



Guidelines for Proposals for the Right Livelihood Award

The following guidelines are for anyone wishing to propose a candidate for the Right Livelihood Award. Prospective proposers who have not had previous contact with the Foundation are welcome to contact us via email (research@rightlivelihood.org) with brief information before making a formal submission.

Who can be proposed for a Right Livelihood Award?

Anyone - except Right Livelihood Award jury and staff members - can propose anyone (individuals or organisations), except themselves, close relatives or their own organisations to be considered for a Right Livelihood Award. The Right Livelihood Award Foundation reserves the right to refuse clearly unsuitable proposals.

Normally, the Foundation makes three cash awards and one Honorary Award each year. The cash awards are intended for work in progress or the extension of existing activities; they are never given for personal use.

At the sole discretion of the jury, an unsuccessful candidate may be held over for consideration in the following year. Otherwise an unsuccessful candidate can be proposed again after three years, if there is substantial new work to report.

We have a strict rule that proposals and candidates for the Right Livelihood Award **cannot be publicised**. Infringement of this rule will make a candidate liable to disqualification.

How to write a proposal for a Right Livelihood Award

Proposals should be submitted both electronically and as a paper copy via regular mail to our office in Geneva. Please send only one hard copy, preferably printed double-sided. As the working language of the Foundation and the jury is English, proposals should therefore preferably be written in English. However, we are able to accept proposals in Spanish or French if it is not possible to do so in English.

If the total number of documents does not exceed 25 pages, please consider only submitting the proposal electronically in order to reduce our environmental footprint.

The deadline for submission of proposals to be valid for the current year is **March 1**. Any proposals received after this date will normally be held for consideration in the following year.

Thank you for your co-operation. We look forward to hearing from you.



Postal Address:

Right Livelihood Award Foundation Geneva Office
Maison de la Paix
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2e, Building 5
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Secure Communication

Privacy is important to us. If your proposal contains sensitive information you would like to protect, we encourage you to use [GPG Suite email encryption](#) when you submit the proposal to the research team. You can download our public key from the GPG key server.

E-mail: research@rightlivelihood.org (public key: [34AE69E9](#))

From the Proposer

The proposer should be someone who knows the proposed person/organisation well, is familiar with their aims and goals, and can vouch for their bona fides. No more than one new candidate may be proposed in any one year. The proposer may consult the candidate in advance but may also choose to remain anonymous. The numbering of your answers according to the list of questions below will greatly facilitate our processing of information.

Note: If a proposer chooses not to contact the candidate (to remain anonymous), please make sure to submit the proposal in good time before the deadline so that the candidate has sufficient time to reply to the questions.

1. Full address, e-mail and phone (if available) of self and proposed candidate.
2. Nature and length of relationship with the candidate, mentioning professional, financial or political links, if any.
3. The proposer's expertise relevant to this proposal, mentioning his/her occupation.
4. Indication, with brief reasons, of whether the proposal is intended for a cash or Honorary Award. The Honorary Award is for candidates whose primary need is not cash support but who would benefit from the considerable recognition and publicity, which the Right Livelihood Award generates.
5. A brief summary (no more than 200 words) of the candidate's work. This paragraph will be the first information our jury receives about the candidate.



6. A statement setting out in more detail the reasons for the proposal and the candidate's special qualifications for an Award.
7. An assurance that the candidate's work is sufficiently mature to justify a Right Livelihood Award. An Award is likely to generate enquiries, requests for visits etc., from people wanting to learn about the project. We do not expect candidates to have facilities for visitors or for dealing with large numbers of enquiries, but we do expect them to be ready and able to share their knowledge.
8. Wherever possible, information about other individuals/organisations engaged in similar work. Submission of such information by the proposer is very valuable for the jury in order to make a comparative assessment.
9. Wherever possible, the names and contact details of two other qualified individuals or organisations who know the candidate well and who we could contact as references in case we have more questions. At least one of these, again where possible, should come from the candidate's country of residence.

From the Candidate

The following information is required from the proposed candidate. The candidate may submit this information jointly with the proposer. Otherwise, we will ask the candidate to submit this information after we have received a valid proposal.

1. A short history of your work/organisation including the duration of relevant activities, number of staff and volunteers. State full address, e-mail and phone.
2. Biographical data on yourself/organisation's founders and current leadership, also indicating the date of birth.
3. Written material produced by or about your project/organisation. Materials submitted cannot be returned. If you wish to submit publications, please send no more than one publication and not more than two different books.
4. Information about the financial situation of your organisation: Indicate your current budget and include copies of your most recent financial statements (balance sheet, profit & loss statement, and auditor's statement), preferably for the past three years.
5. Names, addresses and contact persons of the main donors (if any) from which funding has been received in the past three years.
6. Details of any financial connection between officers/staff members and the government or a political party.
7. A commitment not to publicise the proposal on CVs, websites or in any other way. Please sign this commitment by entering your signature, initials and date.