



PREMIO
LUIS VALTUEÑA
Fotografía
humanitaria

30th LUIS VALTUEÑA AWARD

2026 Call for Entries



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SIN SALUD, LA VIDA SE DETIENE

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Médicos del Mundo España has announced the launch of the 30th Luis Valtueña International Humanitarian Photography Prize, which aims to recognise and promote documentary and photojournalistic work that highlights inequalities, human rights abuses, situations of injustice and the responses taken to combat them. This prize pays tribute to Luis Valtueña and three other members of Médicos del Mundo: Flors Sirera, Manuel Madrazo and Mercedes Navarro, who were murdered in Rwanda (1997) and Bosnia (1995) whilst providing assistance to civilians affected by armed conflict. This call for entries aims to promote a form of photography committed to human dignity, the defence of rights and social transformation, to contribute to the eradication of the worst of all diseases: injustice.

CALENDAR

Opening of the call for applications: Thursday, 30 July 2026.

Closing date for applications: Sunday, 11 October 2026 at 23:59 (GMT+2).

Verification period: October 2026.

Jury's decision: November 2026.

Award ceremony, exhibition and publication of the catalogue: 2027.

PARTICIPANTS PROFILES

Photographers, whether professional or non-professional, of any nationality and of legal age, may take part, as may collectives made up of two or more members whose work follows a documentary and/or photojournalistic approach.

Staff members of Médicos del Mundo España, their relatives up to the first degree of kinship, jury members, and any person directly involved in organising the competition may not take part.

THEME

Photographs must address stories relating to health, humanitarian action, international cooperation, emergencies, social exclusion, migration, refugees, armed conflicts, inequalities or human rights violations.

Particular consideration will be given to stories that are rarely highlighted or receive little public coverage.

Entry to the competition is free of charge.

SUBMISSION

Each participant may submit only one entry. This must be submitted exclusively in digital format via the Picter platform, carefully following the instructions available at app.picter.com/contests.

The application must include:

- The candidate's contact details and personal information.
- A biography.
- A series of photographs comprising between 5 and 10 images.
- A text presenting the project.
- Captions for each photograph. Each caption must contain information specific to the image it accompanies; under no circumstances may the same captions be repeated for all the photographs in a single series.

Important: the author's name must not appear in the project description, in the captions of the photographs, or in the file names. Entries will be assessed by a jury that will not be aware of the applicants' identities.

TECHNICAL CRITERIA AND THE AUTHENTICITY OF IMAGES

- Entries must be original and personal works.
- At least 50 per cent of the series must have been produced between 2025 and 2026 and must not have been submitted to previous editions of the Luis Valtueña Prize.
- Images must be uploaded to the platform in the order in which they are to be presented to the jury*.
- Each image file must be named using the title of the series followed by the corresponding sequence number (e.g. title_01, title_02).
- The author's name or logo must not appear on any image.
- Photographs must be submitted in JPEG (.jpg) format**, with a minimum resolution of 3000 px on the longest side; it is recommended to use the sRGB colour profile or gamma 2.2 greyscale.
- Complete EXIF metadata must be retained on all images. Each file must not exceed 3 MB.
- Only single-frame photographs will be accepted.
- Digital retouching intended for technical image correction (exposure, contrast, colour balance, black and white, noise reduction or cropping) is permitted, provided that it does not alter the documentary content captured.
- It is forbidden to add, remove, replace or alter any elements present in the photographed scene.
- Images generated wholly or partly by generative artificial intelligence will not be accepted, nor will those in which AI tools have created or incorporated elements that were not present at the time the photograph was taken.
- The organisers may request the original RAW files, negatives or technical documentation in the event of reasonable doubt regarding the authenticity or processing of an image.

* If the application contains errors that can be corrected, Médicos del Mundo will inform the entrant, who will then have two working days from the date of this notification to make the corrections. Any entrant who fails to correct these errors within the specified time limit will be permanently excluded from the call for entries.

** If the series is selected as a winner or finalist, the entrant must be able to provide their images in high resolution (300 dpi) for the printing of exhibition prints and their use in the media.

JURY AND SELECTION

An international jury, comprising professionals from the fields of photography and humanitarian work, as well as representatives from Médicos del Mundo, will select the winning entries.

The selection process will take into account the photographic quality, the relevance of the story told, the ethical approach and the entries' ability to raise awareness.

AWARD

The total prize money for the 2026 Luis Valtueña Prize amounts to 12,000 euros gross, distributed as follows:

- First prize and winner of the Luis Valtueña Prize: 6,000 euros.
- Second prize: 2,000 euros.
- Third prize: 2,000 euros.
- Fourth prize: 2,000 euros.
- Special Prize: 1,500 euros, awarded by the Donostia Film and Human Rights Festival in recognition of a single photograph, selected from among the four winning series, which will become the official image of the 2027 edition of the festival. The decision will be made by the jury of the Luis Valtueña Prize and representatives of the Film and Human Rights Festival.

In addition to the cash prizes, the four winning series will be published in the official catalogue for this edition and will form part of the Luis Valtueña Prize's travelling exhibition. This exhibition will be shown at various photography festivals, galleries and cultural centres across Spain. In particular, the exhibition will be showcased at the Asturias International Photojournalism Festival, helping to increase the visibility and professional recognition of the selected projects.

COPYRIGHT

Participants retain the intellectual property rights to their works.

The creators of the selected works grant Médicos del Mundo, the Médicos del Mundo International Network and the Donostia Film and Human Rights Festival a non-exclusive licence to use the images for communication, dissemination, exhibition and publication purposes, as well as for activities related to the award, whilst ensuring that the creator is credited in all circumstances.

THIRD-PARTY RIGHTS

The participant warrants that they hold the necessary rights to the images submitted and that they have obtained the relevant authorisations where identifiable individuals appear in them. They are also responsible for complying with the applicable legislation on intellectual property, personal data protection and image rights.

ACCEPTANCE

Entry into the 30th Luis Valtueña International Humanitarian Photography Prize implies full acceptance of these rules.

With the collaboration of:

DONOSTIA / SAN SEBASTIÁN

GIZA ESKUBIDEEN

ZINEMALDIA

FESTIVAL DE CINE

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