

Awards of the Global Network on Electoral Justice

“GNEJ awards – 2nd edition”

Terms of reference

Jury

The Scientific Committee of the Global Network on Electoral Justice (GNEJ) serves as the jury for the nominations of the GNEJ Awards and must decide on the winners of the different thematic categories based on specific criteria.

The jury will use the following criteria to review the nominations and choose the winners: three per thematic category and one general award, resulting in seven winners in total¹.

General criteria by theme and stakeholder

General note for all categories

- Original actions are suggested, designed, and implemented based on specific and measurable indicators of the expected outcome.
- Both projects from international organizations and scholars must have a clear reference system. Any form of plagiarism will result in automatic disqualification.
- The category “Specific progress in a topic relevant to the GNEJ (general award)” must be complemented by a letter of recommendation.
- Academic self-nominations must be complemented by a letter of academic recommendation.
- The criteria presented below are for guidance only and are not mandatory.

Categories

1. Judicial-electoral integrity and independence

General criteria:

- Ensure:
 - A concrete and measurable progress that has strengthened judicial-electoral independence in relation to the other branches of the State government and/or other political actors.
 - A measurable increase in citizens’ confidence in the judicial integrity of electoral processes and in the results obtained.
 - A direct contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16: “Peace, justice and strong institutions”, and in particular target 16.3:

¹ The Scientific Committee of the RMJE reserves the right to declare this call void, partially or entirely.

"Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all".

Courts and electoral authorities:

- Identify an effort, materialized in the form of a ruling or program, that goes beyond routine duties and contributes to the protection of the independence of the judiciary.
- Identify measures or actions of institutional strengthening that significantly promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to electoral justice.
- Identify innovative evaluation methodologies or programs to measure the access to justice in a certain country.

International organizations:

- Identify international cooperation programs or projects that have contributed to strengthen judicial and electoral independence.
- Provide an example of a policy or program designed to guarantee the independence of the judiciary, replicable in different countries.

Scholars:

- Academic works must follow the principles of ethical research: originality, honesty, objectivity, integrity, openness, and respect for intellectual property.
- Highlight an academic project that contributes to improving public awareness of the proper functioning of electoral authorities. The project can be in its initial stages, in progress, or concluded.
- Identify an academic initiative that promotes a constructive discussion on electoral integrity or encourages young people to carry out research in the judicial-electoral field.
- Identify a comparative or comprehensive analysis to address challenges to judicial-electoral independence.

2. Gender equality

- Ensure:
 - Actions aimed at concrete and measurable increases in gender parity in the political life of countries, as well as equal access to electoral justice; and
 - A direct contribution to the fulfillment of Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality, and in particular target 5.5: "Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life".

Courts and electoral authorities:

- Identify rulings, judicial decisions, and innovative institutional policies that promote equal political participation between women and men.
- Distinguish institutional mechanisms that address political violence against women in innovative ways.

International organizations:

- Highlight programs, projects and/or technical advisory services that include a qualitative and/or quantitative analysis of gender equality in an international comparative perspective. They should include a diagnosis and policy recommendations on electoral issues that can be applied in GNEJ member countries.

Scholars:

- Highlight studies that analyze the effective implementation of public policies on gender equality and identify concrete areas for improvement. They should consider the following:
 - Contain an original contribution to the literature on the subject, and
 - Make a methodological contribution to the measurement of women's empowerment and their effective access to electoral justice.

3. General award: specific progress in a topic relevant to the GNEJ.

General criteria:

- Prove a significant contribution –at any stage of its development, provided that it ensures feasibility– to promoting the objectives of the Global Network on Electoral Justice, particularly the protection of political and electoral rights.
 - The nomination must result in a significant, unique, and measurable change in an important area of the GNEJ.
- This category includes, but is not limited to, other topics such as:
 - 1) the protection of minority rights
 - 2) the use of digital technologies
 - 3) disinformation in electoral processes, and
 - 4) other relevant issues in the field of electoral justice.
- In this category, only one winner will be selected, which may be a judicial or electoral authority, an international organization, or scholar.