

2027

DIANA AWARD NOMINATION GUIDE_

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Before you begin

This guide helps nominators prepare a strong, complete nomination for the 2027 Diana Award. Please read it alongside the current Terms and Conditions before submitting.

The online nomination form is available at **diana-award.awardsplatform.com**. The PDF sample nomination form is for reference only and cannot be completed offline.

You can save your progress and return before submitting. You will need details about the nominee, their social action, responses to five Award criteria, three pieces of evidence and two supporters.

1. HOW TO NOMINATE

The process

- Check the nominee and nominator meet the eligibility requirements.
- Gather accurate information about the nominee and obtain their permission to share it.
- Prepare responses to the five Award criteria, focusing on the nominee's individual contribution.
- Gather three pieces of supporting evidence.
- Ask two eligible supporters to agree to provide independent statements online.
- Complete the nomination form, review the declarations and submit.
- Ensure both supporters complete their online statements: a nomination is not complete until these are received.

The Award recognises individuals, not teams. If several young people contributed to the same project, each must be nominated separately, with evidence of their own achievements.

2. ELIGIBILITY CHECKLISTS

Nominator checklist

- I am aged 18 or over.
- I am nominating someone other than myself.
- I am not related to the nominee.
- I know the nominee in a professional or formal capacity (for example, as a teacher, youth worker, employer, mentor, coach or community leader).
- I can identify two independent supporters aged 18 or over who know the nominee professionally or formally and are neither friends nor family.
- I have permission to share the nominee's personal information and the supporters' names and email addresses.
- I can provide three relevant pieces of evidence.

Nominee checklist

- The nominee is aged 16-24 at the time the nomination is submitted.
- The nominee has been actively involved in the social action for at least 12 months.
- The nominee's work aligns primarily with one of four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Good Health & Wellbeing, Quality Education, Reduced Inequalities or Climate Action.
- The nominee has not previously received the Diana Award. A young person nominated unsuccessfully in a previous year may be nominated again, provided they meet the eligibility requirements.

3. COMPLETING THE NOMINATION FORM

Start here - eligibility

The nomination form begins with eligibility questions Award Force begins with eligibility questions covering the nominee's age, minimum 12 months of social action, nominator's age, self-nomination, family relationship and professional/formal relationship. Answer accurately: responses determine whether you can continue.

About the nominee

Provide the nominee's correct date of birth, email address, gender identity, ethnicity, country of residence and town or city. Their date of birth may be verified and proof of age may be requested. The nominee's email should be one they regularly check. Demographic questions are for monitoring representation, not judging. Do not guess the nominee's gender identity or ethnicity; use the "I don't know / prefer not to answer" option where appropriate.

About you - the nominator

Explain your professional/formal relationship to the nominee, your organisation and role, how long you have known them, your country and organisation type. The form also asks how you heard about the Award and whether you have nominated before; this is for monitoring purposes.

Nominee's social action

- Enter one main project or initiative name. Other relevant projects may be discussed within the criteria responses.
- State how many months the nominee has been actively involved; the minimum is 12 months.
- Write a 200-word description of what the social action does, who or what it supports and why it is needed.
- Choose the country the nominee wishes to represent; this may be used for judging, administration and the Roll of Honour.
- Select one primary SDG that best represents the work.
- Select the primary reach (local/community, regional, national or international) and an estimated number of direct beneficiaries. These monitoring fields are not assessed criteria.
- Indicate whether other young people involved in the same project are also nominated. This does not affect assessment.
- Answer the safeguarding/context questions and disclose any known safeguarding, legal or ethical concerns. A “yes” answer does not automatically disqualify the nomination.
- Provide optional project website, social media or other relevant links.

Choosing a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)



Quality Education (SDG 4) – Projects that improve access to education, promote lifelong learning, or enhance teaching and learning experiences.



Reduced Inequality (SDG 10) – Initiatives that tackle discrimination, social or economic inequality, or empower underrepresented communities.



Good Health & Wellbeing (SDG 3) – Efforts that support physical or mental health, promote healthy lifestyles, or improve access to healthcare.



Climate Action (SDG 13) – Work that protects the environment, promotes sustainability, or addresses the impacts of climate change.

4. AWARD 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 How has the nominee demonstrated leadership through their social action? *Word count: 150-300*	Describe their sense of purpose, initiative, ownership and collaboration. Show how they motivated or supported others and drove change. Explain their personal role, particularly if they are part of a larger team. **Useful prompts:** •What did they initiate? •What decisions did they lead? •Who did they bring together? •What changed because of their leadership?	*'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.'*

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
2. TANGIBLE IMPACT What tangible impact has the nominee's social action had? *Please note: Scale doesn't matter – significance of impact does.* *Word count: 150-300*	Show measurable, visible or meaningful change. This might include numbers reached, changed behaviours, policies influenced, testimonials or improved access to support. Scale does not determine significance: a small project may create profound change. **Useful prompts:** •What was the problem? •What action was taken? •What happened as a result? •How do you know?	*'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.'*

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
3. PEER EMPOWERMENT How has the nominee empowered other young people through their social action? *Word count: 150-300*	Explain how they have inspired, mentored, supported or enabled peers to take action, develop confidence or skills, or take on leadership roles. Include examples of opportunities they created for other young people. **Useful prompts:** •Who gained opportunities or confidence? •How did the nominee make participation accessible?	*'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.'*

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
4. RESILIENCE & INTEGRITY How has the nominee demonstrated resilience and integrity through their social action? *Word count: 150-300*	Explain how their work can continue beyond their direct involvement: structures, partnerships, funding, resources, succession planning, peer leadership or other lasting systems. **Useful prompts:** •What will remain? •Who can continue the work? •What makes the impact sustainable?	*'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.'*

CRITERION	GUIDANCE NOTES	EXAMPLE RESPONSE
5. SUSTAINABILITY & LEGACY How has the nominee built sustainability and lasting impact into their social action? *Word count: 150-300*	Explain how they have inspired, mentored, supported or enabled peers to take action, develop confidence or skills, or take on leadership roles. Include examples of opportunities they created for other young people. **Useful prompts:** •What obstacle arose? •How did they respond? •What did they learn or change?	*'Ali recognised that for anti-bullying efforts to last, they needed to build capacity beyond themselves. They worked with teachers to embed peer mentoring into the school's wellbeing curriculum and secured funding for an annual training programme. Ali also developed a toolkit, co-written with student mentors, which is now freely available online and used by schools across the region. As Ali prepares to leave for university, their initiative is run by a student-led committee with staff oversight, ensuring the programme continues to grow. By planning for succession and embedding resources in schools, Ali's legacy is a culture of youth-led solutions that will last well beyond their direct involvement.'*

WRITING A STRONG NOMINATION_

A practical example

Less effective: *"Ali is an inspiring leader who has done amazing work to stop bullying in schools."*

Stronger: *"Ali developed and delivered peer-led anti-bullying workshops, trained student volunteers and worked with teachers to introduce an ongoing mentoring programme. Feedback from participating pupils helped Ali adapt the workshops and document changes in students' confidence."*

The stronger version explains the nominee's actions, shows collaboration and gives evidence of learning and impact. Use real examples from the nominee's work; do not invent results or statistics.

Top tips

- Be specific about the nominee's individual role.
- Use quantitative and qualitative evidence where available.
- Explain local context for international judges unfamiliar with the setting.
- Show outcomes, not only activities or intentions.
- Keep a strengths-based focus; avoid unnecessary sensitive personal information.
- Make sure the criteria responses stand alone: supporting evidence should corroborate, not replace, your explanations.

5. ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE & SUPPORTERS

Three pieces of additional evidence

Provide three pieces of evidence demonstrating the nominee's social action and impact. You can upload files or links, including photographs, videos, press coverage, impact reports, testimonials or campaign materials.

Language: Evidence can be submitted in any language, although English is preferred. Where possible, include a brief English translation or explanation. Only share material you have permission to use and avoid unnecessary personal or sensitive information.

Two independent supporters

Supporters must be aged 18 or over, know the nominee in a professional or formal capacity, and not be friends or family members. Obtain their agreement before sharing their contact details.

Each supporter will receive an email invitation to complete their statement online. Both statements must be received for the nomination to be complete.

Declarations and submissions

Review your nomination before submitting. You must confirm its accuracy, nominee awareness, privacy and Terms and Conditions, contact permissions, safeguarding and conduct expectations, and verification requirements. The Diana Award may request information where necessary.

6. SAFEGUARDING & RISK MANAGEMENT

At The Diana Award, we recognise that social action takes many forms across the world. Our approach to assessing young people's social action is guided by four key principles:

- **We value lived experience.**
  We recognise the value of young people's lived experiences and the unique perspectives they bring. We consider each young person's individual circumstances and context.
- **We centre youth voice and evidence.**
  We place young people's voices at the heart of our work and make evidence-informed decisions when recognising their achievements.
- **We honour each young person's journey.**
  We recognise that every social action journey is different and that meaningful impact can take place at any scale. We value learning, growth and positive change.
- **We lead with optimism and responsibility.**
  We celebrate social action that promotes inclusion, dignity and respect, aligns with our anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-LGBTQIA+ bullying principles, and seeks to do no harm.

Any social action that raises safeguarding, ethical or other risk concerns will be reviewed by our Safeguarding Team before decisions are made, ensuring our approach remains safe, fair and aligned with our values.

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.

7. KEY DATES

4 November 2026

2027 Diana Award nominations open
on Wednesday 4 November 2026, 16:00 GMT.

8 January 2027

2027 Diana Award nominations close
on Friday 8 January 2027, 17:00 GMT.

Early 2027 – Initial Assessments

The Diana Award team reviews nominations to ensure they meet all eligibility requirements. Nominations also undergo initial safeguarding and risk checks.

2027 - Independent Judging

Eligible nominations are reviewed by external Diana Award Judging Panels against the five Award criteria.

2027 - Verification & Due Diligence

Successful nominations undergo further verification, safeguarding and risk checks before final decisions are confirmed.

2027 - Outcome Notifications

All nominators will be notified of the outcome by email. Successful nominees will also be contacted directly to complete onboarding.

2027 - Outcome Notifications

Successful Diana Award Recipients will be celebrated at our global virtual ceremony, alongside the publication of the 2027 Roll of Honour.

Please note: Dates for the assessment, judging, notification and ceremony stages are subject to confirmation. Further information will be shared in due course.



2023 Diana Award Recipient Taarush Grover.

Find Taarush's story on our Roll of Honour page.

How nominations are assessed

Nominations are first reviewed for eligibility and completeness. Eligible nominations are considered by external judges against the published criteria. The Diana Award may carry out additional verification, safeguarding, risk and media checks before decisions are finalised. Up to 200 young people may be recognised annually, subject to the applicable Award rules.

8. 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_

CAN I NOMINATE MYSELF?
No. Self-nominations are not accepted.

CAN I NOMINATE SOMEONE WHO WAS NOMINATED BEFORE?
Yes, if they were not previously awarded the Diana Award and still meet all eligibility requirements.

CAN A PREVIOUS DIANA AWARD RECIPIENT BE NOMINATED AGAIN?
No. Previous recipients are not eligible to receive the Diana Award again.

CAN I NOMINATE A GROUP?
No. Nominate individuals separately and demonstrate each person's own contribution.

CAN I NOMINATE MORE THAN ONE PERSON?
Yes. Each individual requires a separate complete nomination.

WHAT IF THE WORK COVERS MORE THAN ONE SDG?
Choose the one SDG that best describes its primary focus.

DO SUPPORTERS UPLOAD A TEMPLATE?
No. They receive an email invitation and complete statements online.

CAN I SAVE AND RETURN TO THE FORM?
Yes, you can save and return to the form before the submission deadline.

CAN I SUBMIT MY EMAIL OR POST?
Use the online Award Force nomination form.

CAN EVIDENCE BE IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?
Yes. English is preferred; include a short English explanation or translation where possible.

DOES A LARGE NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES IMPROVE THE SCORE?
Not automatically. Reach and beneficiary numbers are monitoring fields; the significance of impact matters more than scale.

CAN I TELL THE NOMINEE?
Yes. The form requires confirmation that the nominee knows about the nomination and is happy to be contacted if successful.

WILL UNSUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS RECEIVE FEEDBACK?
Individual feedback may not be available due to the volume of nominations; confirm the final communications policy before publication.

HOW DO YOU ENSURE FAIRNESS IN THE SELECTION PROCESS?
We use a structured and transparent selection process. Eligible nominations are accessed against consistent criteria by an independent judging panel of professionals from diverse backgrounds. Full criteria is outlined in this guide.

IS THE DIANA AWARD OPEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE UK?
Yes. The Diana Award recognises young people worldwide. Since 2020, we've celebrated young people in over 90 countries across six continents.

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 Award Ceremony
- Access to a network of young leaders
- Potential invitations to development opportunities

CAN A YOUNG PERSON BE NOMINATED MORE THAN ONCE?
Yes, but only one nomination per young person will be reviewed. Where multiple nominations are received, we will consider the first complete submission.

WHAT IS THE DIANA AWARD JUDGING PROCESS?
All nominations undergo eligibility checks by The Diana Award team. Eligible nominations are then assessed against the five Award criteria by an independent global judging panel. Successful nominations undergo further safeguarding, risk and verification checks before final decisions are confirmed.

CAN I SHARE NEWS OF A SUCCESSFUL NOMINATION?
Successful nominations are subject to a strict embargo until the official release of the Virtual Diana Award Ceremony and Roll of Honour. Recipients must not publicly announce or share news of their Award before this date.

WHAT IF MY NOMINATION IS UNSUCCESSFUL?
We receive a high volume of nominations from around the world, each highlighting inspiring examples of youth-led social action. Unfortunately, we cannot recognise every nominee with the Diana Award. However, we encourage you to consider re-nominating eligible young people in future years.

HOW DO I NOMINATE?
Nominations are open from **4 November 2026 to 8 January 2027.** Visit the Diana Award Nomination Centre to complete the online form. We do not accept nominations by post or email.

CONTACT US

Thank you for taking the time to nominate an inspiring young person for the Diana Award!

If you have any questions or experience difficulties during the nomination process, please don't hesitate to contact our team. We're here to help.

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nominations@diana-award.org.uk

Our working hours are Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm (UK time). Please note that response times may be longer during busy periods.

For the latest news and updates, follow us:

@DianaAward /

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2023 Diana Award Ceremony

