

Open the Knowledge Journalism Awards to spotlight the continent and African journalists

Today, on the 30th anniversary of World Press Freedom Day, the inaugural Open the Knowledge Journalism Awards have been launched by the Wikimedia Foundation.



Source: United Nations [United Nations](#) The Open the Knowledge Journalism Awards spotlight the continent and African journalists

This year's awards will invite nominations for articles written by African journalists that help to close knowledge gaps on Wikipedia and Wikimedia projects.

The non-profit that operates Wikipedia and other Wikimedia projects says the awards will celebrate the contributions of journalists in Africa who prioritise diversity, equity and inclusion in their reporting.

Award recipients will be announced by the Wikimedia Foundation at the Africa Regional Community Conference, WikiIndaba, in November 2023, in Morocco.

The first-place award recipient will receive \$2,000 as well as an opportunity to attend WikiIndaba 2023, where they can share more about their work, and accept a trophy, and certificate of recognition.

The second-place award recipient will receive \$1,500 and a certificate of recognition. Four other outstanding nominees will receive special mentions. All awardees and their work will also be celebrated on the Wikimedia Foundation's website and

social media channels.



Journalist imprisonments highest recorded in years

15 Dec 2022



Africa content

Only 2.5% of geotagged content on Wikipedia covers Africa. In addition, only 15% of articles on Wikipedia are about Africa.

This issue reflects knowledge gaps in the wider media ecosystem; new information can only be added to Wikipedia by volunteer editors if it is supported by a citation from a published, reliable source.

“Through Open the Knowledge Journalism Awards we want to celebrate these efforts, shining a light on reporting that helps to close knowledge gaps and uncovers more of Africa’s rich history and culture,” says Anusha Alikhan, Wikimedia Foundation vice president of communications.

Essential role of journalists

The awards recognise the essential role journalists play in creating well-researched articles that volunteer editors use as source materials to develop content on Wikipedia.

Journalism that highlights diverse experiences helps to grow the knowledge base on one of the world’s most visited websites, so that it is more reflective of the topics, events and people that influence the understanding of culture and history through the ages.

“Journalists play a vital role in increasing equity on Wikipedia, ensuring that the world’s knowledge is not limited to the perspectives and experiences of a select few,” adds Alikhan.



Al Jazeera journalist freed from pretrial detention in Egypt

Farah Saafan, Nick Macfie 2 May 2023



Spirit of World Press Freedom Day

The awards capture the spirit of World Press Freedom Day, which highlights the importance of a free press as essential to amplifying diverse voices and experiences. It also aligns with one of the African Union’s Agenda 2063 goals, which seeks to increase local content in all print and electronic media to 60%.

Nominations and categories

Nominations for the Open the Knowledge Journalism Awards can be submitted from 3 May to 30 June 2023.

Articles by African journalists living on the continent can be submitted under the following categories:

- Arts, culture, heritage, and sports
- Health, climate change, and environment
- Women and youth

- Digital and Human Rights

Articles must have been published online and in English between 1 January 2022 and 23 June 2023.

Nominations can be submitted [here](#).

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