

# 121 inspiring children nominated for International Children's Peace Prize 2018

Archbishop Desmond Tutu to present prize in Cape Town on 20 November

**Amsterdam, Cape Town, 21 September 2018 – International children's rights organization the KidsRights Foundation today proudly announces that 121 nominees are in contention for the International Children's Peace Prize 2018. The prestigious prize is awarded annually to a child who fights courageously to promote the rights of the child. In a very special tribute to archbishop Desmond Tutu, Nobel Peace Laureate and the official patron of the International Children's Peace Prize, this year's ceremony will be held in Cape Town, South Africa. There, the archbishop will present the prize to the winner in a ceremony attended by dignitaries and the world press on 20 November 2018.**

KidsRights' founder Marc Dullaert: "Every year the International Children's Peace Prize is a magnificent celebration of children's rights and the abilities of young *changemakers* who move the world. This edition will be very special indeed, as 2018 marks the fifteenth anniversary of the KidsRights Foundation. We have therefore decided to honour archbishop Tutu, our patron and a man who has dedicated his life to protecting and empowering children, by taking the ceremony to him. Moreover, South Africa was the home country of the late Nkosi Johnson who posthumously was the first winner of the International Children's Peace Prize in 2005. Nkosi has become a symbol to us and millions of people globally, and the statuette that is presented to each year's winner is named in his honour."

The International Children's Peace Prize has become a global phenomenon. In 2018, children from no fewer than 45 countries were put forward as nominees by a great number of esteemed international organizations including Ashoka, David Suzuki, Plan International, Save the Children, the United Nations and World Vision, as well as local civil society organizations based in various countries around the world. Out of the 121 children nominated, most hail from Kenya (12) and Mexico (12), closely followed by India (10). 72 girls, 42 boys and one collective of children were put forward for nomination. This year's nominees together defend the rights of children on a wide range of issues, including Child Participation, Education, Peace, Gender Equality and the Environment, and various other pressing global challenges.

The International Children's Peace Prize is held for the fourteenth consecutive year. Every year, the message of the new young winner has tremendous impact and is heard by a global audience. But the other nominees, too, demonstrate to millions worldwide that change is possible. KidsRights offers the nominees an international platform on which they can better spread their message and continue their important work. Once again, the annual list of nominees comprises many inspiring and encouraging stories about true *changemakers* who demonstrate that young age need in no way be a barrier to launching initiatives that improve children's rights. We invite one and all to visit our website to read about these brave *changemakers* and ways to support their tireless work: [www.kidsrights.org/nominees](http://www.kidsrights.org/nominees).

**End of press release**

## **About the International Children's Peace Prize**

The *International Children's Peace Prize* is awarded annually to a child who fights courageously for children's rights. Every year, the message of the new young winner has enormous impact and demonstrates to millions of people globally that change is possible. In 2018 the prize will be awarded for the 14<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Previous winners include Nkosi Johnson, who fought for the rights of children with hiv/aids, and Malala Yousafzai, who won the International Children's Peace Prize in 2013. Last year's

winner was Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria, who was lauded for his tireless efforts to ensure the rights of Syrian refugee children. By winning the award he has gained an international platform which enables him to spread his powerful message among an audience of hundreds of millions of people worldwide.

The International Children's Peace Prize was founded by Mr. Marc Dullaert, founder and chair of the KidsRights Foundation. It was launched in 2005 during the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates in Rome, chaired by Mikhail Gorbachev. During the nomination process the Expert Committee of the prize receives nominations from countries all over the world. Very remarkable, but often unknown, brave children have been discovered through the annual nomination process.

Every year the International Children's Peace Prize is presented by a Nobel Peace Laureate. The winner receives the statuette 'Nkosi', which portrays a child setting the world in motion, as well as a study grant and a worldwide platform to promote his or her ideals and causes for the benefit of children's rights. Furthermore, KidsRights invests the sum of €100,000 in projects that are closely connected to his or her area of work.

Please visit the website for more information about the International Children's Peace Prize: <http://www.childrenspeaceprize.org>.

#### **About the KidsRights Foundation**

KidsRights is an international non-governmental organization that promotes the wellbeing of very vulnerable children across the world and advocates the realization of their rights. KidsRights strives for a world where all children have access to their rights and are enabled to realize the great potential they carry within them. KidsRights sees children as changemakers with the power to move the world, and facilitates in voicing their opinions and taking action in order to bring about change.

KidsRights supports children by commanding global attention for the realization of children's rights and acting as a catalyst to ignite change, together with children and youths. We support this with research and action. In order to gain insight into the status of children's rights, KidsRights frequently conducts research. The foundation also finances local projects aimed directly at improving the rights of vulnerable children and stimulating child participation and change-making by youths. Please visit our website to find out more about KidsRights: [www.kidsrights.org](http://www.kidsrights.org).

#### **Additional information for media (not for publication)**

Please address questions or interview requests to KidsRights' PR officer Diane van Hesteren:

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Please visit the newsroom for more information about KidsRights and our work: [kidsrights.pr.co](http://kidsrights.pr.co).  
Or visit the online profiles of the nominees: [www.kidsrights.org/nominees](http://www.kidsrights.org/nominees).