



# Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work 2015



The Commonwealth

# Do you know of a young person making a positive difference to the lives of other people in your community or country?

The Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) is inviting nominations for the 2015 Commonwealth Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work.

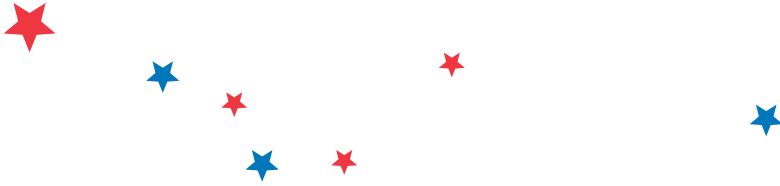
*'More than any generation in history, today's young people are shaping the social, economic and political landscape that they will inherit. This is an exciting opportunity to recognise their energy, talent and commitment to development across the 53-nation Commonwealth.'*

Kamalesh Sharma, Commonwealth Secretary-General

We are looking for young people aged between 15 and 29 years, whose development work demonstrates the Commonwealth's Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment, to:

1. Promote youth participation in decision making
2. Promote economic empowerment of young people
3. Take action for equality between young women and young men
4. Promote peaceful and democratic environment in which human rights flourish
5. Provide quality education for all
6. Improve access to information and communication technology
7. Promote health, development and values through sport and culture
8. Engage young people to protect the environment.

There will be four prizes per Commonwealth region (see page 7) with the top entry from each receiving the Regional Commonwealth Award. From among the four Regional Award winners an overall Pan-Commonwealth winner will be decided.



### Criteria for nomination:

- The nominee must have been engaged in their development work for more than 12 months either in a professional or voluntary capacity
- The development work must be ongoing and in a Commonwealth member country
- The nominee should not be older than 29 on 31 December 2015
- Individuals cannot nominate themselves
- Nominees should give permission for their names to be put forward
- The winner must agree to take part in publicity and activities generated by the Commonwealth.



Award winners 2013

**Development work can be in any number of areas including:**

1. Agriculture, agri-business
2. Arts and culture for development and peace
3. Education, peer education
4. Enterprise development, youth employment
5. Climate change, environment protection
6. Health and wellbeing (including work on HIV/AIDS)
7. Human rights and democracy
8. Information and communication technology
9. Journalism, media, public awareness raising
10. Peace building
11. Science and technology
12. Sport for peace and development
13. Sustainable development, poverty reduction.

**Awards will be decided on the basis of:**

1. Quality of impact
2. Level of innovation/fresh approaches to problem-solving
3. Quality of achievement
4. Quality of the evidence provided
5. Sustainability: building capacity of future generations to meet their own needs.

## Nomination Process

Applications open on **30 August 2014** and close on **30 October 2014**.

To complete the nomination form please visit:  
[www.yourcommonwealth.org/cya2015](http://www.yourcommonwealth.org/cya2015)

You will be required to provide:

- Details about yourself
- Details about the person you are nominating
- The reasons you think the nominee deserves to win
- A description of the development work and how it makes a positive difference to the lives of others.

## FAQs for the Commonwealth's Youth Awards for Excellence in Development Work



### Who funds the awards?

The Commonwealth Youth Award for Excellence in Development Work is funded by the Commonwealth Youth Programme (CYP) of the Commonwealth Secretariat. The CYP works with 53 Commonwealth member countries across Asia, Africa, Europe, the Pacific, the Caribbean and the Americas (see page 7).



### How many awards are given each year?

Four finalists from each region are selected (sixteen overall). From these finalists, one from each region will be chosen to receive a Regional Commonwealth Award. An overall Pan-Commonwealth winner will be decided from among the four regional award winners.



### **What will the winners receive?**

The sixteen regional finalists will receive a £1,000 grant, a trophy and a certificate. The four regional winners will receive an additional £2,000 a trophy, and a certificate. The Pan-Commonwealth award winner will receive £5,000 in total, a trophy and a certificate. The sixteen finalists will be invited to receive their awards at an official ceremony.

Grants will be awarded to advance the development work of finalists.



### **Who is eligible to be nominated for the award?**

Nominees must be aged between 15 and 29 years (as of 31 December 2015), and must live and work in a Commonwealth member country.



### **How will know if my nomination has been received?**

We will respond to each nomination received with a confirmation email.



### **How will award winners be notified?**

Awards winners will be contacted directly. If you do not hear from us, it means that your nomination has not been successful.



### **What if I do not know the contact details of the person I am nominating?**

Please make every effort to provide as much contact information as possible. We require at least an email address and telephone number so we may contact quickly your nominee, especially if they are shortlisted for an award.



### **How can I submit additional information on nominees?**

Additional information can be uploaded in the space provided on the entry form.



### **Should I mail or fax my nomination form?**

No. Nominations can only be received via the online form or by email. If you are having problems with the online form, you may cut and paste the information to a word document and send as an attachment to the email address provided.



**Who will decide on the winners?**

Winners are chosen by the Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General (chair), representatives of Commonwealth governments (through High Commissions), Commonwealth civil society and youth leaders.

**For more information please contact:**

The Co-ordinator Commonwealth Youth Awards  
Commonwealth Secretariat, Marlborough House  
Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5HX, United Kingdom

**E** [cya2015@commonwealth.int](mailto:cya2015@commonwealth.int)

**www** [www.yourcommonwealth.org/cya2015](http://www.yourcommonwealth.org/cya2015)

Africa and Europe	Asia	Caribbean and Americas	Pacific
Botswana	Bangladesh	Antigua & Barbuda	Australia
Cameroon	Brunei Darussalam	The Bahamas	Fiji
Cyprus	India	Barbados	Kiribati
Ghana	Malaysia	Belize	Nauru
Kenya	Maldives	Canada	New Zealand
Lesotho	Pakistan	Dominica	Papua New Guinea
Malawi	Singapore	Grenada	Samoa
Malta	Sri Lanka	Guyana	Solomon Islands
Mauritius		Jamaica	Tonga
Mozambique		Saint Lucia	Tuvalu
Namibia		St Kitts & Nevis	Vanuatu
Nigeria		St Vincent &	
Rwanda		The Grenadines	
Seychelles		Trinidad & Tobago	
Sierra Leone			
South Africa			
Swaziland			
Uganda			
United Republic of Tanzania			
United Kingdom			
Zambia			





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