



# 53<sup>rd</sup> INTERNATIONAL LETTER-WRITING COMPETITION



In partnership with:

unicef   
for every child

At 150 years old, the UPU has served people around the world for more than eight generations. The world has changed enormously since then.

**WRITE A LETTER TO FUTURE  
GENERATIONS ABOUT THE WORLD  
YOU HOPE THEY INHERIT.**

# PARTICIPANTS GUIDE 2024



**YOU COULD  
BE A WINNER!  
SO GET WRITING!**

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**WRITE A LETTER TO FUTURE  
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For this special edition, the Universal Postal Union (UPU) is organizing the International Letter Writing Competition in partnership with UNICEF to empower children and the young worldwide by encouraging literacy and creativity through the art of letter writing. This campaign aims to raise the voices of children and the young and provide them a platform, in the lead up to the Summit of the Future and the 35th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to share their perspectives of the world and the legacy they wish future generations to inherit. This campaign is an opportunity for children and young people to influence and be heard by a global audience including people in power.

# HOW TO WRITE A GOOD LETTER?

A well-written letter includes the following elements:

**Heading** (complete address of writer and the date of the letter)

**Greeting** (Dear, etc.)

**Body**

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**Complimentary close**

**Postscript** (optional)

**Signature line**

## IN NEED OF INSPIRATION FOR THE THEME?

- 📄 Our-Future-Pledge-toolkit-2023: <https://www.unicef.org/globalinsight/media/3016/file/%20UNICEF-Innocenti-YFF-Our-Future-Pledge-toolkit-2023.pdf>
- 📄 <https://www.unicef.org/senegal/en/stories/letter-my-future-self-20-children-20-dreams-and-20-life-stories>
- 📄 <https://www.unicef.org/child-rights-convention/open-letter-to-worlds-children>
- 📄 <https://www.unicef.org/romania/stories/letter-future>
- 📄 <https://www.unicef.org/eca/stories/letter-my-younger-self>
- 📄 <https://www.unicef.org/blog/my-15-year-old-self>

# WANT TO PARTICIPATE?

## Send your letter to:

*(Space for national organizer to put basic information about where compositions must be sent and contact information)*

To validate your candidature, along with your composition, please **include a cover letter** with the following information:

Your name

Your email address

Your postal address

Your age and date of birth

Number of words in your letter (maximum 800)

For more information about the UPU International Letter-Writing Competition for Young People, please visit the following website:

[WWW.UPU.INT/EN/ILWC](http://WWW.UPU.INT/EN/ILWC)

# YOU HAVE A VOICE... EXPRESS YOURSELF!

Every year since 1971, the Universal Postal Union, the United Nations specialized agency for postal services, has held an International Letter Writing Competition for Young People.

Millions of youths around the world have participated in the competition, practicing the valuable art of letter-writing by expressing their thoughts on topics and issues that concern the world at large.

Despite living in a digital age, learning how to express oneself properly through the written word is an ability that every young person should nurture to grow personally and prepare for the future. By participating in this competition, you help us advocate for goal four on "Quality Education" under the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For more information, please consult the following website: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

So, take part in this exciting competition. If your letter wins at the national level, it could end up being selected as the year's top letter at the international level and you could win some fantastic prizes.

## COMPETITION RULES

Compositions must be in the form of a letter and contain the elements of a letter (heading, greeting, body, complimentary close, signature line and postscript (optional)).

Entries **must adhere strictly** to the theme and not exceed 800 words in the original language.

Submitted letters must be accompanied by a cover letter, entry form and high quality picture of the winner.

## HOW THE COMPETITION WORKS

Only young participants from 9 to 15 years may take part in the annual competition.

Country selects the best national entry and sends it to the UPU in Switzerland.

Each country sends its first-prize letter to then compete for the top prizes at the international level.

An international jury evaluates the letters and selects top three winners and up to five special mentions.

## JURY DESIGNATION AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

UPU announces winners through website and social media channels.

Winners and member countries are informed of the results.

# PRIZES

The top three international prize-winners will receive a beautiful medal (gold, silver or bronze) bearing their name, or a certificate (honourable mentions).

But that's not all! Conditions allowing, the UPU also arranges for the gold-medal winner a trip to attend a special awards ceremony at the UPU headquarters in Berne, Switzerland, in honour of their achievement. Transport and accommodation costs will be paid for the winner and the accompanying adult.

The runners-up and national winners will generally receive their prize at ceremonies held in their home countries on World Post Day – 9 October – the anniversary of the founding of the UPU.

WRITE A LETTER TO FUTURE GENERATIONS ABOUT THE WORLD YOU HOPE THEY INHERIT.



"I am convinced that the spirit and values behind the contest's creation are still the same today. ... through the subjects covered, young writers use their creativity to describe their own contemporary understanding of the world at a given moment and in a specific context."

**Sergio Roberto Fuchs da Silva (Brazil)**  
1972 gold- medal winner and winner of the very first UPU International Letter-Writing Competition

"What a sublime thing it is, to have an international competition that is fundamentally about empathy, that both fosters the natural teenage desire for self-expression and infuses it with ethical and moral imagination."

**Richard Nash (Ireland)**  
1984, gold medal winner

"The thing that makes me passionate about my work is the same reason that I love writing. It's about creating something, not all about making money. When we add all the details to the story we create a world, we create a life. You can give a life to words."

**Amir Mechria (Tunisia)**  
1991 gold-medal winner

"I really appreciate the challenge it offers for youth all around the world to join together and go for excellence. As a teenager of 15 years old in 2008, it helped me discover the world through an exciting experience. That remains one of the best moments of my life."

**Moïse Luther Hoza (Central African Republic)**  
2008, gold medal winner



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