

MAKE CHANGE HAPPEN WITH A SHEILA MCKECHNIE INTERNATIONAL YOUNG CAMPAIGNER AWARD



Image: ©Plan

The Sheila McKechnie Foundation (SMK) is a UK based charity that supports campaigners who are fighting for social and environmental justice. SMK runs an annual awards scheme offering development packages to grassroots campaigners and those new to the field, to help them create the change they want to see in the world.

Plan is one of the largest child-centred community development organisations in the world, helping children and their families in some of the poorest countries to break the cycle of poverty. The charity has been working with children for more than 70 years and currently works with 96,000 communities in 49 developing countries. An important part of Plan's work is to change policies that have a negative impact on children's lives, so that millions of children can realise their full potential. Plan's UK office is the sponsor of the International Young Campaigner Award.

What is the award?

The International Young Campaigner Award recognises campaigners who are 24 or younger, who are based outside the UK, in many of the least developed countries of the global South. Eligible campaigners will be working to achieve social, economic or environmental justice in their home countries – and specifically on issues relevant to girls and young women. The young person who wins the award will benefit from mentoring, coaching and guidance from experienced campaigners to help them achieve results with their campaign. This is a fantastic opportunity for young people who want to make change happen, and receive a bespoke package of support relevant to their campaign, their skill level, and their age.

The winner will be awarded a package of support that includes:

- An assessment of your campaign objectives
- Advice from an experienced campaigner about how to take your campaign forward
- The opportunity to meet and share experiences and ideas with young campaigners based in the UK
- Support in the areas you have identified as important for your campaign

- The chance to take part in meetings or visits projects in the UK
- One-to-one coaching sessions to help you plan and review your campaign

The award is designed to reward individual young campaigners with the potential to make an even bigger impact in their countries if they were to receive the award.

Who is eligible?

Any young campaigner who is 24 or younger, is based in one of the eligible countries and is campaigning on issues that are important to girls and young women. Any application in support of a campaign that we judge to be discriminatory or offensive will be disqualified.

Afghanistan	Cote d'Ivoire	Laos	Rwanda
Angola	Djibouti	Lesotho	Senegal
Bangladesh	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Liberia	Sierra Leone
Benin	Democratic Republic Congo	Madagascar	Somalia
Bhutan	Eritrea	Malawi	Sudan
Burkina Faso	Ethiopia	Mali	Swaziland
Burma	Gambia	Mauritania	Tanzania
Burundi	Ghana	Mozambique	Timor-Leste
Cambodia	Guinea	Nepal	Togo
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Namibia	Uganda
Central African Republic	Haiti	Niger	Yemen
Chad	India	Nigeria	Zambia
Congo	Kenya	Pakistan	Zimbabwe

Applying for the Award

You will need to complete an application form. Forms are available in English on our website, and in French on request. For information and an application form visit www.sheilamckechnie.org.uk. The deadline for receipt of applications is **30th June 2009**. If you have any questions about the application process please contact Ruby Coote at awards@smk.org.uk or call (+44) (0)20 7700 8231.

If you win the Award

Interviews will take place through a teleconference in July 2009 and the award winner will be announced in September or October 2009. The winner (and a guardian if under-age) will be invited to travel to the United Kingdom to receive their training and support package. All relevant travel and accommodation expenses will be covered as part of the award.