



# AWARD CRITERIA & NOMINATION TIPS

**The Celebrating Young People Awards honour the achievements of those truly remarkable young people who make our communities and our world a better place.**

Nominated by friends and family to teachers and clergy, award recipients are drawn from throughout England and Wales and reflect achievements in every area of social action.

Their achievements will be an inspiration for us all. They will show us all how ordinary young people can do the most extraordinary things. Previous recipients include young carers, a group of climate change bloggers, a nineteen year old challenging mental health stigma, and a young peace activist working tirelessly to support refugee women from war torn countries.

Our award recipients come from public nominations, and are whittled down to a shortlist in each category. Our judging panels, made up of celebrated figures, choose those who will be publicly honoured at a glittering ceremony in central London in November.

Young nominees can be aged 11 to 25, from anywhere in England and Wales, and they should be doing something extraordinary.

These guidance notes provide you with more detail about the criteria of each award and provide some hints on what the panellists will be looking for. If you'd like any more information, or help in completing the nomination form, please do contact Million Minutes at [awards@millionminutes.org](mailto:awards@millionminutes.org)

## GENERAL CRITERIA

- The Celebrating Young People Awards are rooted in Catholic social teaching evidenced by social action. They seek to recognise and affirm young people who are positively and practically living out social action.
- Whilst the Awards are rooted within Catholic social teaching and the Catholic community, recipients do not have to be Catholic, but should have an appreciation of Catholic social teaching, and linked to the Catholic community. For example, students in a Catholic school or part of a youth group connected to a Catholic parish or chaplaincy.
- Age range for nominations is 11 – 25 (EXCEPT for the CYMFed Award, where nominees must be 18 and over).
- The reason for nomination must have been completed in the last 12 months.
- The Celebrating Young People Awards celebrate the unsung young heroes in your community – please do not nominate a young person or group who have previously received an award for the same activity you are nominating them for.
- Please only nominate one person or group (up to four people) from your community in each category. If you are in a school, it may be worth checking with other teachers before submitting an application in case they have already nominated the same or another person for the Awards.
- Consider the Criteria for each award before choosing the category – would your nomination fit better in another category? NB The panellists reserve the right to move your nomination into a more suitable category should they see fit. You will, of course, be advised of this.
- All nominees will receive a certificate to recognise their nomination and their achievements.

## What are the panellists looking for?

- It's more than just the hours a young person may have volunteered for. It's how they are living their social action.
- It's not all about the money – fundraising for charity is great (especially if your chosen charity is Million Minutes!), but how does the young person(s) you are nominating demonstrate they are engaging and/or educating themselves and others with the wider issues in order to make a positive difference? For example, an awareness campaign around the causes of homelessness in addition to fundraising for Shelter.
- Million Minutes and the Celebrating Young People Awards are centred around activities and social action being led by young people. The panellists will be looking at how the young person(s) nominated demonstrate that the initiative was theirs and not carrying out the ideas of a leader or teacher.
- What has the young person done to go above and beyond? This does not have to be 'extraordinary'. You will know young people who go above and beyond in many ways. For example, a young person living in such circumstances that just getting to school in the morning is an achievement.

## Celebrating Young People Awards

**The Jimmy Mizen Award:** Promoting solidarity and peace

**The Cardinal Hume Award:** Living out the option for the poor

**The Joseph Cardijn Award:** Protecting the dignity of workers

**The Dorothy Day Award:** Fostering community and participation

**The Barbara Ward Award:** Caring for the environment

**The St Josephine Bakhita Award:** Celebrating human dignity

**The Pope Francis Award**

**The CYMFed Award:** Inspiring youth leader

# THE JIMMY MIZEN AWARD – PROMOTING SOLIDARITY AND PEACE

The Jimmy Mizen Award recognises young people who have shown a firm and persevering commitment to the common good or peacemaking. We seek the good of one another, aware of our dependence on one another.

Pope John Paul II said, “[Solidarity] is a firm and persevering determination to commit oneself to the common good” (The social concern of the Church, 38). Peace flows from this. We are called to live honestly with one another, working together in love for the good of all. This is what will lead to true peace.

## Nomination Tips:

Do you know a young person who works to overcome violence in their local community? Perhaps they've expanded this action to campaign for peace on a national or international scale.

Maybe you know a young adult who strives to foster reconciliation in their community, bringing enemies together and healing communities, or a young person who has a passion to end bullying in their community.

One of the 2015 award recipients was Jamie Halliwell, a year 9 pupil from London who strives to end bullying in his school, particularly homophobic bullying. The panellists were impressed by the manner in which Jamie challenged his peers and the senior leadership.

Here's an extract from his nomination:

*“Jamie is currently in Year 9 and has been an active member of the elected school council for all 3 years. He has displayed emotional maturity and leadership; not only across his own year group but across the whole school. Jamie is living the gospel values as he has promoted tolerance and celebrated the dignity of humanity. Jamie has taken a high profile role as an Anti-bullying ambassador and has been a school leader in raising awareness of homophobic abuse and LGBT issues.*

*Jamie felt so strongly about the promotion of tolerance and ‘love one another’ that he developed a presentation that informed and challenged the students in all years, which he delivered single-handedly in assemblies. He has even delivered training to staff from other schools on dealing with homophobic bullying in a Catholic school.*

*The impact of his work in school is already being seen. He is an excellent role model for all.”*

In our world... different forms of war and conflict are re-emerging, yet we Christians remain steadfast in our intention to respect others, to heal wounds, to build bridges, to strengthen relationships and to “bear one another’s burdens” (Gal 6:2).  
Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel, 67



# THE CARDINAL HUME AWARD – LIVING OUT THE OPTION FOR THE POOR

The Cardinal Hume Award recognises young people who have helped others turn lives around. Caring for those living in poverty, both in our local neighbourhoods and throughout the world, is a fundamental duty of us all. However, the preferential option for the poor goes further than this. In the Gospels, time and again, Jesus shows a preferential option for the poor – putting them first, giving them special importance, thinking of their needs and enabling them to have their rightful place in the world. It is not enough simply to think of those living in poverty and try to help them. The voice of people living in poverty needs to be heard. We must enable them to be a full part of the decision making process. We must enable those living in poverty to play a full, active role in society.

I want a Church which is poor and for the poor. They have much to teach us... We are called to find Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them  
Pope Francis, Joy of the Gospel 198

## Nomination Tips:

Do you know a young person who strives to put the poorest in their community first? A young person who gives up their time to volunteer in their local foodbank or in their local homeless shelter.

Perhaps you know a young person who works tirelessly to tackle the causes of poverty, at home or abroad, or a group who have built up awareness of Fairtrade and the reason for its importance.

One of the 2016 award recipients were the Sixth Form Homelessness Campaign group from Crawley, who raised awareness of street homelessness in their school through a cross-curricular campaign. The panel was impressed by their initiative and commitment to raising awareness of the issue, alongside fundraising.

The group was nominated by their deputy head teacher and here is an extract from their nomination:

*“My year 7 R.E class heard about a school called St Peter’s “These students took part in a ‘sleep out’ in their town centre organised by the Parish. They shared their dinner with some of the homeless people sleeping in the same area as them that night, and really got to talking with these people. The connection and experience moved our students and they decided to take their experience further. Off their own backs they presented their ideas to the Head teacher who gave his support to their proposed campaign. They took assemblies to raise awareness; went into classes making cross curricular links in many subjects. They used notice boards and social media to get their message. Then started to fundraise for ‘Crawley Open House’ along with their awareness campaign. They got all members of our community involved in this campaign. Our Christmas liturgy was very emotional as it was linked with the plight of the homeless through the flight of the Holy Family and then the students processed out of the evening liturgy to their sleep out. There were tears and laughter. Amazingly they raised over £5000 in less than a term. Crawley Open House said that this was the biggest amount any school had ever raised for them even when they had had this charity focus for a whole year. I believe the success is down to two things, the amazing awareness campaign and the faith and prayers of the students. Through Him all things are possible.”*

# THE JOSEPH CARDIJN AWARD — PROTECTING THE DIGNITY OF WORKERS

The Joseph Cardijn Award recognises young people who have stood up for the rights of workers, helped people into work, or shown leadership among their colleagues. The right to work, to have a job, to earn money and so support your family are all connected to the dignity of each individual. Catholic social teaching affirms that human beings are not merely a commodity, a tool as part of a process to make things. Human beings are greater than any thing. They deserve a fair wage and proper working conditions.

This is a broad area of Catholic social teaching and the award recipient could be employed or unemployed, but is someone who is committed to the value of hard work and respecting the worker.

## Nomination Tips:

Do you know a young person who truly lives out justice in their workplace or school? A young person who stands up for the rights of others?

Maybe you know a young adult who is living out their vocation through their work, or someone who is very active in supporting others live out their vocation.

One of the 2015 award recipients was Ryan Earle, who had been very inspired by the work of the Young Christian Workers and became his local group's president. Inspired by his work with the YCW, Ryan began campaigning with London Citizens for the rights of workers.

Ryan was nominated by a Parish based youth minister.

Here's an extract from his nomination:

*"Ryan is a member of the Young Christian Workers group in St Mary's parish West Croydon. Ryan always made a serious and thoughtful contribution to the meetings which covered many issues affecting young people. Ryan came to understand the methodology of the YCW SEE JUDGE ACT and so became able to analyse problems affecting young people, evaluating the issues and planning and executing appropriate action. It was in the years when Ryan was the group President that he came to his own exercising leadership skills and showing initiative and confidence.*

*Ryan has become involved in a leadership capacity with London Citizens taking part and leading the group at St Mary's in the City Safe campaign... He has undergone training with London Citizens and has also assisted with their Assemblies at which local politicians are asked about such issues as the living wage."*

**"Young workers ... are not machines, slaves or animals; they are human persons, with a human and Christian dignity and mission. They must know the value of their work, their rights and their duties. They must be encouraged to give help and support to one another, to represent one another in all social and political bodies which aim to better living and working conditions, not only for adult workers, but also for young workers."**  
Cardinal Joseph Cardijn

# THE DOROTHY DAY AWARD - FOSTERING COMMUNITY AND PARTICIPATION

The Dorothy Day Award recognises young people engaged with those around them, making their community a better place for all. Human beings exist in relation to one another. We're called to live with others, be aware of others, communicating, sharing, enjoying moments of joy and being there together in times of sadness. All of us are called to participate, to join in, to work alongside others for the common good of all.

## Nomination Tips:

Do you know a young person who's led an SVP group to spend time with the elderly outside of school hours or worked with the local community to combat gang related violence?

Has someone shown true leadership and led a group of their peers to participate in social action in the community? Perhaps they have a passion for reading and spearheaded a campaign against the local library closure? Maybe there is a student who is exceptionally involved in the chaplaincy and is always there to support other students?

One of the 2016 award recipients was Flavia, a Sixth Form student from London, with a passion for social justice.

Flavia was nominated by her chaplain. Here's an extract from her nomination:

*"I would like to nominate Flavia for the Dorothy Day Award due to the contributions she has made to her community over the last year. Flavia began volunteering as a receptionist at her local Portuguese Speakers Community Centre. In this role, Flavia supports those struggling socially and financially by translating correspondence, making appointments and mediating with councils etc. on behalf of her clients. At the centre Flavia has contact with many elderly and vulnerable members of her community. As Christmas 2015 approached, concerned that many of them would spend the holiday alone, she decided to organise a Christmas Eve dinner. She made hand-made cards for every guest and arranged for centre staff to help out and supply food. Alongside volunteering and A-Level studies, Flavia then became involved with the 'For the Love Of' climate campaign, joining other SFX students in lobbying MP's in Parliament. This was followed by enrolment on CAFOD's Young Leadership Programme. Flavia has been a steadfast member of the SFX Chaplaincy Team, contributing to liturgies, fundraising drive, and fostering our college community.*

*"Flavia's ability to act on her own initiative is evidenced in the organizing of the aforementioned Christmas dinner. Flavia is a natural leader - but informed through her catholic faith - understands the significance of collaboration to achieve goals and build better communities. She is happy seeking the help and advice of others and delegating tasks to benefit a project and to benefit the contributor.*

**I ask you to  
be builders of the  
world, to work for  
a better world. Dear  
young people, please,  
don't be observers of life,  
but get involved.**

Pope Francis, World Youth  
Day Prayer Vigil, 2013

*Flavia is driven by a desire to improve the situation of others, be that through encouragement and mentoring of fellow students in college, supporting vulnerable members of her community, or protesting against climate change and its negative effects on impoverished communities."*

# THE BARBARA WARD AWARD - CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

The Barbara Ward Award (try to say that without smiling at the rhyme!) recognises young people who have conserved, enhanced or protected creation. God created the earth. Often the way we treat creation leads to the harm of both of it, and those living on it. We need to treat the earth with respect.

## Nomination Tips:

Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded.  
Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'*, 13

Do you know a young person who's led a conservation project? Maybe they've convinced the headteacher to install solar panels or initiated recycling at the Parish Centre.

Perhaps you know a young person who is bucking the smartphone trend to lessen the burden on mineral extraction, or leading an awareness campaign around Climate Change.

One of the 2016 award recipients was Owen from Thornleigh in Bolton, a year 11 pupil who initiated and established the school Eco group, leading the introduction of recycling in the school canteen.

The group was nominated by their teacher and here is an extract from the nomination:

*"This group of young people have become the first Fisher More Bloggers, winning a competition run by CAFOD on climate change, making a video blog of our school and how simple things like switching a light of really make a difference. They went away with CAFOD to prepare to launch this campaign. Buzzing from these few days away they launched our campaign at Fisher More, they have prepared and delivered assemblies raising awareness to our school community. They have immersed themselves in helping others to become aware of our role in trying to make a difference in our world.*

*They successfully invited our local MP to a question time, in which he was grilled on his reaction to climate change. He went away and brought their questions to Prime Ministers Questions... Their work has been published on our school website and in the local press. They are continuing to blog on different issues, they are a credit to our school but also to themselves as young people who want to make a difference to our community."*



# THE ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA AWARD — CELEBRATING HUMAN DIGNITY

The St Josephine Bakhita Award recognises young people who have enabled others to live a life of dignity.

Every human being is seen as equal. They're lovingly and beautifully made in God's image and likeness. The other principles flow from this.

This is a very broad and wide ranging category, in which most of the social action being celebrated by these awards would be eligible for. **If your nominee would fit in another category, please do nominate them in a different category.**

Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives... every person is immensely holy and deserves our love.  
Pope Francis, *Joy of the Gospel*, 274

## Nomination Tips:

Do you know a young person who is a young carer, who manages to care for a parent or a sibling and still come to school/work each day without complaint?

Perhaps you know a young person who consistently puts the dignity of others before themselves. Or maybe a young person who is dedicated to working to improve the lives of people living with disabilities?

One of the 2015 award recipients was Abbie Lee from Liverpool. Abbie Lee has been a young carer to her mum and her younger brother for many years and supports her mum through her medical appointments and struggle to face up to seeking help.

Here's an extract from her nomination:

*"Abbie Lee is a young carer for mum. For many years mum suffered in silence from what she knows now to be anxiety attacks, bi-polar and personality disorder. It was only through Abbie Lee's encouragement and insistence at 11 years old, that mum sought medical help, and was able to get a diagnosis for her conditions as well as the much needed help and support, both medically and emotionally. Throughout her teenage years, Abbie has often found herself, albeit willingly, in the role of 'mum' as due to her conditions, mum often has days where she is unable to carry out the day to day routine of everyday life. It is during this time that Abbie Lee steps in, in order to make things easier for mum to deal with. If mum is having a particularly bad day, Abbie Lee has to monitor her to ensure that she is taking her medication as well as try to counsel her as mum refuses to see a professional counsellor. Abbie Lee also has to interpret for mum as due to her conditions, mum is prone to misinterpreting people's conversations that in turn can lead to confrontational issues. To add to all of this, Abbie has had to fight her own demons as she herself was diagnosed with depression, anxiety, bulimia and PTSD. Throughout her time with us, and despite her occasional poor attendance due to issues beyond her control, Abbie Lee achieved 9 GCSE's including 4 A's and 2 B's. Despite all of the problems that have come her way in such a short life, Abbie Lee has constantly remained a confident, buoyant, popular and focused young woman. Her grounded, mature and realistic nature has enabled her to give her mum a quality of life she could only have dreamed of."*

# THE POPE FRANCIS AWARD

Every young person nominated will be considered for the Pope Francis Award. During shortlisting, the panellists in each category will put forward at least one young person to be shortlisted for the Pope Francis Award, from whom the Award will be selected.

This award will be presented by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon on 23 November 2017.

Cardinal Vincent detailed the criteria for the Pope Francis Award recipient during the 2015 award ceremony: "I had the job of choosing the Pope Francis award recipient. This was not easy. So I set for myself three characteristics that I was looking for, which I think come straight from the mind and the writings and the actions of Pope Francis:

- Pope Francis says to us, 'reality is more important than ideas' - so I was looking for somebody who in an outstanding way grappled with reality and had that as the real motivation of what they were doing;
- Pope Francis often talks about the importance and need for leaders of integrity and courage, so I was looking for someone who was a leader, who's showing us the way and is doing it consistently, and not just in a haphazard way;
- Maybe most importantly of all, Pope Francis speaks of you and I, of all of us, as Missionary Disciples of Jesus. So I had to find somebody who, in my view, knew what that meant in their daily life. To be a disciple, a companion, to be someone whose heart was close to Jesus and who was fired by His love and His understanding of what He brings, and was because of that reason willing to reach out."



# THE CYMFED AWARD — INSPIRING YOUTH LEADER

The CYMFed Award is designed to recognise a truly inspiring youth worker or youth minister. We know that there are 100s of people who have dedicated their lives to working with and for young people, often in a thankless role. This is your opportunity to thank the person in your community who truly goes above and before for young people.

Nominees should be adults (18 and over) who are not paid for achievements for which they are being nominated.

Your CYMFed Award nominee should not be paid for the work they are nominated for.

## Nomination Tips:

Does your Parish have a truly excellent volunteer youth leader? Is your local Scout leader always there to offer advice and support?

Does your Diocese have an incredible Youth Minister who has inspired generations of young people?

The 2015 award recipient was Bruno Gambini, a much loved volunteer youth worker in the city of Derby for over 30 years.

He was nominated by one of his colleagues in the diocese who painted a picture of who Bruno was as a youth minister, and described how Bruno was loved by his young people.

Here's an extract from his nomination:

*"Bruno would be the last person to nominate himself for this award, he doesn't see himself as a youth worker, yet the work he does with young people week after week and year after year is simply wonderful... The secret to Bruno's success, the reason he is so popular with young people has nothing to do with his understanding of 'group work dynamics' or his theological views, it is quite simply because he so obviously cares about young people. He gets that life as a teenager can be hard, it is sometimes deadly boring and very often confusing - Bruno is a constant presence of fun, sound advice and unfailing encouragement.*

*Bruno loves young people and young people love him, it really is that simple. His commitment is unfailing - he may be a bit scatty, a bit unorganised but he's always there. He works in parish youth groups, confirmation programmes, within the deaf community and is a regular on the HCPT Lourdes pilgrimages. So many young people refer to Bruno as a 'total ledge!' and that's why we're nominating him for this award."*



## GET INVOLVED

Inspired? Want to get involved and make a change? There's lots more information online, including resources, presentations and ideas of how to support other young people at [millionminutes.org](http://millionminutes.org)

Million Minutes powers siLENT - a sponsored silence in Lent to help give a voice to young people who are not heard or overlooked in society. You could stay silent: [millionminutes.org/silent](http://millionminutes.org/silent)

Remember the panellists will only have the information given on the nomination form



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