



- Press Release -

Desmond Tutu announces nominees Children's Peace Prize 2011

Nobel Peace Laureate emphasizes importance of children's involvement in improving children's rights worldwide

Amsterdam, 25 October 2011 – Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate, announced the five nominees for the International Children's Peace Prize 2011 in Cape Town today. The prize is an initiative of the Dutch organization KidsRights and was launched by KidsRights during 2005 Nobel Peace Laureates' Summit chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev. The International Children's Peace Prize is presented annually to a child, whose courageous or otherwise remarkable acts have made a difference in countering problems which affect children around the world.

The nominees for 2011 are Liza (17) from Palestine, Malala (13) from Pakistan, Michaela (17) from South Africa, Nikolay (17) from Armenia and Winfred (14) from Uganda*. They were chosen out of 98 children that were put forward by organizations and individuals from 42 different countries. One of them will be rewarded with the Children's Peace Prize on 21 November 2011 in the Netherlands. This year it will be the 7th time a child is rewarded with the Children's Peace Prize. Every year millions of people worldwide are touched by the special stories of the children. In a short period the prize has become the most prestigious international prize in the field of children's rights.

“The International Children's Peace Prize is a very important prize because it facilitates a platform for children, who make a valuable contribution to a peaceful world,” explains Desmond Tutu. “These five nominated children are very brave since they are fighting for children's rights in their country every day, sometimes even in dangerous situations. Children are the future, but often they are not heard: the Children's Peace Prize gives a voice to the voiceless.”





The inspiring stories of the nominees

The five nominees have all made an impressive difference in their environment, all five in their own way:

- Liza uses sports to promote peace between Israeli and Palestinian youngsters and fights for the empowerment of Palestinian girls, something which is very difficult in the male-dominated society.
- Malala focuses on the right to education with a focus on education for girls, which was banned during the Taliban rule in Pakistan. Malala dared to stand up for herself and other girls and used national and international media to let the world know girls should also have the right to go to school.
- Michaela was born with Cerebral Palsy, through which she has limited function in her legs and arms. She fights for the rights and inclusion of children with disabilities in South Africa. Her effort to help other children led to the start of the 'Chaeli Campaign', a professional organization with more than 20 employees, which helps disabled children.
- Nikolay organizes discussions and presentations on human rights and also shares his knowledge through his website and blog. He wants to inspire other children to do the same and spread the word of human rights and democracy in the Armenian society, where the children are often not heard.
- Winfred stands up for abused children. She documents cases of violence against children in schools and communities; she also set up a counseling club where abused children are helped by other children. In this way, she tries to improve the situation of children in her environment.

- End of Press Release -

*For privacy reasons, the surnames of the nominees are not made public.



About the International Children's Peace Prize

The International Children's Peace Prize is presented annually to an exceptional child, whose courageous or otherwise remarkable acts and thoughts have made a difference in countering problems, which affect children around the world. The prize is an initiative of the Dutch organization KidsRights and was launched by KidsRights during 2005 Nobel Peace Laureates' Summit chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev. Each year the winner of the International Children's Peace Prize is selected from nominations from all over the world. Everyone, individuals and organizations, can recommend a child for this prize. An independent Expert Committee assesses the candidates and then selects the winner. The prize money of €100,000 that is attached to the Children's Peace Prize, is spent by KidsRights on projects that are closely connected to the winners' area of work. www.childrenspeaceprize.org

About KidsRights

KidsRights is a Dutch children's rights organization that believes that all children should be able to realize the enormous potential they have within them. That is why KidsRights stands up for vulnerable children everywhere, offering them direct support tailored to their needs and focusing attention on their position and their rights. KidsRights helps by financing existing, well-run local projects that focus on five basic requirements of care: health care, nutrition, education, shelter and attention. Often, some relatively simple assistance is all that children need to make tremendous progress, providing them with the opportunity to build toward a better future. KidsRights offers a platform to children who, without help, often find it difficult to make the world sit up and listen. www.kidsrights.org

About ABN AMRO

ABN AMRO Bank finds it important that each child gets the opportunity to develop his or her talents. ABN AMRO therefore supports the Children's Peace Prize as the main sponsor and with that emphasizes the importance of children's rights. The bank not only donates money, it also involves its staff actively with the prize. Each year, hundreds of ABN AMRO employees volunteer to help KidsRights with various projects. www.abnamro.com

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