

THE WRITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN **AWARDS**



Entry guidance

**END
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN**

Z **ZERO
TOLERANCE**

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 which represent voices not often heard, for example Black, Asian, and ethnically diverse people; LGBTQ+ people; disabled people; people from rural communities; and people from working-class/lower socioeconomic 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 jo.zawadzka@zerotolerance.org.uk to discuss
- Submissions must have been published since 1st October 2023 and have been created in or about the UK, or primarily reached a UK audience
- For our News and Feature categories, 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 PIECE - 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 PIECE - 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 PIECE - OPINION & COMMENT

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

BEST PIECE - BLOGS AND SELF-PUBLISHED ARTICLES

- 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 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.

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 “Nice Guys”, when the media is overly sympathetic to perpetrators of violence against women; and to “invisible women”, the failure to mention the woman’s name and instead focus the majority of coverage on the perpetrator.

BROADCAST: EXPERTS' PICK

This year, we will recognise good reporting via television, radio, or internet. We will be considering news broadcasts, podcasts, and documentaries that cover violence against women well.

This award will be chosen by experts on violence against women. We are not accepting submissions for this award.

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?
 - For more information on how writing may challenge VAWG see our [media guidelines on VAWG](#).
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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 the violence against women and girls sector, 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).

However, if you are unable to translate your piece, please let us know – we will do all we can to share it among our networks and find someone with the expertise to get your piece translated and eligible for submission. Contact Joanna Zawadzka at jo.zawadzka@zerotolerance.org.uk for more help.

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE A PIECE](#)



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