

The Freedom Prize

On 6 June 1944, it was in the name of the ideal of freedom that 130,000 soldiers, including a significant number of young volunteers, risked their lives and that several thousand died on unfamiliar beaches. 17 nations were involved in Operation Overlord to open up “Liberty Road” on which nearly 3 million soldiers travelled in their bid to save the world from the barbarity of the Nazis. The Allied landings remind us that freedom is a universal demand.

Today, many situations around the world testify to its fragility: the fight for freedom must be relentless, without concession.

By inviting young people from all over the world every year to choose a person or an organisation which has made an exceptional commitment to freedom, the Freedom Prize aims to relay this message across borders, educating people and sharing these memories.

The Freedom Prize pays homage to all those who fought and continue to fight for this ideal.

The Freedom Prize – General framework

Article 1 – Purpose

The Normandy Region, the International Institute of Human Rights and Peace, the academic authorities of Normandy and the Canopé network, hereinafter referred to as the “organisers”, have joined together to create the Freedom Prize to defend and preserve the values of the Allied landings of 6 June 1944.

Each year, the Freedom Prize invites young people aged 15 to 25 from Normandy, other regions of France and abroad to nominate, select and elect a person or organisation which has distinguished himself/herself/itself with regard to his/her/its recent fight for freedom.

The purpose of these rules is to establish the principles of the third edition of the Freedom Prize which begins on 23 June 2020.

Article 2 – Audience and participation

Participation in the Freedom Prize is open to any young person aged 15 to 25 of any nationality.

Young people can participate in the Freedom Prize in three different ways:

- As a group: By responding to the call for proposals “Our Freedom Prize 2021”, in accordance with the terms defined in articles 6 to 10;
- Individually: By taking part in the international panel of judges of the Freedom Prize 2021, in accordance with the terms defined in articles 11 to 14;

- Online: By voting for one of the people or organisations chosen by the panel of judges, in accordance with the terms defined in articles 15 and 16.

Article 3 – Timetable

The 2021 edition of the Freedom Prize begins on 23 June 2020 and involves the following stages:

- The call for proposals “Our Freedom Prize 2021” from 23 June 2020 to 18 January 2021:
A group application form must be completed to nominate a person or an organisation for the Freedom Prize 2021.
- The deliberations of the Freedom Prize’s international panel of judges, 12 and 13 February 2021:
From the applications received, three finalists (people or organisations) and their fights for freedom are chosen by an international panel of young people.
- The online vote, from 15 March to 25 April 2021:
Online vote, accessible around the world, to elect the winner of the Freedom Prize 2021 from the three people/organisations chosen by the panel of judges.
- The award ceremony of the Freedom Prize, June 2021:
Presentation of the Freedom Prize 2021 to the laureate and closure of the 2021 edition.

These stages are detailed in the following articles.

Article 4 – Languages

At each stage of the Freedom Prize, the two languages used are French and English. The various materials required to participate in the Freedom Prize are published in these two languages.

The call for applications and panel application forms must be returned in French or English. Exchanges of information between participants and organisers will be made only in one of these two languages.

Article 5 – Irrevocability

From the opening of the call for proposals “Our Freedom Prize 2021” to the announcement of the laureate of the Freedom Prize 2021, all decisions made by the organisers and the panel of judges, along with the results of the online vote, are irrevocable and shall not be subject to appeal.

Call for proposals “Our Freedom Prize 2021”

Article 6 – Participating groups and adult points of contact

The call for applications “Our Freedom Prize 2021” is open to any group of at least two people aged 15 to 25 when participating.

The group taking part may be attached to a school or training institution, an association or a Non-Governmental Organisation, or it may be acting on its own initiative without being attached to an organisation.

The group must have an adult point of contact. He/she can be a member of the group, if he/she is aged 18 to 25 when participating. The adult is the sole point of contact between the group and the organisers.

Article 7 – Call for proposals form

To respond to the call for proposals, each group must complete the form entitled “**Our Freedom Prize 2021**”. This form is in three parts:

1. “Our group”: detailed presentation of the group responding to the call for proposals;
2. “Our Freedom Prize 2021”: presentation of the person or organisation nominated and their fight for freedom, by means of a series of questions requiring information and the presentation of arguments;
3. “Panel factsheet”: sheet summarising the various points addressed in the call for proposals form. This is the first document which will be sent to the members of the Freedom Prize’s panel of judges. The “Our Freedom Prize 2021” document will only be sent to them if they request it.

Participating groups are encouraged to provide information, to present arguments and to summarise the nature and the context of the nominated fight, the freedom(s) at stake, the action taken and its impact.

The organisers recommend that particular attention be paid to the following points:

- The relevance of the fight for freedom;
- The current nature of the fight;
- The impact of the fight in the short, medium and long term.

These points will also be considered during the deliberations of the Freedom Prize’s panel of judges.

Article 8 – Procedure

The “**Our Freedom Prize 2021**” form is available in French and English on the site prixliberte.normandie.fr. It must be completed online **by 18 January 2021** at 11:59pm (Paris time, France).

In the event of difficulties in completing this form online, a downloadable version is also available on the site prixliberte.normandie.fr. A digital version of it must be sent to prixliberte@normandie.fr **no later than 18 January 2021** at 11:59pm (Paris time, France).

No application will be accepted after this deadline.

This form must be completed as indicated on the document. It can be completed in French or in English.

A group can only complete one form.

Once the form has been confirmed or sent, the group will receive confirmation of receipt. No modifications can be made once an application has been submitted.

Any form which is incomplete or off-topic or which includes untrue information will not be accepted.

Article 9 – Nominated profile

The nominated profile is a natural person or an organisation, regardless of whether or not he, she or it exists as a legal entity.

The fight for freedom led by the nominated person or organisation must be recent and include one or more specific initiatives between 2018 and 2021.

The nominated person or organisation may have won other international awards (such as the Sakharov Prize or the Nobel Peace Prize), but they must not have already won the Freedom Prize.

However, it should be noted that public awareness of their fight is not a criterion for selection and the Freedom Prize may be an opportunity to highlight a less publicised fight.

A group cannot nominate one of its members for the Freedom Prize 2021.

Article 10 – Fight for freedom

The nominated person’s or organisation’s fight for freedom must correspond to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, as defined in the preamble and article 1 of chapter 1 of the Charter of the United Nations of 26 June 1945 (presented as an appendix to these rules).

The organisers reserve the right to reject a proposal if they believe that the fight in question does not correspond to the ideals of this text. This decision, which must be based on specific examples, is final and is not subject to appeal.

The Freedom Prize 2021's international panel of judges

Article 11 – Purpose of the Freedom Prize 2021's international panel of judges

The panel of judges' mission is to identify the three people or organisations whose fights are, for young people, the most representative of a fight for freedom in 2021 among those nominated in the call for proposals "Our Freedom Prize 2021". The panel's decision is final and is not subject to appeal.

These three people/organisations are then subject to an online public vote, as defined in articles 15 and 16.

Article 12 – Make-up of the panel of judges

The panel of judges will be made up of 24 young people aged 15 to 25 on 12 February 2021, representing three different geographical areas (Normandy, other regions in France and elsewhere in the world) and ensuring a diverse range of profiles.

Article 13 – Applying to be on the panel of judges and procedure

Any young person aged 15 to 25 on 12 February 2021 of any nationality can apply to be on the panel of judges. Each application is individual.

The application form is available on the website prixliberte.normandie.fr, in French and English. It should be completed online and sent with a CV from 1 September 2020 and **no later than 15 November 2020**.

No application will be accepted after this deadline. All applications are final.

In the event of difficulties in completing this form online, a downloadable version is also available on the site prixliberte.normandie.fr. A digital version of it must be sent to prixliberte@normandie.fr **no later than 15 November 2020**.

This form must be duly completed. An incomplete form will not be accepted.

Once the form has been received by organisers, confirmation of receipt is sent to the candidate.

The organisers will choose the members of the panel of judges, based on the candidates' answers to the various questions on the form and their CVs. Their decision is final and is not subject to appeal.

Members of the panel of judges are chosen in such a way as to ensure the fairest possible representation of age, gender, status and geographical origin.

The organisers reserve the right to conduct telephone interviews before making a final selection.

Anyone who has already been a member of the Freedom Prize's panel of judges in a previous year may not apply again.

It is possible to apply to become a member of the Freedom Prize's international panel of judges and to participate in the call for applications and the online vote of the Freedom Prize.

Article 14 – Identifying three people or organisations

The Freedom Prize's panel of judges will meet in Normandy and will spend two days deliberating on **12 and 13 February 2021**.

These two days will be spent debating and discussing the nominated people and organisations. These deliberations will focus on the reasoning and presentations which are included in the corresponding "**Our Freedom Prize 2021**" forms. At the end of the second day, three people or organisations will be chosen.

An additional list is provided by the panel if, for reasons beyond the control of the organisers, one of the people/organisations is no longer eligible for the Freedom Prize 2021 after being chosen.

Identifying the laureate of the Freedom Prize 2021

Article 15 – Procedure for naming the laureate

The laureate of the Freedom Prize is chosen by a vote featuring the three people or organisations chosen by the international panel of judges, in accordance with the terms defined in article 16.

Article 16 – Organisation of the vote

The vote will be held from **15 March to 25 April 2021**. This is a digital vote, decided by online voting. It is open to young people aged 15 to 25 of any nationality on the platform which can be accessed via the site prixliberte.normandie.fr, open from 15 March at 0.01am until 25 April 2021 at 11.59pm (Paris time, France).

The voting procedure makes it possible to choose between the three people or organisations chosen by the panel of judges or to cast a blank vote.

It is only possible to vote once. An email address or phone number is required to confirm each online vote.

The organisers reserve the right to set up physical voting methods at a local level by ballot box, under the supervision of an independent adjudicator. The votes cast by these ballots are counted in the same way as digital votes.

The result of the vote is confirmed by an independent adjudicator in the days following the vote's close.

The laureate is elected by simple majority of the votes cast.

Article 17 – Announcing the result

The result of the online vote is announced publicly no later than the day of the Freedom Prize 2021 award ceremony.

Article 18 – Prize money and the awarding of the Prize

The Freedom Prize includes prize money of €25,000 for the laureate.

Specific arrangements are made by the organisers in the event of exceptional circumstances which do not allow the prize to be awarded to the laureate.

The laureate of the Freedom Prize 2021 or a representative of the laureate will be invited to the award ceremony held in Normandy (France) in June 2021, as part of the Normandy World Peace Forum.

Legal notices

Article 19 – Amendments to the rules

The organisers reserve the right to modify, extend, postpone, shorten, suspend or cancel all or part of the Freedom Prize without notice if the circumstances so require and, in particular, in the event of force majeure or events beyond their control.

They cannot be held liable for this.

Article 20 – Protection of personal data

Personal data (surnames, first names, dates of birth, email and postal addresses, and telephone numbers) collected by the organisers are processed, with the consent of the individuals, in accordance with the French Data Protection Act of 6 January 1978 as amended, and with the European Data Protection Regulation of 27 April 2016.

- The call for proposals “Our Freedom Prize 2021”
Collecting personal data makes it possible to ensure compliance with the conditions of participation (participants aged between 15 and 25, and naming an adult contact), to be able to contact the group while it is participating in the Freedom Prize, and to draw up a statistical overview on participation in this stage;

- The deliberations of the international panel for the Freedom Prize
Collecting personal data allows us to verify compliance with the conditions of participation (panel members aged between 15 and 25 years), and to be able to contact the panel members or the persons to be contacted in the event of an emergency related to their participation in the Freedom Prize selection panel;
- The online vote
Collecting personal data helps to ensure compliance with the conditions of participation (voters aged between 15 and 25, a single vote per person) and to draw up a general statistical overview of participation in this stage;

The young people and the people/organisations put forward have the right to access, rectify, delete and oppose the processing of data concerning them at any time. These rights may be exercised by contacting the data protection officer of the Normandy Region: dpo@normandie.fr

The organizers may be required to communicate this data to the organization's partners and IT service providers of the Freedom Prize. Communication of these data will in no case lead to sales canvassing.

Data will be kept for one year after the end of the event.

APPENDIX:

Preamble and article 1 of chapter 1 of the Charter of the United Nations of 26 June 1945

We, the people of the United Nations,

determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind,

to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small,

to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained,

to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

and for these ends

to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security,

to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest,

to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples,

have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.

Accordingly, our respective Governments, through representatives assembled in the city of San Francisco, who have exhibited their full powers found to be in good and due form, have agreed to the present Charter of the United Nations and do hereby establish an international organisation to be known as the United Nations.

Chapter 1:

Purposes and principles

Article 1 The purposes of the United Nations are:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;

2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;

3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion;

4. To be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.