

THE
DIANA
AWARD



2026 DIANA AWARD NOMINATION GUIDE_

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This guide is designed to assist you in the Diana Award nomination process and to make the experience as straightforward as possible.

Before completing your nomination submission, please read this guide and the [Terms and Conditions](#) thoroughly.

Should you require any assistance, please contact the Diana Award team via the information below.

Email: nominations@diana-award.org.uk

Phone: +44 2039 342160

Please note our working hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (UK time). During busy times there may be delays in response times.

HOW TO NOMINATE

Before completing your nomination make sure the requirements in the eligibility checklists below are met.

If any criteria on these checklists are not met your nomination will not be assessed.

Nominator Checklist

Eligibility checklist:

- ☐ I (the Nominator) am over 18 years old.
- ☐ I (the Nominator) know the Nominee in a professional capacity.
- ☐ I (the Nominator) am not related to the Nominee.
- ☐ I (the Nominator) can provide the contact details of **two** additional Supporters to validate the nomination (Supporters should know the Nominee in a professional capacity, and are not a family or friend of the Nominee).
- ☐ I (the Nominator) consent to sharing my personal information, including my name and email address, with the Nominee.
- ☐ I (the Nominator) can provide **three** pieces of additional evidence to support the Nominee's social action work.

Nominee Checklist

Eligibility checklist:

- ☐ The Nominee is **aged 16-24 years old at the time of nomination**. They may be 25 years old when the award is received.
- ☐ The Nominee has been carrying out their **social action work for a minimum of 12 months** demonstrating impact, sustainability, and commitment to their cause.
- ☐ The Nominee's project aligns with one or more of the following Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) thematic areas:
 - **Quality Education**
 - **Reduced Inequality**
 - **Good Health & Wellbeing**
 - **Climate Action**

Nominator Process

- You can nominate online via the [Diana Award Nomination Centre](#)
- You will also need **two** Supporters to validate the nomination with Supporting Statements.
- An email containing a confirmation of receipt will be sent to you (the Nominator) after you have submitted the nomination form.
- You will be notified of the outcome of your nomination in **June 2026**.

Please supply as much information as possible about the Nominee and the specific social action work you are nominating them for. Background information and supporting evidence is valuable for the Diana Award Judging Panel to understand the context the Nominee is working in and to evaluate the level of impact the Nominee has made.

If there are elements of the nomination form that you are unable to complete, either ask the Nominee to supply the information to you or let us know on the nomination form why certain information is incomplete.

- The word count on the nomination form is compulsory. Your nomination will not be sent to the Diana Award Judging Panel if it is more or less than the word count.
- Please ensure that all evidence - including the Supporting Statements from Supporters and additional evidence - is uploaded and included in your nomination before you press submit.

COMPLETING THE NOMINATION FORM

STAGE 1 – KEY INFORMATION

Nominator Information

This is the person completing the nomination form and who The Diana Award will liaise with during the nomination process.

You will need to give us information about yourself to complete the first stage of your application.

Please have your contact information ready before you start the form, including:

- Email address
- Contact number (including country code)
- Country you live in
- Job title
- Name of your organisation

If you are currently not in employment or do not wish to share the details of your employer, please put 'N/A' on the form.

Supporter Information

To complete the nomination process, please provide the details of **two Supporters**. These are individuals who can endorse the Nominee's work and be contacted by us to confirm and validate your nomination. Both Supporters should be available to receive communications from us throughout the assessment process.

2023 Diana Award Recipient
Taarush Grover.

[Find Taarush's story on our
Roll of Honour page.](#)



Important: If we do not hear back from both Supporters during the assessment period (November 2025 - February 2026), we will be unable to proceed with the nomination.

Please provide their email addresses, contact numbers, job titles and name of their organisations. If a Supporter is not currently employed or prefers not to share their employer's details, please enter 'N/A' on the form. You will also need to tell us about their relationship with the Nominee.

We require **two Supporting Statements** from individuals or organisations (over the age of 18) who can confirm:

- That they are aware of the Nominee's social action work - with specific reference to how they know this. This means they must include specific examples of the Nominee's impact, achievements, or leadership.
- That they are not aware of any reason why the Nominee should not receive a Diana Award. This must be clearly stated.

Please note:

- Supporters must **not** be friends or family members of the Nominee.
- They must be different from the Nominator.
- All Supporting Statements must be **written letters** submitted in **English**.

Nominee Information

This is the person who you are nominating for the Diana Award and who will receive the Diana Award if the nomination is successful.

Please provide the Nominee's:

- Full name
- Date of birth
- Age (at the time of nomination)
- Gender
- Email addresses
- Contact number (including country code)
- Ethnicity
- Continent and country the Nominee is currently based in

Please note you cannot nominate yourself for the Diana Award, and if you are a family member of the Nominee your nomination will not be accepted. We suggest finding someone who knows the Nominee in a professional capacity e.g., a teacher, youth worker, university tutor, or community leader.

STAGE 2 – PROJECT/ORGANISATION INFORMATION

This section focuses on the Nominee's project or organisation and the impact it is making.

You will have the option to add any social media platforms the Nominee has in relation to their project.

You will be required to choose up to two Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the Nominee's work aligns with. To help you select the most appropriate one, please see a brief explanation of them below. Click on the links to learn more about each Sustainable Development Goal.



Sustainable Development Goal 4

Quality Education – Projects that improve access to education, promote lifelong learning, or enhance teaching and learning experiences.



Sustainable Development Goal 10

Reduced Inequality – Initiatives that tackle discrimination, social or economic inequality, or empower underrepresented communities.



Sustainable Development Goal 3

Good Health & Wellbeing – Efforts that support physical or mental health, promote healthy lifestyles, or improve access to healthcare.



Sustainable Development Goal 13

Climate Action – Work that protects the environment, promotes sustainability, or addresses the impacts of climate change.

Tell us about the Nominee's work

While Nominators can mention multiple projects or initiatives that the Nominee is involved in, when asked for the name of the Nominee's project or organisation, please choose the one you'd like to focus on most. This helps us keep the nomination clear and makes it easier to refer to the Nominee's work during the assessment process.

Top tips

- Make sure to include the impact of the Nominee's activities. What was the result? E.g. amount of money raised through fundraising or number of people reached through campaigning. Diana Award Judges love data and evidence!
- Include context. We have nominations and Diana Award Judges from all over the world, so please give as much context as you can in your nomination form.

Safeguarding/Risk Management

At The Diana Award, we recognise that social action takes many forms across the globe. In assessing social action projects, we are guided by the following principles:

- **We value lived experience.**
We recognise the inherent value and expertise of young people's lived experience. We aim to support, recognise and award social action based on individual circumstances.
- **We centre youth voice and evidence.**
We put youth voice at the heart of our work, and make data-driven decisions when supporting, recognising and awarding youth social action.

- **We honour each young person's journey.**
We recognise people are on their own individual social action journey, To ensure young people feel powerful and influential, we identify activity that gives space for learning and growth outside of the award.
- **We lead with optimism and responsibility.**
We approach youth social action through a lens of hope and possibility. We are committed to recognising action that aligns with our anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-LGBTQIA+ bullying principles — and that seeks to do no harm.

Any social action initiatives that may be considered dangerous, oppressive, aggressive, or misaligned with the values above will be thoroughly reviewed by our Safeguarding Team before any decisions are made.

STAGE 3 – CRITERIA & GUIDANCE

When completing the main section of the nomination form, you'll be asked to show how the Nominee meets the criteria below. Use these guidance notes to help shape your responses.

We encourage you to highlight what makes the Nominee's work unique, share tangible outcomes, and explain why they truly stand out. Where possible, include data, personal impact stories, or community testimonials.

Please focus on the Nominee's impact and achievements through a strengths-based lens. While sharing personal context can add depth, we kindly ask that you avoid including detailed or graphic descriptions of traumatic experiences, to ensure the process remains safe and respectful for all involved.

Each criterion response should be **between 150-300 words**.

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
1. LEADERSHIP Demonstrates the strong sense of purpose and leadership the Nominee has in creating or driving positive social change. <i>Word count: 150-300</i>	Explain how the Nominee: • Shows passion and belief in the cause they're addressing • Is motivated by values, lived experience, or a deep understanding of the issue • Collaborates well with others to achieve shared goals • Supports others to stay motivated to make positive change Focus on the specific cause(s) you're nominating them for. Examples could include voluntary or fundraising work, activism or campaigning, projects in schools or online, or caring for others in their community. Consider: • How is the Nominee leading? • How have they taken ownership of their activities or started them on their own? • What sparked their interest and why are they so passionate about this cause?	<i>'Ali turned their experience of being bullied into a mission to protect others. Moved by seeing classmates experiencing bullying behaviour too, they founded the 'Safe Schools' initiative at age 15, developing peer-led workshops and advocating for policy changes in their district. Ali built a team of volunteers, coordinated with local councillors, and partnered with mental health organisations to widen the programme's reach. Their clear sense of purpose and ability to unite diverse groups under a shared goal has resulted in long-term anti-bullying strategies being adopted by multiple schools. Ali's passion and leadership continue to inspire others to step up and create safer environments.'</i>

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
2. TANGIBLE IMPACT Demonstrates how the Nominee has created measurable, visible, or meaningful change through their actions. <i>Please note: Scale doesn't matter – significance of impact does.</i> <i>Word count: 150-300</i>	Explain how the Nominee: • Makes plans to achieve goals • Works to their strengths and works with others to improve the impact of their work • Creates long-term plans so their impact is sustained or shows signs of growing • Has clear outcomes: e.g., quantitative and/or qualitative evidence of success including people reached, behaviours changed, policies influenced Consider: • What did the Nominee achieve? • How did their actions improve or change things for others?	<i>'Through 'Safe Schools', Ali created a step-by-step plan to reduce bullying incidents, starting with workshops in their own school. By tracking pre- and post-programme surveys, they demonstrated a 40% drop in reported bullying cases over a year. He expanded by training 50 youth ambassadors, who now run sessions in 12 other schools. Ali also secured a local council grant, ensuring the programme's future. Thanks to their data-driven approach and partnerships with educators, over 3,000 students have directly benefited, with teachers reporting improved peer relationships and student wellbeing.'</i>

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
3. PEER EMPOWERMENT Demonstrates how the Nominee inspired and enabled other young people to get involved in social action. <i>Word count: 150-300</i>	Explain how the Nominee: • Acts as a role model or mentor to others • Builds community or collaborates with peers • Creates accessible entry points for other young people • Shifts attitudes or encourages action beyond their own network Consider: • How has the Nominee engaged with their networks to ensure success? • How do they guide others and inspire change? • How have other young people benefited from their work?	<i>'Ali doesn't just lead - they lift others up. Recognising that many young people lacked confidence to speak out, they created a 'Peer Mentor Pathway' so students could learn to facilitate anti-bullying workshops themselves. Ali personally coaches each cohort, helping them develop skills in public speaking and conflict resolution. As a result, over 70 young people have taken leadership roles in their own schools, running projects ranging from safe spaces for LGBTQ+ students to kindness campaigns. Ali's approach means change isn't limited to their circle – they've sparked a ripple effect of youth-led initiatives that continue to grow.'</i>

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
4. RESILIENCE & INTEGRITY Demonstrates how the Nominee has shown an ability to stay positive, and adopt ethical leadership in the face of challenges, specifically related to their project. <i>Word count: 150-300</i>	Explain how the Nominee: • Maintains commitment despite setbacks • Learns and grows through adversity • Makes and adapts plans to keep their work on track • Demonstrates humility, honesty, and inclusivity in their approach Consider: • How has the Nominee stayed focused on their mission despite obstacles? • What have they learned, and how have they adjusted their approach?	<i>'Ali's journey hasn't been easy. Some schools initially refused their workshops, worried about sensitive discussions. Instead of giving up, Ali sought feedback, adapted their content, and developed resources that addressed staff concerns while staying true to their values. When personal criticism came online, they responded with empathy and continued to prioritise student voices. Throughout, Ali has been transparent about their own learning curve, inviting dialogue rather than shutting it down. Their honest, inclusive approach has not only kept their mission on track but also built deep trust with communities that once hesitated.'</i>

STAGE 4 – ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

This section aims to help you significantly strengthen your nomination by showcasing the Nominee's work and achievements.

You must upload **three supporting materials** that validate the Nominee's social action efforts. These are **mandatory to ensure we can properly assess the nomination**.

We advise Nominators to include evidence that is most appropriate for the social action work the Nominee is engaging in. Examples of this includes (but is not limited to):

- **Photographs or videos** of the Nominee actively engaged in their project.
- **Press coverage** such as news articles or media features highlighting the Nominee's work.
- **Reports** detailing the project's impact, including metrics like the number of beneficiaries, geographic reach, or policy changes influenced.
- **Testimonials** from individuals or communities who have directly benefited from the Nominee's initiatives.

Note: All submissions must be in English. Materials in other languages will not be considered.

KEY DATES

October 2025

2026 Diana Award nominations open on Wednesday 1 October 2025, 09:00 GMT.

October 2025

2026 Diana Award nominations close on Friday 31 October 2025, 17:00 GMT.

November 2025 – February 2026

Initial Assessments of Diana Award nominations are carried out to ensure they meet all eligibility criteria. During this stage, nominations also undergo risk and safeguarding checks to uphold the integrity and safety of the Award.

March 2026

An external Diana Award Judging Panel will review eligible Diana Award nominations for the 2026 Diana Award.

May 2026

Successful nominations will be vetted to ensure they meet the right safeguarding requirements and that profiling the Nominees will not have them put in harm's way.

June 2026

All Nominators will be notified of the Diana Award Judging Panel's decision via email. Successful Nominees will also be notified.

November 2026

The Virtual 2026 Diana Award Ceremony will take place on Wednesday 4 November 2026, where successful Diana Award Recipients will be celebrated, and the Roll of Honour will be released.

Please note

1. Up to 200 Diana Awards are presented each year. They are carefully considered by the Diana Award Judging Panel, and each nomination is given a rigorous review before moving to the next stage. Where it is necessary to corroborate facts contained in the nomination form or fill in any incomplete information, The Diana Award team may contact you (the Nominator) or the Supporters to provide more information.
2. At The Diana Award, we are committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and ethical conduct. We reserve the right to revoke an award if there is a breach of our Code of Conduct. This includes, but is not limited to, safeguarding concerns, ethical misconduct, or any actions that compromise the values, reputation, or integrity of The Diana Award.

Any decision to revoke an award will be made in line with Charity Commission guidance, through a fair and transparent process. We will always act in the best interests of the charity, carefully considering safeguarding responsibilities, ethical standards, and reputational risk. Where appropriate, we may also seek advice and support from the Charity Commission.

As a charity, we have a duty to act with care and diligence, protecting the integrity of our programmes and maintaining the trust placed in us by our beneficiaries, supporters, and the wider public.

3. If your nomination is unsuccessful, you (the Nominator) will be notified via email of the Diana Award Judging Panel's decision. This decision is binding and due to the high volume of nominations each year we are unable to provide more detailed information, feedback or correspondence at this time.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Thank you for considering nominating an inspirational young person for the Diana Award.

These frequently asked questions are to assist you completing the nomination form.

FAQS_

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED FOR THE DIANA AWARD?

Nominees must be between 16 and 24 years old at the time of nomination. They may be 25 years old when the award is received. Nominees must have been carrying out their social action work for a minimum of 12 months, and their work should align with one or more of the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Quality Education, Good Health & Wellbeing, Reduced Inequality, or Climate Action.

WHY DO SOCIAL ACTION PROJECTS NEED TO ALIGN WITH THE FOUR SDGS?

We've introduced this change to better focus and strengthen the impact of the Diana Award. By aligning nominations with four key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – Quality Education, Good Health and Wellbeing, Reduced Inequalities, and Climate Action – we're better able to recognise and celebrate young people addressing some of the world's most urgent challenges.

This update also helps us ensure consistency in the judging process and spotlight the collective power of youth-led action across global priority areas.

If you've submitted nominations in the past, we understand this may be a change – we encourage you to use the updated guidance to help align your nomination with the new themes.

CAN I NOMINATE MYSELF FOR THE DIANA AWARD?

No. Self-nominations are not accepted. A Nominator must know the young person in a professional capacity and be able to provide evidence of their impact, along with further information from for two additional Supporters.

WHEN DO NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR THE NEXT DIANA AWARD?

Nominations for the 2026 Diana Award will open on 1 October 2025, 09:00 GMT and close on 31 October 2025, 17:00 GMT.

HOW MANY YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVE THE DIANA AWARD EACH YEAR?

Up to 200 exceptional young people are honoured annually, representing a wide range of communities, cultures, and causes from around the world.

HOW DO YOU ENSURE FAIRNESS IN THE SELECTION PROCESS?

We use a structured, transparent selection approach to ensure fair and global representation. Every nomination is reviewed against consistent criteria by an external judging panel of industry professionals, and only one nomination per Nominee is considered.

The criteria is outlined fully in this Nomination Guide.

IS THE DIANA AWARD OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE UK?

Yes. The Diana Award is a global honour. Since 2020, we've recognised young social activists in over 80 countries across six continents.

WHAT KIND OF EVIDENCE IS NEEDED FOR A NOMINATION?

Nominators must submit three pieces of additional evidence that clearly demonstrates the Nominee's social action and

its impact. This can include testimonials, photos, press coverage, project outcomes, or other forms of documentation. All evidence must be in English and meet the word count.

CAN I NOMINATE MORE THAN ONE YOUNG PERSON?

Yes. You can nominate more than one young person, as long as each Nominee meets the criteria and you are able to provide separate, complete nominations for each individual. However, only one nomination per young person will be reviewed.

CAN GROUPS OR TEAMS BE NOMINATED?

No. The Diana Award recognises individual young people. If several members of a group have made outstanding contributions, each individual must be nominated separately.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR NOMINATORS DURING THE PROCESS?

We provide this comprehensive Nomination Guide with detailed instructions, examples, and tips to help you submit a strong nomination. If you have any questions or need further support, our team is also here to help.

HOW DO I NOMINATE?

Nominating is simple. In October 2025, head to the [Diana Award Nomination Centre](#) to complete the online nomination form. Please note that we do not accept posted or email nominations.

WHAT IS THE DIANA AWARD JUDGING PROCESS?

All nominations are first reviewed by The Diana Award team to ensure they meet our eligibility criteria. Eligible nominations are then passed on to our external Judging Panel made up of volunteer experts from around

the world for formal assessment.

Following this, successful nominations undergo additional due diligence including safeguarding, risk and media checks before being finalised.

Nominators will be notified of the outcome of their submission by email in June 2026. Successful Nominees will also be informed.

WHAT DOES A DIANA AWARD RECIPIENT RECEIVE?

Recipients are recognised with:

- A Certificate of Recognition
- A place on the Roll of Honour
- Participation in a global virtual ceremony
- Access to a network of young leaders
- Invitations to our peer-led Conversations for Change series

CAN I TELL SOMEONE THEY HAVE BEEN NOMINATED?

Yes – in many cases, informing the Nominee can help you gather the most accurate and detailed information.

Please note: if the Nominee is successful, their award will be under strict embargo until the official release of the Virtual Diana Award Ceremony and Roll of Honour. This helps preserve the prestige and excitement of receiving the Diana Award.

WHAT IF MY NOMINATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL?

We receive a high volume of nominations from across the globe. Each one highlights inspiring examples of youth-led social action, and we are continually moved by the passion, impact, and commitment of the young people nominated.

Unfortunately, we are not able to recognise every Nominee with the Diana Award. However, we encourage you to consider re-nominating the individual when nominations reopen at a future date.

HOW CAN I MAKE A COMPLAINT ABOUT A DIANA AWARD RECIPIENT OR NOMINEE?

We take concerns about Diana Award Recipients and Nominees seriously. If you wish to raise a complaint or share information about a current or past recipient, please email nominations@diana-award.org.uk

This allows us to review the situation thoroughly and take appropriate action in line with our safeguarding and verification processes.

CONTACT US

Good luck with your nomination. If you experience any difficulties with the process or have questions that aren't covered in these guidelines, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

nominations@diana-award.org.uk

+44 2039 342160

Please note our working hours are Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm (UK time). During busy periods there may be delays in response times.

For updates, please follow us here:

 @DianaAward

 @DianaAward

 /thedianaaward



2023 Diana Award
Ceremony

