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Millions of children get to decide

Cambodian Child Rights Advocate nominee of "Children's Nobel Prize"

Today the candidates for the World's Children's Prize (WCP), often called the "Children's Nobel Prize", will be announced by media across the globe. This year's nominees are: Nobel Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi, India, for his life-long campaign against child labour and slavery, Phymean Noun, Cambodia, who works to support children who live off the cities' rubbish dumps, and Javier Stauring, US, who works with children in prison and the victims of crime. The candidates have been selected by a jury of children from 15 different countries.

Since its launch in 2000, some 36.4 million children have participated in the WCP program, which is the world's largest rights and democracy education initiative for children. Millions of children across the world study the work of the child rights heroes and then vote for the recipient of the 2015 World's Children's Prize in the Global Vote.

WCP patrons include Aung San Suu Kyi, Nelson Mandela and Queen Silvia of Sweden.

Supporting vulnerable children

The majority of the 36.4 million children who have taken part since the start in 2000 are vulnerable children who through the WCP program have discovered that they have rights and can make their voices heard to make sure those rights are respected. The program culminates in a unique Global Vote, in which children organise election days at their schools and together choose the recipient of the World's Children's Prize. The three candidates are selected by a global Child Jury, the members of which are experts in children's rights through their own experiences of living in vulnerable situations, including as child soldiers and debt slaves. The Jury had already selected Satyarthi as a WCP candidate when he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014.

Recipients honoured in Sweden

Tributes are paid to all three candidates at a ceremony in October at Gripsholm Castle in Mariefred, Sweden. The children are assisted by Sweden's Queen Silvia in presenting the awards. The prize money, which totals 100,000 US dollars, is used to support the recipients' work and has in the past helped improve the lives of tens of thousands of the world's most vulnerable children. For example, last year's recipient, Malala Yousafzai, used her prize money to rebuild schools in Gaza.

Global legends among WCP patrons

Five Nobel Prize Laureates have lent their support to the World's Children's Prize by taking on the role of patron, such as the three global legends Aung San Suu Kyi, Xanana Gusmão and Nelson Mandela. Patrons also include Sweden's Queen Silvia, along with the global leaders in The Elders, Graça Machel and Desmond Tutu. The WCP program also has the backing of over 60,000 schools in 113 countries, as well as Departments of Education, media projects and more than 700 organisations. Since the start, half a million teachers have been trained to enable them to work with children's rights and democracy in schools.

Child Rights Partners of the World's Children's Prize Foundation (WCPF) include the Swedish Post-code Lottery.

Contact:

Andreas Lönn: andreas.lonn@worldschildrensprize.org Tel. +46-70-344 1890
Magnus Bergmar: magnus.bergmar@worldschildrensprize.org Tel. +46-70-5155839

Contact People Improvement Organization:

Phymean Noun: phymean@peopleimprovement.org Tel +855-12-530-093 / +1-647-705-2499
Lily Gimenez: lily@peopleimprovement.org Tel +855-98-979-713

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