



ASSOCIATION RWANDAISE DES JOURNALISTES
RWANDA JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION

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DEVELOPMENT JOURNALISM AWARDS (DJA) 2025

CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES

Every year, the of Rwanda Journalists Association (ARJ) in partnership with Rwanda Governance Board (RGB), Rwanda Media Commission (RMC) and the Association Rwandaise des femmes des medias (ARFEM) organises the Development Journalism Awards (**DJA**), an event dedicated to recognize and rewarding outstanding journalists for their excellence and professionalism in the media sector.

This year, the DJA will be held on 7th November 2025 in the afternoon, ending with a joyful ceremony where the winners of the DJA 2025 will receive their awards.

In this context, the Rwanda Journalists Association (ARJ) is pleased to announce the 12th Edition of the DJA and invites journalists to submit their entries.

Notice:

Submitted stories must adhere to the core principles of journalism professionalism – Truth and Accuracy, Independence, Fairness and Impartiality, Humanity, and Accountability. Entries should not be public relations-oriented but should demonstrate meaningful impact on society.



The Award Categories are as follows:

A. PROFESSIONAL CATEGORIES

1. Investigative reporting award

This category recognises the most incisive and revelatory public interest investigation of the year. Individual and collaborative (team) entries from Print/online and Radio/TV are accepted. Judges will be looking for a work that is compelling, brings significant new information to light, and exposes previously unknown truths on matters of public interest. In addition to the basic principles of professional journalism such as accuracy, balance, objectivity, judges will consider key elements such as the importance, magnitude and potential impact of the investigated issue on society, as well as the quality and quantity of data collected (documents analysis, in-depth interviews, etc).

2. Feature story award (Online/Print)

This category recognises the best feature story of the year. It rewards excellence in journalism on matters of public interest whether descriptive, human-interest, or interview based. The story must be thoroughly researched and written in a manner that attracts readers and leave them with increased knowledge or understanding of the subject covered. This category does not include investigative reporting and is open exclusively to print and online entries.



3. Documentary award (Radio/TV)

This category recognises the best documentary of the year. It rewards excellence in journalism on a matter of public interest which could be descriptive, of a human-interest nature or based on an interview. Entries must be well researched and presented in a way that engages viewers and listeners, leaving them with deeper knowledge or understanding of the subject covered. Image quality, sound clarity, ambiance will also be considered in the evaluation. This category does not include investigative reporting and is open exclusively to broadcasters (Radio and TV). The submitted entry must not exceed 20 minutes in length.

4. Data journalism reporting award

This category recognises journalists who have covered topics of public interest using statistical data and info graphics. It rewards those who accurately incorporate data analysis, explanation and visualization in presenting a story, making it both engaging and easily understandable to the public.

5. Best photo of the year award

This category recognises a photo published in a newspaper, magazine or an online news publication or print that tells a story in a creative and unique way. The photo should help readers understand the story easily. To Enter, Journalists should submit PDFs of the photos as it appeared in the original article, the original photo in JPEG or PNG format, a short description of the Photo (no more than 300 words), and an editor's note confirming that the photo is authentic and was published in their media house.



6. Sports reporting award

The award recognizes a story, documentary or magazine that covered, commented or investigated the world of sports in a way that highlights matters of public interest. Team (collaborative) entries are accepted. For those submitting a documentary or magazine, the work should not exceed 20 minutes in length.

7. Talk- show of the year award

This award recognises the best talk-show that was aired on Radio or TV. Submissions will be evaluated based on the relevance of the topic, the selection of guests or speakers, hosting and interviewing techniques and the level of audience engagement. Each entry should not exceed 45 minutes in length and must include a summary description of no more than 300 words.

8. Business reporting award

This award recognises a journalist who has provided a clear and insightful analysis of economic trends, by accurately explains the current state of the economy, and highlights how policies and laws influence and shape businesses and business practices.

9. Best story (by female journalist)

The award recognizes outstanding journalistic work by female journalists practicing in Rwanda. It is open exclusively to female journalists, who are encouraged to submit one of their works whether Print, Online, Radio, or TV that they consider their best published article or broadcast.



10. Best story of the year award

This award recognises the most outstanding journalistic work of the year. Entries that win in other categories will automatically be considered for this prize, so no separate submission is required.

B. THEMATIC CATEGORIES:

11. Disability and inclusion reporting award

This award recognises a journalist who promotes the rights of persons with disabilities and highlights their inclusion in the society. It honors work that has influenced public perception and contributed to a more positive image of persons with disabilities. Stories that portray persons with disabilities in a respectful and empowering way will be given special consideration.

12. GBV and child abuse reporting award

This award recognises journalists who have produced original and outstanding work that brings public attention to gender based violence (GBV) and child abuse. Judges will look for stories that highlight violations of fundamental rights such as life, liberty, security, dignity, equality, non discrimination, and physical or mental integrity. Special recognition will be given to stories that advocate for ending child abuse in all its forms, including emotional, physical, neglect, and sexual abuse.



13. Gender equality and inclusion reporting award

This award is for stories that support fairness for everyone, no matter their gender or social status. It looks at work that encourages girls and young people to make their own life choices and have equal power in shaping their future. It also includes stories that question traditions or practices that give men more advantages than women.

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

This award is open only to male journalist who have produced outstanding stories on the promotion of gender equality. It recognises work that explores the root causes of gender inequality and exclusion, challenges gender stereotypes and unequal power relations, and addresses discriminatory social norms and policies. Special attention will be given to stories that propose suggest or show practical ways of eliminating gender stereotypes.

15. Fighting teenage pregnancy reporting award

This award is for stories that push decision makers to strengthen sexual and reproductive health rights in the fight against teenage pregnancy. It Also recognises journalism that holds leaders accountability for implementing rights based strategies to reduce teenage pregnancy in the country. Special attention will be given to stories that advocate for adolescent girl's access to modern contraceptives without parental consent, as well as non fair and comprehensive sexuality education.



16. Child development reporting award

This award recognises journalists who promote and protect child rights while supporting child development. It honors outstanding stories on child education ,welfare,the fight against malnutrition and efforts to reduce child stunting. Entries are open to print, online ,Radio and TV. Three winners will be selected one from Radio,one from TV and one from Print/online.

17. Governance and service delivery reporting award

This award recognises journalists who produced outstanding articles/stories on quality service delivery as a key pillar of good governance ,in both public and private sectors. It honors works that had real impact,revealed new information and served the public interest by promoting quality service delivery.

18. Health reporting award

This award recognises a journalists who produced a well researched stories on health. It honors works that had an impact,revealed new information and served the public interest in the health sector.

19. Hygiene and sanitation reporting award

This award recognises media efforts in promoting hygiene and sanitation as essential for public health.It honors stories that encouraged positive behavior change and raised awareness about hygiene and sanitation as a way to prevent diseases and outbreaks. One



winner and one runner-up will be selected. This category is open to stories from Radio, TV, Print, and Online.

20. ICT and telecommunication reporting award

This award recognises journalists who produced outstanding stories on ICT and Telecommunications that served the public interest. This category focuses on work that had a positive impact on social-economic development of Rwandans.

21. Local governance and grassroots reporting award

This award recognises journalists who have demonstrated strong knowledge in reporting on local governance issues. It honors works that had impact, revealed new information on the performance of local government and served the public interest.

22. Excellence in Reporting on Decentralization Award

This award recognizes a journalist who has demonstrated exceptional skill, integrity, and impact in reporting on decentralization. The winning story should provide clear, insightful, and well-researched coverage that enhances public understanding of decentralized governance ,highlighting its achievements, challenges, and influence on local communities.

23. Inspiring Journeys of Self-Reliance and Poverty Eradication

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 in the fight against poverty.

24. Accessing Public Services via digital platforms

This awards recognises exceptional stories that highlight the use of online platforms to access government services. It celebrates works that explore the benefits, challenges and adoption of these platforms, and how they improve service delivery, transparency and citizen engagement.

25. Community Work in fostering unity and social responsibility

This award recognizes stories that highlight the role of community work in promoting development, unity, and nation building. It honors entries that showcase the impact of community work on social infrastructure, environmental conservation and community solidarity.

26. Agribusiness Reporting Award – DJA 2025

This award recognizes journalists whose stories effectively highlight innovation, challenges, and impact within Rwanda’s agribusiness sector. The winning entry should address key agribusiness issues, demonstrate tangible benefits to farmers, agripreneurs, or communities, be well-researched and factual, draw on credible sources and data, and offer fresh perspectives or innovative storytelling in agribusiness reporting.



27. Best Reporting on Domestic Resource Mobilization and Sustainable Development

This award honors journalism that highlights the critical role of domestic revenue in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), demonstrating the links between taxation, national development, equity, and long-term sustainability. Stories may explore challenges faced by taxpayers, including awareness of tax rights and obligations and barriers within the informal economy.

SUBMISSION CRITERIA

1. Journalists must be actively working for accredited media houses operating in Rwanda;
2. Journalists must submit a copy of valid press card issued by the Rwanda Media Commission
3. Journalists must submit a **signed and stamped** recommendation of the media house approving their participation in the competition. This recommendation 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 **October 1st, 2024 and September 30th, 2025.**



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. Journalists 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/1Aj1R2qoq_TFcsQnHL87KDfuZfCOsxICyQCegFJ8C_UY/preview



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:

23/10/2025 AT 5.00PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:

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Done at Kigali on October 10th, 2025



Emmanuel Habumuremyi
Executive Secretary-ARJ

