprijs.nl

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