

IGNITE AWARDS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the Ignite Awards for Human Rights all about?

Ignite Awards for Human Rights, the first ever human rights awards in the country, was created by Amnesty International Philippines to accord Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) the highest recognition for the work they do in uplifting human rights in the Philippines. Amnesty International believes that there is always someone who is fighting to ensure that no one is left behind, alone or forgotten. Amnesty International is one with the HRDs in fighting, directly or indirectly, for a world where human rights is the norm. Amnesty International Philippines would like to recognize the power of ordinary people doing extraordinary work in defense of human rights.

2. How often will Ignite Awards for Human Rights be held?

After the first awarding on 28 May 2018, Ignite Awards for Human Rights will be held every three years thereafter.

3. Who were the previous awardees of the Ignite Awards for Human Rights?

Ignite Awards for Human Rights was launched on 28 May 2017, during the celebration of Amnesty International Philippines' 30th anniversary. The first awarding will be on 28 May 2018.

4. What categories do Ignite Awards for Human Rights have?

The award categories for the Ignite Awards for Human Rights are:

- Most Distinguished Human Rights Defender (one individual and one organization)
- Outstanding Young Human Rights Defender
- Art that Matters

Art that Matters Award is dedicated for artist or group of artists from different genres like music, film, literary, visual and performance art, who serve as influencers and have utilized their art forms in defending freedoms and upholding human rights. For every awarding season, Ignite Awards for Human Rights will award one artist for the year's chosen genre.

Ignite Awards for Human Rights 2018's category for Art that matters is **Film**. The recipient can be an actor, director, script writer or producer.

5. What are the Criteria for Eligibility?

Most Distinguished Human Rights Defender

For individuals:

- a bona fide Filipino citizen, 26 years old and above, **not an active Amnesty International member**, residing in the Philippines

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- must significantly contributed to the upliftment of human rights in the Philippines or elsewhere
- made a clear qualitative or quantitative impact on human rights in the Philippines

For organizations:

- must have the accreditation of relevant Philippine government institution or agency, initiated and run by Filipinos for the benefit of Filipinos
- must significantly contributed to the upliftment of human rights in the Philippines
- must have consistently rendered meritorious human rights work in the Philippines
- made a clear qualitative or quantitative impact on human rights in the Philippines

Outstanding Young Human Rights Defender

- a bona fide Filipino citizen, 25 years of age (on or before 28 May of any awarding year) or under, **not an active Amnesty International member**, residing in the Philippines
- must have exemplified exceptional leadership and excellence in mobilizing the youth to take action for human rights in the Philippines
- must have engaged with human rights work for the substantial part of his/her youth in the Philippines or elsewhere as part of his/her learning on human rights

Art that Matters

- a bona fide Filipino citizen of any age, a practicing filmmaker or any profession related to film, **not an active Amnesty International member**, residing in the Philippines
- must have impact on the Filipino people in promoting human rights using their film
- must have consistently advanced human rights through their artwork

6. Who can place nominations for the Ignite Awards for Human Rights?

Anyone can nominate an organization or an individual as long as they use the nominations forms found here: <http://bit.ly/amnestyigniteawards>.

You can choose to nominate on all categories or just one for your chosen category.

All nominees are requested to fill out Amnesty International's standard *curriculum vitae* (CV) form found after the submission of your nomination.

To complete your nomination, ask your nominee/s to fill out and sign the CV to be emailed either by the nominator or the nominee to: amnestyigniteawards@gmail.com with subject: **Amnesty Ignite Awards (category), (name of the nominee)**.

Example: Amnesty Ignite Awards Most Distinguished Human Rights Defender (individual), Juan Dela Cruz

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The CVs will be examined initially by the Ignite Awards for Human Rights Selection Committee. Eligible candidates will be contacted shortly for a brief interview over the phone or personally.

7. Can I nominate myself?

Yes. Individuals who wish to nominate themselves for any of the Ignite Awards for Human Rights category are welcomed.

In the nominations form, simply input your name both on the nominee and nominator field and follow the instructions found on this FAQ item #6.

8. Do you give posthumous award?

For Ignite Awards for Human Rights 2018, we will not give a posthumous award but it can be considered in subsequent awarding seasons.

9. What if my nominee is qualified to two or more categories?

If you think your nominee is qualified in more than one Ignite Awards for Human Rights category, you can nominate that individual on two or all categories so long as he/she meets that basic eligibility requirement (see here: <http://bit.ly/igniteHRDEligibility>).

Please note that nominating the same individual in two or more categories means that you have to fill out each nomination form for all the categories (see bit.ly/amnestyigniteawards). However, the nominee only needs to submit one CV for his/her multiple nominations EXCEPT for the Art That Matters category which has a special CV form, thus needs to be filled out and sent separately.

10. What are the Criteria for Judging?

Ignite Awards for Human Rights Board of Judges will be guided by the following criteria: **impact of human rights work, coverage of human rights work and credibility of organization or individual nominee.**

11. How will the nominees be scored?

Awardees will be determined via score cards specifically developed by Amnesty International Philippines for the Ignite Awards for Human Rights Board of Judges.

12. Who are the members of the Board of Judges?

Ignite Awards for Human Rights 2018 Board of Judges are:

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Atty. Jose Manuel Diokno, Chairperson

Atty Diokno is the Dean of De La Salle University College of Law, Chairman of the Free Legal Assistance Group or FLAG. He is the former Special Counsel of the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee, and one of the Philippines' foremost human rights lawyers.

In 2009, Atty. Diokno founded the De La Salle University College of Law, with the aim to develop leaders who are committed in upholding the rights of Filipinos. He has served as the College's Dean since 2009. Atty. Diokno has written two books, one being the *Civil And Administrative Suits As Instruments Of Accountability For Human Rights Violations*, published by the Asia Foundation in 2010. He has also written extensively on forensic DNA, electronic evidence, anti-terrorism legislation, media law, and judicial reform.

Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi

Dr. Khoo Ying Hooi is a Senior Lecturer at the Department of International and Strategic Studies, University of Malaya. She completed her PhD in Politics and Government examining social movements and democratization with a focus on the Coalition for Clean and Fair Elections (Bersih) movement. Her research interests include non-state actors, transnational activism, protest research, human rights and democratization with a regional focus on Southeast Asia, especially Malaysia and Timor Leste. Thematically, she explores processes and patterns of political participation and mobilization, digital activism and the interaction between social movements and state.

Formerly a columnist in The Malaysian Insider, Ying Hooi is also a former board member of the Amnesty International Malaysia. Prior to her academic career, Ying Hooi worked at several corporate sectors and the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM) as the Head of International Issues and Cooperation. She was involved in the inclusion of an ASEAN human rights body (now ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights) in the ASEAN Charter, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on Malaysia in Geneva and the amendments to the SUHAKAM Amendment Bill 2009.

Dr. Aurora Parong

Dr. Parong is currently a board member of the Human Rights Victims Claims Board. She was a former Section Director of Amnesty International Philippines and served as the Executive Director of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines. As a medical doctor, she helped many individuals during martial law in

the 70s. She was later detained and became a political prisoner. She is a staunch advocate of human rights.

Bayang Barrios

Bayang Barrios is a musician and singer who hails from Bunawan, Agusan del Sur and is known for her use of indigenous instruments and styles. She is multi-awarded and has written songs on women's rights and the indigenous peoples struggle. She is also a stage actor, a peace advocate, environmental activist and a social worker.

James Gomez

James Gomez is Amnesty International's Regional Director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Gomez has previously been the Deputy Associate Dean (International) at the School of Humanities, Communications and Social Sciences at Monash University (Australia) and has lectured and conducted research at various tertiary institutions including Thammasat University (Thailand), Mahidol University (Thailand) Universiti Utara Malaysia, Keio University (Japan) and United International College (China). Gomez was also a Programme Officer at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance in Sweden, and a Research and Project Manager for the Friedrich Naumann Foundation.

13. When do nominations close?

Ignite Awards for Human Rights 2018 deadline for submission of nominations is 31 October 2017, 23:59PST, which can be extended accordingly with proper rounds of announcements.

14. What will the awardees receive?

Aside from the prestige of being recognized by Amnesty International for human rights work, awardees for all the categories will receive an Ignite Awards for Human Rights trophy, plaque of recognition, a nationwide lecture series with Amnesty International Philippines' Human Rights Education Program, a feature on the campAlign News Magazine printed and online, a feature on the Brave Campaign webpage and a promotional video shared via social media.

15. What are the advantages of being an Ignite Awards for Human Rights nominee?

Official nominees under each category will be rewarded with a token of appreciation and invited on the awarding night on 28 May 2018 in honor of their commitment, regardless of their chosen field, in uplifting human rights in the Philippines.

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About Amnesty International

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. We reach almost every country in the world and have more than 2 million members and supporters who drive forward our fight for rights and 5 million activists who strengthen our calls for justice.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion, and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

Amnesty International Philippines Section (AIPh) came into existence in the 1980s as an advocate, lobbyist and educator on human rights in the Philippines. It was initiated by Atty. Sammy Matunog, former national coordinator of Protestant Lawyers League and Ed Garcia who had experience working with the International Secretariat. AIPh was formally recognized a section in June 1991.

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