

2026 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Nomination process guideline

Background

The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award is given annually to an individual, group or organization that has shown outstanding dedication and service to people forced to flee their homes or people who are stateless. Since 2017, we have also recognized several regional winners each year.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SELF NOMINATION IS HIGHLY DISCOURAGED.
THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS IS **MIDNIGHT CET, 23 JUNE 2026**.

Nominations

- Anyone may nominate a candidate for the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award.
- Nominations must be submitted via a Microsoft Form that will be accessible on the Nansen webpage at <https://www.unhcr.org/nominate> when nominations open.
- The strongest nominations will provide a detailed account of the candidate's work and results for displaced or stateless people, as well as three solid references to vouch for their character and impact.
- References should not all come from the same organization or group.
- Current or former UNHCR employees are not eligible.

Selection criteria

- Candidates may be individuals, groups, or organizations.
- Their work must have a direct and positive impact on the lives of forcibly displaced or stateless people.
- Their work relates to a major displacement situation or issue.
- They devote substantial time and effort to support forcibly displaced or stateless people, going above and beyond the call of duty and outside their expected role.
- They have the capacity to successfully implement a suitable project with the prize money.
- They have three strong references.

Selection process

- The Global Laureate and Regional Winners are chosen by an independent Selection Committee.
- The selection process for the Global Laureate and Regional Winners will remain strictly confidential, and no information regarding the status of a nomination will be released.
- The Global Laureate and Regional Winners will be announced in December 2026.