

THE WRITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AWARDS



Entry guidance

**END
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**

ENDORSED BY

NUJ
NATIONAL UNION
OF
JOURNALISTS

ABOUT THE AWARDS

The media's reporting of violence against women and girls can play a vital role in ending it. It can increase our understanding of this abuse and challenge its place in society.

But as we see all too often, it can also reinforce victim-blaming attitudes and beliefs that violence against women and girls is a normal part of life.

We know that violence against women is not inevitable, and that by shifting our collective attitudes and beliefs and addressing the inequality that underpins them, we can create a world without this abuse.

That's why we're recognising journalists, writers and content creators who report on violence against women responsibly, sensitively and accurately.

The Write to End Violence Against Women Awards celebrates the journalists and writers getting it right and helping move us closer to a society without this abuse.

We're particularly interested in pieces by under-represented voices, including Black and minoritised women, LGBT+ people, disabled people, those from working-class backgrounds.

ENTRY GUIDELINES

- Entry is free
- You can submit your own or another person's piece
- You may submit more than one entry per category
- No single piece of writing will be accepted in more than one category. Please choose the most appropriate single category for your entry (see guidance below). If you are unsure about which category your piece falls into, please contact Sinéad on media@evaw.org.uk to discuss
- Nominated articles must have been published between 1st October 2024 and 30th September 2025 inclusive, and have been created in or about the UK, or primarily reached a UK audience
- For our Best News, Feature, Investigation and Opinion & Comment awards, the author must have received financial compensation for the piece
- Winners will be announced at an online ceremony in December. The shortlist will be made available ahead of the awards

AWARD CATEGORIES



BEST NEWS

- A “hard news” story, i.e. a piece of reporting intended to communicate the facts of the story.
- The author must have received financial compensation for the piece.
- The piece may be published in any local or national UK publication, online or print.

BEST FEATURE

- A lengthier feature piece, i.e. a piece of writing intended to provide more analysis and context than a straightforward news piece.
- The author must have received financial compensation for the piece.
- The piece may be published in any local or national UK publication online or print.

BEST INVESTIGATION

- A piece that involved significant work to uncover information in the public interest, which impacts understanding or experiences relating to violence against women and girls
- The author must have received financial compensation for the piece.
- The piece may be published in any local or national UK publication, online or print.

BEST OPINION & COMMENT

- A piece where the author expresses their personal opinion.
- The author must have received financial compensation for the piece.
- The piece may be published in any local or national UK publication, online or print.

BEST BLOG OR SELF-PUBLISHED

- The piece might include the author's opinions, a review, or commentary on policy, research or world events.
- It may be published on blogging sites like Substack, or organisational blogs.
- Personal blogs and websites are accepted as long as they are freely available online.
- Nominations must be for an individual blog post, not an entire blog. However, multiple individual posts from the same blog can be nominated as separate entries.

EXPERTS' PICK



WOODEN SPOON

- We award the Wooden Spoon to a problematic trend or theme that we have seen in reporting on violence against women.
- We have previously awarded the Wooden Spoon to:
 - “Invisible perpetrators”, where passive language wrongly gives the impression that violence against women is inevitable and stops perpetrators from being held accountable
 - “Missing Black and minoritised victims”, whose stories the media fails to give equal attention to
 - “Nice Guys”, when the media is overly sympathetic to perpetrators of violence against women, wrongly justifying and excusing their actions.

BROADCAST: EXPERTS' PICK

- Each year, we recognise good reporting via television, radio or other audiovisual services.
- This includes news broadcasts, podcasts and documentaries that cover violence against women well.
- While we are unable to accept public nominations for this award, our expert steering group will select a winner.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

When choosing the pieces we think deserve recognition we look for a number of qualities. They will be judged on three criteria:

1. How well written is the piece?

- Is this a good piece of journalism?
- Is the quality of the writing good?
- Does it flow well?
- Is language well utilised?
- Is it enjoyable to read?

2. Does this piece challenge gender inequality and/or violence against women?

Does the piece:

- Follow good practice guidelines when discussing violence against women and girls?
- Effectively raise awareness about gender equality as an issue and challenge it?
- Challenge or reinforce myths and stereotypes? e.g. implying the survivor is to blame; portraying perpetrators as beasts or fiends, or as misunderstood anti-heroes; describing violence as crimes of passion etc.
- Use quotes from experts, facts, or figures to place the story in a wider context of VAWG?
- Talk about the root cause of VAWG?
- Include the voice or the impact of this violence on a victim-survivor?
- Treat the victim-survivor of abuse or violence with respect for their experience, dignity and safety?
- Provide helplines at the end of the article?

3. Does this piece have a wow factor?

- Is it innovative?
- Is it original?
- Does it contribute something new to the discourse?
- Is it on an unusual topic, or does it shed new light on an old topic?
- Does it give an interesting perspective to a story?
- Is it from a voice you haven't heard before?
- Is it from the perspective of an underrepresented group?
- Does it make you think?

Judging the awards The pieces will be shortlisted by our steering group made up of experts from organisations working to end violence against women and girls, and judged by a panel of industry experts.

Writing in other languages

We are keen to ensure that the Write Awards receive as broad a range of submissions as possible. We also know that many people writing on gender equality and violence against women in the UK will be doing so in another language.

Unfortunately, due to our staff capacity and time constraints, we can only accept pieces that have been translated into English (this is something we are keen to change in the future years).

NOMINATE AN ARTICLE

