



**POSTER DESIGN COMPETITION
INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

**COMPETITION RULES
WITH CHANGES MADE IN MAY 2009**

1. Goal of the Competition

In April 2009, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights (IIHR) announced the launching of this competition to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the IACHR. The Fifth Meeting of Consultation of member States of the Organization of American States (OAS), held in Santiago, Chile, in 1959, established the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with a mandate primarily to promote the observance and protection of human rights and to serve the OAS as an advisory body in this area.

Several persons and organizations interested in participating in this contest have requested the revision of some of the requisites related to the size of the posters and the method in which the works may be submitted for participation. In attention to these requests, the IACHR and the Institute have changed the rules for this competition aiming to facilitate the participation of more persons interested and without prejudice to those who have already presented their works in observance of the original requisites. The changes introduced in these rules are found under points 4, 5 and 7.

The IACHR and the Institute will respond and resolve to any inconvenience that may arise in relationship with the rules of this contest, either the original ones or the present modified rules.

2. Poster design slogan

IACHR Defending Human Rights

3. Categories and participants

This competition will have two categories:

- Children 12 to 17 years old on August 30, 2009 (including those who turn 18 on August 30, 2009)
- Young people between 18 and 23 years old on August 31, 2009 (including those who turn 23 on August 31, 2009)

Participation in this competition is free of charge.

Only one (1) original work will be accepted per participant. Collective entries are eligible, but one person must be designated to be responsible for receiving correspondence from the IACHR and to receive the award, should the work be selected as the winner.

IACHR Commissioners and their direct family members, and members of staff of the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and their direct family members are not eligible to enter this contest. Neither are eligible members of the IIHR General Assembly and their direct family members, nor IIHR employees and their direct family members. Member state representatives to the OAS, staff of member state Permanent Missions to the OAS, and their family members are also ineligible.

4. Rules

Each entry may be submitted in electronic format, on Bristol board, fabric or cardboard. Entries on Bristol board or fabric must be sent in a cardboard tube or some other form of protection.

Poster designs may use any medium, including: charcoal, crayon, cerite, tempera, oil, acrylic, ink, collage, photography, or be computer generated. Entries should not include any figure or trade mark identifying companies or institutions other than the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

Regarding the size, the rules are different for each category. For the category of young people between 18 and 23 years old, their posters should be 100 cm high by 70 cm wide (39 ¼ inches high by 27 ½ inches wide). For the category of children 12 to 17 years old, the size of the works may be equal or smaller to that requested for the participants of the other category..

5. Necessary information

All participants need to send the following information:

a. For individual entries:

Full name of the creator of the work

Date and place of birth

Contact information (address, telephone number, and/or e-mail)

b. For collective entries:

Full name of each member of the group involved in creating the work

Date and place of birth of each group member

Full name of the person appointed by the group to be in charge of communicating with the IACHR and to accept the prize money, if the work is a winner.

Contact information for the person in charge (address, telephone number, and/or e-mail)

If the work is sent by mail, this information should be included in a sealed envelope with the title of the work on the outside. The title of the work and the technique employed should be written on the reverse side of the poster.

If the work is sent electronically, this information, along with the name of the work and the technique employed should be included in the body of the e-mail, and the poster should be sent as an attachment.

6. Copyright

Posters that are entered will not be returned to the senders. The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will hold the copyright for all works received, and may use them to mount exhibitions, publish books, or for any other purpose, entirely at its discretion.

7. Submission of projects and deadline for entries to be received

The contestants assume all expenses involved in sending in their entries, which should be submitted to:

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

1889 F Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C., 20006

U.S.A.

Projects may be also sent in electronic format. These should be sent as an attachment in an e-mail that contains the information requested as established in point 5 of these rules. The e-mail should be sent to the following address:

mrivero@oas.org

Poster designs must be sent in by August 31, 2009. Postmarked dates will be taken into account. No entries sent in past the deadline will be considered.

8. Judges

The panel of judges comprises three members of the IACHR, the Executive Secretary, two curators of the Art Museum of the Americas, two members of the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights and a representative of the OAS General Secretariat.

The judges' decision will be final and not subject to appeal.

9. Prizes

The judges will select 10 finalists for each category and one winner per category.

For each category, the winner will be awarded a certificate of recognition plus US\$500.00 (five hundred U.S. dollars), payable by an OAS check. If a group project is the winner, the check will be sent to the person identified on the envelope accompanying the work as the one in charge. No change of the person in charge will be accepted.

A certificate of recognition will be awarded to the finalists, whose works will form part of an exhibition to be organized by the IACHR on a date and at a venue to be determined.

The Commission will publish the names of the winners and finalists on its website.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

What is the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights?

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is an autonomous agency of the Organization of American States (OAS) and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. Its mandate is contained in the OAS Charter and in the American Convention on Human Rights. The IACHR is one of two bodies of the inter-American system that are responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights; the other is the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, headquartered in San José, Costa Rica.

All OAS member states are represented by the IACHR, which is composed of seven members acting independently and not representing any particular country. The members of the IACHR are elected by the General Assembly of the OAS for a four-year term that may be renewed only once.

In 1961, the Commission began conducting on-site visits to observe the human rights situation in various countries. Since then, it has undertaken 78 visits to 23 member states. Based on investigations conducted onsite, the IACHR to date has published 51 special country reports. All its special reports as well as its annual reports and reports it publishes on petitions and cases are available on the Commission's website. Contestants are invited to go to the website to learn more about the work of the Commission, at www.cidh.org.

Establishment of the IACHR

The member states of the Organization of American States (OAS) took the decision to create the Commission, at the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs, held from August 12 to 18, 1959, in Santiago, Chile.

In the Final Act for that meeting, the OAS member states declared that "liberty, justice, and peace are based on recognition of the inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of the individual," and that, "it has been considered essential, as a fundamental corollary to this rule, that such rights be protected by a juridical system, so that men will not be driven to the extreme expedient of revolt against

tyranny and oppression.” Subsequently, the member states of the OAS declared that “eleven years after the proclamation of the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man—progress having been made during the same period in both the United Nations and the union known as the Council of Europe, in the codification and methodical study of this field until today a satisfactory and promising point has been reached—the climate in this hemisphere is favorable to the conclusion of a Convention.”

Thus, on August 18, 1959, the Fifth Meeting of Consultation of Ministers of Foreign Affairs decided: “To create an Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, composed of seven members elected, as individuals, by the Council of the Organization of American States from panels of three names presented by the governments. The Commission, which shall be organized by the Council of the Organization and have specific functions that the Council assigns it, shall be charged with furthering respect for such rights.” That same meeting issued a mandate for the preparation of a draft Convention on Human Rights and for the establishment of an Inter-American Court.

Functions of the IACHR

The IACHR has the principal function of promoting the observance and the defense of human rights. In carrying out its mandate, the Commission:

- a) Receives, analyzes and investigates individual petitions which allege human rights violations, pursuant to Articles 44 to 51 of the Convention, Articles 19 and 20 of its Statute, and Articles 22 to 50 of its Rules of Procedure.
- b) Observes the general human rights situation in the member states and publishes special reports regarding the situation in a specific State, when it considers it appropriate.
- c) Carries out on-site visits to countries to engage in more in-depth analysis of the general situation and/or to investigate a specific situation. These visits usually result in the preparation of a report regarding the human rights situation observed, which is published and sent to the Permanent Council and the General Assembly of the OAS.
- d) Stimulates public consciousness regarding human rights in the Americas. To that end, carries out and publishes studies on specific subjects, such as: measures to be taken to ensure greater access to the justice system; the effects of internal armed conflicts on certain groups of persons; the human rights situation of minors and women, migrant workers and their families, incarcerated persons, and human rights advocates; indigenous peoples and Afro descendants; and racial discrimination and freedom of expression.

- e) Organizes and holds conferences, seminars and meetings with representatives of Governments, academic institutions, non-governmental groups, etc., in order to disseminate information and to increase knowledge regarding issues relating to the inter-American human rights system.
- f) Recommends to the member states of the OAS the adoption of measures which would contribute to human rights protection in the Hemisphere.
- g) Requests States to adopt specific "precautionary measures" in accordance with Article 25 of its Rules of Procedure, to avoid serious and irreparable harm to human rights in urgent cases. The Commission may also request that the Court order "provisional measures" in urgent cases which involve danger to persons, even where a case has not yet been submitted to the Court.
- h) Submits cases to the Inter-American Court and appears before the Court in the litigation of cases.
- i) Requests advisory opinions from the Inter-American Court, in accordance with Article 64 of the American Convention.

In 1965 the IACHR was expressly authorized to examine complaints or petitions related to specific cases of human rights violations in OAS member countries.

Any individual, group of persons, or legally recognized non-governmental entity in one or more member states of the OAS may present to the Commission petitions relating to violations of a right recognized under the American Convention, the American Declaration, or any other relevant instrument, in accordance with their respective provisions and in accordance with their Statutes and Rules of Procedure. Published final reports of the IACHR on these individual cases can be found in the Commission's Annual Reports (<http://www.cidh.oas.org/annual.eng.htm>).

Protected rights are detailed in the following international documents: the American Declaration on the Rights and Duties of Man (1948), the American Convention on Human Rights (1969), and the two Additional Protocols to the American Convention: one on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador) and the other relating to the Abolition of the Death Penalty. The other human rights treaties in the inter-American system are the Inter-American Convention to Prevent and Punish Torture, the Inter-American Convention on the Forced Disappearance of Persons, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), and the Inter-American Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disability.

Any individual presenting a petition to the Commission must demonstrate that the American Convention, the American Declaration, or any of the other instruments referred to were violated.

Protected rights

The American Convention on Human Rights protects the following rights:

Right to juridical personality (to be treated legally as a person)

Right to life

Right to physical, mental, and moral integrity: right to humane treatment, including the right to not be subjected to cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Right to freedom from slavery or involuntary servitude

Right to personal liberty

Right to a fair trial

Freedom from *ex post facto* laws

Right to compensation if convicted through miscarriage of justice

Right to protection of honor and dignity

Freedom of conscience and religion

Freedom of thought and expression

Right to correct or reply to inaccurate or offensive statements

Right of assembly

Freedom of association

Right to protect family

Right to a name

Rights of the child

Right to nationality

Right to property

Freedom of movement and residence

Political rights

Right to equal protection

Right to judicial protection against violations of fundamental rights

The American Declaration also contains a full list of rights that states should respect and protect. In addition to the afore-mentioned rights, the American Declaration recognizes such specific rights as the right to work and to receive a fair salary, the right to social security, and the right to cultural benefits, among others. The convention is different in this regard because it only says that states undertake to recognize social and economic rights. However, it does lay out in greater detail the individual rights of the person.

There are also rights that are specifically protected by other conventions, among them the right to not be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; the right to not be subjected to forced disappearance; the right of women not to be subjected to physical, sexual, or psychological violence; and the right of persons with disability to be protected against discrimination.

For further information on the IACHR, please visit www.iachr.org