



UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education

Explanatory Note for the 2023 Call for Nominations

A. Background

Since 2000, there has been real progress made in advancing girls' and women's access to education at all levels. But far too many girls face persistent barriers to their education, particularly those in emergencies and in conflict-affected and fragile states.

Girls face particular challenges that prevent them from reaching their full potential, even when they have access to education. These include inadequate sanitation facilities, gender-based violence in and around school, child marriage, and gender norms and discrimination inside and outside of the classroom. Women make up two-thirds of the world's 771 million illiterate adults.

Educating a girl is one of the best investments her family, community, and country can make. Educated girls are more likely to be healthier, better paid in the workplace, and more empowered to participate in social, economic, civic and political affairs. This transformative effect contributes to a better world for us all.

The UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education rewards outstanding practices of individuals, institutions, non-governmental organizations and other entities advancing girls' and women's education. Established by the Executive Board of UNESCO at its 197th session and launched in 2016 with support from the government of the People's Republic of China, the Prize awards two laureates US\$ 50,000 each to continue their work. The Prize contributes to two Sustainable Development Goals: "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all" (Goal 4) and "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" (Goal 5).

B. Nominations

Nominations can be made by Governments of UNESCO Member States via their Permanent Delegations to UNESCO, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in official partnership with UNESCO. Nominations must focus on an established project or programme designed to advance girls' and women's education. Each Permanent Delegation or NGO can make up to three nominations for any edition of the Prize. Self-nominations are not accepted. *See submission procedure below.*

C. Selection Criteria

The two Prize laureates will be selected by UNESCO's Director-General on the basis of recommendations made by the Prize's independent [International Jury](#) which is made up of five experts in the field of girls' and women's education, representing all geographical regions.

The nominations will only be considered if the project/programme:

- has a clear focus on advancing girls' and women's education, the promotion of gender equality in and through education, and contributes to [one or more of the five priority areas](#) of the Prize:
 1. **Participation:** Supporting girls to transition from primary education to lower-secondary education and to complete full basic education
 2. **Literacy:** Supporting adolescent girls and young women to acquire literacy skills
 3. **Environment:** Supporting the creation of a gender-responsive and safe teaching-learning environment
 4. **Teachers:** Engaging teachers to be change agents with gender-responsive teaching attitudes and practices
 5. **Skills:** Supporting girls and women to acquire knowledge/skills for life and work
- has already been running for [at least two years at the time of](#) nomination (for example a project nominated in 2023 must have been active since May 2021);
- shows evidence that it may be [replicable, scalable](#) and/or provide [significant learning potential](#) for initiatives in other contexts

Once it has passed the basic eligibility requirements, the project/ programme of the candidate will be assessed by the Jury based on the following three criteria:

1. Impact

The project/programme's impact should be qualitatively and/or quantitatively measurable, and deliver tangible results relative to the invested resources. This can include demonstrable changes in:

- attitudes, beliefs and practices in favour of girls' and women's education.
- girls' educational participation, attendance, completion and learning outcomes; and/or
- removing barriers to girls' and women's education, such as gender bias and stereotypes.

2. Innovation

The project/programme stimulates, and/or draws on, innovative approaches advancing girls' and women's education. This includes new ways of working where "business as usual" has failed, and transformative "out-of-the-box" thinking and actions. The project/programme can demonstrate innovation in terms of:

- the themes covered;
- the methodology employed;
- the channels used to create change for girls' and women's education;
- the specific knowledge mobilized about gender-related aspects of girls' and women's education in order to elaborate innovative solutions; and/or
- other aspects, such as tools and products advancing girls' and women's education.

3. Sustainability

The project/programme has taken steps, ideally from its design or implementation phases, to ensure it will have a lasting impact on girls' and women's education beyond the project lifecycle. This may include efforts to ensure the:

- continuation of local action in favour of girls' and women's education;
- institutionalization of approaches, tools and products, to advance girls' and women's education;
- sustainable ways to ensure stakeholders' mobilization; and/or
- generation of further initiatives to advance girls' and women's education as a result of the project/programme.

D. Submission Procedure

(1) Nominations must be submitted online in English or French by the nominating entity (Permanent Delegation to UNESCO of the concerned Member State, or by an [NGO in official partnership with UNESCO](#)).

(2) Permanent Delegations to UNESCO may access the online submissions platform through their official UNESCO account using the following link: <http://unesco.org/gwe>.

It is possible for National Commissions for UNESCO to also access and complete the online form using their official UNESCO email account. However, any nomination by a National Commission will need to be reviewed and submitted by the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO of the respective Member State.

(3) NGOs in official partnership with UNESCO can request access to the platform by contacting the Secretariat at GWEPrize@unesco.org.

(4) If a nominating entity wishes that the candidate complete the online nomination form directly, UNESCO can create an account for each candidate. A request should be sent to GWEPrize@unesco.org **before 15 May 2023**. After completion of the online form by the candidate, the nominating entity will be required to review and validate it.

(5) Attention should be paid to presenting the project/programme of the candidate in a clear and structured way, following the instructions given in the form and respecting the indicated character limits. All supporting material (e.g. action plans, publications, videos) must be attached and transmitted electronically through the online system.

(6) Nominations must be submitted and validated via the online platform by the concerned Permanent Delegations to UNESCO or NGO in official partnership with UNESCO by **midnight, 19 May 2023** (UTC+1, Paris time). Kindly note that each Permanent Delegation or NGO may not submit more than three nominations. Any additional nominations will not be taken into consideration.

For any question regarding the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education or the submission process, please contact the Secretariat of the Prize at the Section of Education for Inclusion and Gender Equality at GWEPrize@unesco.org.