

KidsRights

KidsRights makes a stand for children's basic rights. And in particular for vulnerable children in the world, children exploited as slaves or prostitutes, children with aids, and orphans who are deprived of even the most basic care. We help them by financing local, smaller, yet scalable projects giving them direct and personal support. We choose these projects based on their capability to provide all-round and 'made to measure' care. This all-round care includes the following: Health Care, Nutrition, Shelter, Education and Attention.



KidsRights' mission is also to provide a platform for these kids, who themselves are usually unable to attract the eyes and ears of the world. With the international Children's Peace Prize and school projects we increase the attention for their situation, and for what we can do to improve the future of children around the world.

The funds KidsRights generates for these projects are used for the projects without any deductions – for the full 100%. This is made possible by our “Founders”’: entrepreneurial companies and private individuals who take care of our overhead costs.

The International Children's Peace Prize

Background

The International Children's Peace Prize is an initiative of the Dutch organization KidsRights and was launched by Mikhail Gorbachev during the 2005 Nobel Peace Laureates' Summit.

The Prize is presented annually to an exceptional child, whose courageous or otherwise remarkable actions and thoughts have made a difference in countering problems, which affect children around the world. The motivation behind the Prize is to give a platform to children to express their thoughts and personal involvement in their children's rights. KidsRights feels that children should be recognized, awarded and motivated in their fierce efforts to improve their own situation and that of the children in their environment and even the world.

The Prize

Not only is the Prize a sign of recognition for the young winners, having won the award also offers the winners a platform to promote their ideals and further their work. With the newfound attention, these young heroes' messages have more impact, and reach a larger audience. The intention of KidsRights is to create international attention for the problems that the winners are fighting. This has to generate higher level cooperation in addressing these respective subjects. For example: Om Prakash was invited by the president of India and has discussed the subject of child labor with UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown. Both Thandiwe and Mayra have, upon

invitation, attended the UN conference in New York and spoken about violence against young girls. Thandiwe focused on girls in education and Mayra on black girls in favelas.

Attached to the International Children's Peace Prize is the Prize money of €100,000. The Prize money is awarded by KidsRights to a direct aid project (or multiple projects) in the spirit of the young winner's efforts. The money will never be given to the winner directly; not as personal money nor in order for the winner to decide where the money should go. There is a specific reason the money is not given to the child him/herself; KidsRights is very aware of social pressure and of the sudden attention falling upon the winner. The organization is of the opinion that any negative influences or pressure on the winner should be proactively avoided. Therefore, KidsRights decides in cooperation with the nominating organization or person where the money will go.

The winner of the International Children's Peace Prize is awarded a statuette - 'the Nkosi' - and is supported in his/her cause, as mentioned before, through the Prize money of €100,000 and the platform of attention that the Prize generates. In addition, the winner receives financial support for his/her studies. KidsRights sees education as a steppingstone to further development and therefore encourages and supports full and unlimited education of the winner.

Choosing the winner

Each year the International Children's Peace Prize winner is selected from nominations from all over the world. An Expert Committee assesses the candidates, comprises a selected list of nominees and then selects the winner. Every year KidsRights tries to reach a wider range of organizations and therewith children to be nominated for the International Children's Peace Prize. KidsRights is of the opinion that the more children will be nominated and thus recognized in their work, the bigger the platform becomes for children to reach their full potential in changing the world.

The winner of the International Children's Peace Prize is selected from all nominated children by a the following Expert Committee:

- Nevena Vuckovic Sahovic, member of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Prof. Jaap Doek, former Chairman of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.
- Frans Röselaers, former Director of the ILO's (International Labour Organisation) International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC).
- Jeroo Billimoria, Founder and Chair of Child Helpline International and Founder and Director of Aflatoun, Child Savings International.
- Marc Dullaert, Founder and Chairman of the KidsRights Foundation and spiritual father of the Children's Peace Prize.

Aftercare

KidsRights is an organization focused on the rights and welfare of children. Therefore it makes sure that the winners of the Prize are well taken care off after return to their own country. The winner receives both financial and emotional support from KidsRights in his/her studies and living.

Also, KidsRights recognizes the differences between cultures and all that entails in traditions and habituations in living communities, they ensure not only the care of the winner of the Prize but also of his/her family. And because KidsRights knows that helping only one child within a family does not reach the goal of enabling the child in his/her efforts to improve his/her environment, the siblings or other family members living with the winner may receive financial support for their studies and support in living and housing necessities, depending on personal circumstances. Additionally, KidsRights monitors the well-being of the winner and his/her family.

Winning this Prize has great consequences for the children. Because of all their experiences their status often changes within the community. Therefore it is important to make sure that the community and other people involved in the lives of the children are well informed on the details of the Prize. KidsRights also remains in close contact with the winner, the organization responsible for the nomination and the family at all times. The winners can always contact KidsRights with any questions or concerns.

All the winners of the International Children's Peace Prize are ambassadors of KidsRights from the moment they are chosen as winners of the award.

Previous Winners

- **2005, Nkosi Johnson (South-Africa)**
- **2006, Om Prakash Gurjar (India)**
- **2007, Thandiwe Chama (Zambia)**
- **2008, Mayra Avellar Neves (Brazil)**
- **2009, Baruani Eustache Ndume (The Democratic Republic of Congo, now living in Tanzania)**

For more information about the International Children's Peace Prize, please go to:

www.childrenspeaceprize.org

For more information about KidsRights, please go to:

www.kidsrights.org