



Press Release

Putting Pen to Paper: Discrimination and Diversity Journalist Award Launches

THE “FOR DIVERSITY. AGAINST DISCRIMINATION.” JOURNALIST AWARD 2008 OPENS FOR SUBMISSIONS

On 1 August, the European Commission launched the latest edition of its “For Diversity. Against Discrimination.” Journalist Award. For the fifth successive year, submissions are invited for this European competition which honours journalists from both online and printed media. The “For Diversity. Against Discrimination.” Journalist Award showcases the talents of those media professionals who, through their writing, contribute to a better understanding of the benefits of diversity and the fight against discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, race or ethnic origin.

Raising Awareness: an Integral Campaign Tool

The Journalist Award aims to raise awareness among European journalists about the disturbingly high number of discriminatory incidents affecting European citizens at home and in the workplace. A recent Eurobarometer poll revealed that 15% of Europeans believe that they were discriminated against in 2007.¹ The Journalist Award is therefore an integral part of the European Commission’s “For Diversity. Against Discrimination.” communication campaign to promote diversity and better information about discrimination rights for citizens throughout Europe.

Hot Off the Press: Submitting Articles Online

Articles published between 1 January and 31 October 2008 in either print or online media within the EU are eligible for competition. Journalists who want to participate can submit their article on <http://journalistaward.stop-discrimination.info>. At the end of the entry period, national juries will gather in all 27 EU Member States to select winning articles. From these 27 national winners, a jury will then be assembled to choose the best three articles and appoint the overall European Journalist Award winner. The winners will be awarded with prizes worth up to €4 500.

¹ Special Eurobarometer 296, Discrimination in the European Union: Perceptions, Experiences and Attitudes, July 2008



Bringing the Issue into Focus: Special Award on Roma

As in previous years, the European Commission dedicates a Special Award to one specific theme. This year's Special Award celebrates articles examining issues surrounding discrimination against the Roma community. In many European countries, the Roma – who collectively form the largest ethnic minority in the enlarged EU – suffer from racial violence, hate speech and discrimination in accessing employment, education, healthcare, and public and social services. A recent Eurobarometer study reveals that a quarter of Europeans would feel uncomfortable about having a Roma neighbour, which certainly highlights the extent of the problems that group faces on a daily basis.²

Ringed Endorsement: Journalist Associations Lend Their Weight

For the 2008 competition, the “For Diversity. Against Discrimination.” Journalist Award has received the support of several well-renowned journalist associations. The European Youth Press and the Association of European Journalists are all supporting the aims of the award and the achievements of the participants.

The European Commission is determined to eradicate discrimination in all its guises. The Journalist Award is one of several EU initiatives to promote a change of attitudes and behaviour in pursuit of this important goal.

For more information, visit: www.stop-discrimination.info and <http://journalistaward.stop-discrimination.info>

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“For Diversity. Against Discrimination.” – The Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Directorate General of the European Commission is running a pan-European information campaign on combating discrimination on the grounds of race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, age, disability and sexual orientation. The campaign “For Diversity. Against Discrimination.” is designed to inform people about their rights under EU anti-discrimination legislation as well as promoting the positive benefits of diversity in the workplace.

² Just 6% of EU respondents express the same level of unease with someone from a different ethnic origin in general.



An initiative of the European Union