

HUMAN RIGHTS - SPECIAL PRIZE MOROCCO

Charter

Editions 2027–2030

Preamble

The Kingdom of Morocco occupies a unique position in the Council of Europe's policy towards its neighbouring regions. As the first country in the Arab world to be granted, in 2011, the status of partner for democracy by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), a member of the Venice Commission and the North-South Centre, and a party to thirteen of the Organisation's conventions and protocols, Morocco has, since the opening of the Rabat Office in 2014, the Council of Europe's key partner in the southern Mediterranean. The Neighbourhood Partnership 2026–2029, approved by the Committee of Ministers on 29 April 2026, consolidates this relationship around three pillars: human rights, the rule of law and democracy.

The Federation for European Education (FEDE), an international non-governmental organisation with consultative status at the Council of Europe, brings together 550 member institutions in 45 countries, including around 60 in Morocco. Its educational mission is based on a firm belief: human rights are not merely taught, but practiced through debate, projects and engagement.

The two organisations have grown closer and from this convergence arose the FEDE Special Human Rights Prize in Morocco awarded during the four academic years 2026/2027, 2027/2028, 2028/2029 and 2029/2030. The Prize recognises student projects from Moroccan member institutions of the FEDE that contribute to the protection, defence or promotion of human rights, and turns their authors into ambassadors for the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Morocco, as within the FEDE's international network.

Article 1 – Organisers

The Prize is organised jointly by the FEDE and the Council of Europe Office in Morocco (hereinafter 'the organisers').

Article 2 – Purpose

The Prize recognises projects devised by students at Moroccan member institutions of the FEDE, aimed at protecting, defending or promoting human rights in Morocco. It has three objectives:

- To contribute, through students' projects, to reflection on the human rights situation in Morocco and to its improvement;
- To mobilise support for a specific cause in Morocco;
- To encourage students to work on topical issues linked to the priorities of the Council of Europe's Neighbourhood Partnership 2026-2029.

Article 3 – Topics

The project focuses on one of the three priority themes of the Council of Europe Office in Morocco as well as on sustainable development and environmental protection, another priority for the Council of Europe:

Priority areas for the Council of Europe Office in Morocco:

- **"Sport and human rights"** (in the run-up to the 2030 soccer World Cup, which Morocco is co-hosting)
- The fight against violence in stadiums (the Saint-Denis Convention);

- The fight against manipulation of sporting competitions (the Macolin Convention);
 - The fight against doping;
 - The fight against discrimination and harassment;
 - The protection of children in sport;
 - Inclusive sport;
 - Women's leadership.
- **“Justice and human rights”**
 - The access to the law and justice for all;
 - The violence against women and children, in particular the fight against the exploitation of child beggars;
 - The alternatives to imprisonment;
 - The Morocco's efforts towards the abolition of the death penalty;
 - The digitalisation of the justice system;
 - The use of artificial intelligence in a manner that respects fundamental rights.
 - **“Fight against corruption and human rights”**
 - Economic crime and breaches of the rule of law;
 - Transparency and the right of access to information (Tromsø Convention);
 - Public integrity and ethics, in the light of the work of the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO);
 - The fight against money laundering (Warsaw Convention).

Resources:

Applicants are encouraged to make use of the resources offered by the HELP (human rights training for legal professionals) and HEY (human rights education for young people) programmes, several of whose courses are available in Arabic and tailored to the Moroccan context.

Article 4 –Terms and conditions of participation

The competition is open, free of charge and on a voluntary basis, to any learner enrolled as a student for the relevant academic year, without any restrictions regarding degrees or vocational pathways, at a Moroccan institution that is a FEDE member. Projects may be individual or group-based. Students may seek the guidance of a supervisor and carry out their project in collaboration with a human rights organisation.

Article 5 – Application file

Any form of presentation is accepted: literary, audiovisual, musical, visual arts, exhibitions, artistic performances, documentary projects, comic strips, or the organisation of a public event (seminar, round-table discussion, conference-debate).

The application must include:

- The application form, completed in French or English;
- The project proposal, written in two of the following languages: **Arabic, French or English**;
- A one- to two-page summary of the project, written in two of the following languages: **Arabic, French or English**.

Each document must state the name of the member institution, the name(s) of the student(s) and the title of the degree followed or vocational programme concerned.

The application must be emailed to office@fedes.org by 15 March at the latest. The FEDE will acknowledge receipt of each application, handle the administrative processing and may contact applicants to request any additional documents.

Article 6 – Calendar

- **15 March:** deadline for submitting applications. The organisers may extend this deadline by a few days for valid reasons;
- **15 April at the latest:** meeting of the Jury. The results are communicated to the winners in the days following the Jury's deliberations;
- **In May:** the Prize's ceremony, organised in Morocco.

Article 7 – Jury

The Jury comprises five members:

- The Head of the Council of Europe's Office in Morocco and the FEDE's Chairwoman, who are *ex officio* members and co-chairs of the Jury;
- An expert from the team at the Council of Europe Office in Morocco;
- A member of the FEDE's Scientific Council or an elected member of the FEDE Committee;
- A qualified Moroccan figure in the field of human rights, appointed by mutual agreement between the organisers.

The organisers shall, where necessary, arrange for a member to be replaced. In the event of a tie, the Head of the Council of Europe Office in Morocco, the institutional host of the Prize, shall have the casting vote. The Jury's decisions are final and binding.

Article 8 – Assessment criteria

Projects are marked out of 20, according to the following marking scheme:

Criteria	Points
Subject	5,5
Appropriateness of the structure of the entry	1,5
Meetings/interviews with relevant persons	2,5
Difficulty or courageous handling of the subject	1,5
Contents	6,5
Knowledge used or acquired	1,5
Taking of a stance and supporting arguments	2,5
Understanding of the subject and references in particular the ones of the Council of Europe and of the Office in Rabat	1,5
Drawing of connections with historical periods/events or contemporary issues	1
Format	5,5
Overall quality of the presentation	2
Technical difficulty and production	1,5
Possible dissemination of the project	1,5
Originality	0,5

Administration	2,5
Respect of deadlines	0,5
Communication with the FEDE	0,5
Linguistic quality of the file, including the bilingual summary	1,5
Total	20

Article 9 – Awards and Prize presentation

The Prize is awarded to five projects, designated First Prize, Second Prize, Third Prize, Fourth Prize and Fifth Prize. The Jury may decide to award additional Prizes in the event of outstanding contributions.

The Prize is given during a ceremony held in Morocco in May by the Head of the Council of Europe's Office in Morocco and the FEDE's Chairwoman, who announce the names of the winners, their institutions and the teaching staff who supervised the projects. The winners are invited to present their project.

Article 10 – Rights related to the documents provided

Applicants authorize both organisers to use the documents and materials submitted for the purpose of publicizing and promoting their activities in Morocco. They guarantee that they hold the intellectual property rights attached to these documents and transfer all such rights to the organisers for the purposes of reproduction and presentation. They authorize the FEDE and the Council of Europe Office in Morocco to use their name and image for the promotion of the Prize and related communication activities.

Article 11 – General provisions

- **Acceptance:** Submission of an application constitutes unconditional acceptance of this charter and of the Jury's decisions.
- **Liability:** the organisers and the Jury shall not be held liable in the event of the loss of an entry or any malfunction of any kind — whether technical, logistical, hardware or software-related — that has prevented or restricted participation in the Prize, including as a result of external malicious acts or problems with the delivery of email.
- **Force majeure:** in the event of force majeure or if circumstances so require, the organisers reserve the right to amend, postpone or cancel the competition, without incurring any liability.
- **Consultation:** This charter can be viewed and downloaded at any time from the FEDE website.

This charter was drafted by the FEDE Secretariat and adopted by the FEDE Committee on 9 July 2026 in Paris (France).

Ms Claude VIVIER LE GOT

Chairwoman of the Federation for European Education (FEDE)