



**ASSOCIATION RWANDAISE DES JOURNALISTES
RWANDA JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION**

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DEVELOPMENT JOURNALISM AWARDS (DJA) 2024 CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Every year the Association of Rwanda Journalists (ARJ) in partnership with Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) and Rwanda Media Commission (RMC) organises Development Journalism Awards (DJA) to recognize and promote excellence and professionalism in the media sector by awarding best-performing journalists. This year's DJA will be organized alongside the celebrations to mark the Africa Day of Information 2024. The two events will be held on November 7th, 2024. The event will kick off early afternoon with discussions and engagements on the use of social media and will be concluded in a festive mood with the DJA 2024 awarding ceremony.

It is in this context that the Association Rwanda Journalists wishes to announce the 11th Edition of the DJA and calls for submission of entries.

The Award Categories are the following:

A. PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES

1. Investigative reporting award

This is for the most incisive and revelatory public interest investigation of the year. Individual and collaborative (team) entries from Print/online and Radio/TV are accepted. The judges will be looking for work which is compelling and which brings significant new information to light and exposes unknown truth on a matter of public interest.

2. Feature story award (Online/Print)

This is for the best feature story of the year. It rewards excellent journalism on a matter of public interest which could be descriptive, of a human-interest nature or based on an interview. The story must be well researched and written in a manner that attracts readers and leave them with knowledge or understanding of the covered subject. This category is not intended for investigations. It is open to only print and online.

3. Documentary award (Radio/TV)

This is for the best documentary of the year. It rewards excellent journalism on a matter of public interest which could be descriptive, of a human-interest nature or based on an interview. This category requires well researched story told in a manner that attracts viewers and listeners and leave them with knowledge or understanding of the covered subject. Image, sound quality and ambiance sound will be also considered. This category is not intended for investigations. It is open for broadcasters (Radio and TV). The length of the submitted entry should not exceed **20 minutes**.

4. Data journalism reporting award

This category is for journalists who have covered topics of public interest using statistics data and infographics. The award recognises journalists who accurately incorporated data analysis, explanation, and visualisation in telling the story to make it attractive and easily understandable to the public.

5. Best photo of the year award

This award recognises a photo which appeared in an online news publication or print and complemented the corresponding written piece in telling the story in a unique and creative manner. The photo should also make it easy for readers to understand the content. Entrants will provide PDFs of the photos as they appeared in the original articles, the original photo in JPEG/PNG format and a supporting description of the photo not exceeding 300 words. The photo will also be accompanied by the editor's note attesting to its authenticity and confirming that it has been published by their media house.

6. Sports reporting award

The award recognizes a story, documentary or magazine that covered, commented or investigated the world of sport in a manner that draws attention on a matter of public interest. Collaborative (team) entries are accepted. Entrants who will submit a documentary or magazine will be required to submit the work not exceeding **20 minutes**.

7. Talk-show of the year award

This award recognizes the best talk-show that was aired on Radio or TV. The choice of topic, choice of guests/speakers relevant to the topic, hosting and interviewing techniques, engagement of listeners will be highly considered. The length of the submitted talk-show should not exceed **45 mins**. It must be accompanied with a summary description of not more than 300 words.

8. Business reporting award

This award is for the journalist who has done insightful analysis of economic trends by accurately interpreting the current state of affairs in business and economy and the impact of policies and laws on businesses and business practices.

9. Best story (by female journalist)

The award recognizes journalistic works by female journalists practicing in Rwanda. This category is exclusive for female journalists who are encouraged to submit one of their works (Print, Online, Radio, and TV) which they regard as their best broadcast/article published.

10. Best story of the year award

This category is for the outstanding journalist work of the year; winning entries in other categories will automatically be considered for this prize. There is no submission required for this category.

B. THEMATIC CATEGORIES:

11. Disability and inclusion reporting award

This award recognizes a journalist's effort in promoting the rights of persons with disability and their inclusion in the society. Also, this category concerns journalists' works which impacted the society's perception with regards to the mentioned categories of persons with disability. Furthermore, stories which positively portrayed persons with disability will be considered.

12. GBV and child abuse reporting award

This category is for journalists who have done original and outstanding work bringing the public attention to GBV and abuse of children. Specifically, judges will be looking for the story which tackled a breach of the fundamental rights to life, liberty, security, dignity, equality between women and men, non-discrimination, physical and mental integrity. Furthermore, stories which tackled and advocated for the end of child abuse (emotional, physical, neglect and sexual abuses) will be considered.

13. Gender equality and inclusion reporting award

This category is for stories that promote all persons, regardless of their gender, status in society and advocate for them to have same entitlements to all human rights. Also, this category concerns stories which encourage girls and young people to make choices about their lives; and have the same amount of power to shape the outcomes of these choices. Furthermore, stories that challenge relative positions in society that advantage men over women will be considered.

14. Gender promotion reporting award (exclusive for male journalist)

This category is exclusive for male journalists who covered best stories on gender equality promotion. Journalistic works which demonstrated the root causes of gender inequality and exclusion, breaking gender-based stereotypes, challenging unequal gender and power relations, discriminatory social norms and policies and ways of eliminating gender stereotypes will be considered.

15. Fighting teenage pregnancy reporting award

This category is for stories that intend to influence decision makers to establish relevant sexual and reproductive health rights in the fight against teenage pregnancy. Also, this category concerns stories that seek to hold accountable decision makers towards effective and right-based strategies for the reduction of teenage pregnancy in the country. Furthermore, stories that advocate for the access of modern contraceptives for adolescent girls under 18 years without parental consent and non-discriminatory comprehensive Sexuality Education will be considered.

16. Child development reporting award

This category aims at recognizing journalists' role in child rights protection & promotion and child development. Best stories covered on child education & welfare, eradication of malnutrition and child stunting will also be considered in this category. Entries are accepted from Print/online and Radio/TV. Three winners will be awarded (One from Radio, One from TV and One from Online/Print).

17. Agriculture and livestock reporting award

This is for journalists who produced outstanding stories on the agriculture sector. In this category, best journalistic works which impacted the society, brought new information or raised awareness specifically on **the benefits of consuming healthy diets based on animal quality proteins in fish and micro-nutrients in fruits and vegetables**. Three winners (One winner from Radio, one winner from TV and one winner from online/print) will be awarded.

Unlike in other categories, winners in this category will be awarded with **high quality laptops**.

18. Governance and service delivery reporting award

For journalists who have done outstanding articles/stories on quality service delivery as a pillar of good governance in both public and private sector. Stories and publications which had impact, brought new information to light and served the public interest in terms of promotion of quality service delivery will be considered.

19. Health reporting award

This award recognises a journalist's determination to generate well-researched stories related to health. Authors of works which had impact, brought new information to light and which served the public interest in the field of health are encouraged to submit their entries.

20. Hygiene and sanitation reporting award

This award is intended to recognize efforts invested by media houses in promoting hygiene and sanitation as key for public health. The judges will be looking for journalistic works that played a role in promoting behaviour change among the public with regard to preserving hygiene and sanitation as a way of preventing diseases and outbreaks. Two winners (One from Radio/TV and one from Online/Print) will be recognized.

21. ICT and telecommunication reporting award

This category is for journalists who have produced outstanding stories on ICT and Telecommunication to serve public interest. This category concerns ICT and telecommunication related stories which had impact on the socio-economic development of Rwandans.

22. Local governance and grassroots reporting award

For journalists who have displayed in-depth knowledge of reporting on local government issues. The judges are looking for work which had impact, brought new information to light related to the performance of local government and served the public interest.

23. Inspiring Journeys of Self-Reliance and Poverty Eradication (Gira wigire)

This award celebrates outstanding stories that capture inspiring personal or community efforts to overcome poverty through self-reliance, entrepreneurship, and empowerment. We welcome stories that showcase innovative approaches, resilience, inspiration, courage and sustainable solutions to poverty.

24. Accessing Public Services via digital platforms (Byikorere)

This category honours exceptional stories that highlight the benefits, challenges, or adoption of the online platforms available for the public to access government services. We encourage submissions that explore how digital platforms enhance service delivery, transparency, and citizen engagement.

25. Community Work in fostering unity and social responsibility (umuganda)

This award recognizes stories that effectively capture the spirit of home-grown solutions like community work (Umuganda) as a tool for community development, unity, and nation-building. We welcome entries that document the impact of community work on social infrastructure, environmental conservation, and solidarity.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

1. Contestants must be practicing journalists working for accredited media houses operating in Rwanda;
2. Contestants must submit a copy of valid press card issued by the Rwanda Media Commission
3. Contestants must submit a **signed and stamped** recommendation of the media house approving their participation in the competition. This recommendation that must be signed by one of the managers (Managing Director, chief editor, programs Manager) must contain the following details:
 - Approval of the story's authenticity and originality, clearly stating the story title and content brief.
 - Attestation of the date on which the story was published/aired on their media outlet
4. Submitted entries must be in English, French or Kinyarwanda;
5. Entries must have been published/aired between **July 1st, 2023 and September 30th, 2024.**
6. For online, entries should be submitted in PDF screen shot showing original format in which the story was published plus the original link that leads to the story;
7. For print media, entries should be submitted in a scanned PDF document showing details including the Newspaper/Magazine, title of the story, date of publication, and by-line;
8. The format of submitted entries should be accessible/readable by the Judging panel;
9. Contestants who submit video and audio items must provide links where their entries can be accessed by judges;
10. The length for a Radio or TV news story should not exceed **3 minutes**;
11. In general, a candidate is allowed to compete in **only one category** and only **one article** is acceptable;
12. However, female journalists who competed in other categories are also allowed to compete in the Best story by female journalist category award. If a female candidate competes in two categories, they should submit two different works;
13. Entries in the following categories must be accompanied with a written summary not exceeding **300 words**: Talk-show of the year award, Documentary award (Radio/TV), Best photo of the year award)
14. Submission of **hard copies** is not accepted;
15. Entries not fulfilling the above criteria will be rejected.

16. Entries should be submitted via the following link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4jK_gBDAmI1Luk22FzaeW8o1VWyZL64-yoBIU14FUiXVlfw/viewform

The space allocated for applicants in the Online system to indicate their names, the title of the article, date of publication, the publishing media outlet and the competition category **must be filled properly;**

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: 23/10/2024 AT 5.00PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT: 0788487899/ 0788953756

Email: arj.dja2022@gmail.com

Done at Kigali on October 17th, 2024



Emmanuel Habumuremyi
Executive Secretary-ARJ

