

# INVITATION TO A CHILDREN'S PRESS CONFERENCE & CEREMONY, 19 APRIL

## CHILD RIGHTS HERO OF THE YEAR REVEALED

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### **Who will be the Child Rights Hero of the year and receive the World's Children's Prize of millions of children, often referred to as the Children's Nobel Prize?**

- The announcement is made on Thursday 19 April, 2.00 pm, at Gripsholm Castle in Mariefred, Sweden.
- The Child Rights Heroes from Colombia, the US and Romania will attend
- The World's Children's Press Conference is led by children from 10 different countries, including children who've been enslaved, homeless, refugees or exploited as soldiers.
- The ceremony to honour the Child Rights Heroes starts at 4.00 p.m. It is led by the children, assisted by Queen Silvia of Sweden.
- WCP's patrons include [Malala Yousafzai](#), the late [Nelson Mandela](#), Graça Machel, Desmond Tutu, Sweden's Queen Silvia and Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Löfven.

*Enter at 1.30 pm at the Sjöportsvalvet, left side of castle (unless technical reasons require otherwise). Accreditation is required. Please contact Carmilla Floyd, +46-(0)70-9507 407 [carmilla.floyd@worldschildrensprize.org](mailto:carmilla.floyd@worldschildrensprize.org)*

### **The Child Rights Hero nominees are**

- [Gabriel Mejía Montoya](#), for his efforts over the course of 30 years to support Colombia's street children, child soldiers and children in prison. He has suffered repeated attempts on his life because of his work.
- [Rachel Lloyd](#) for her 20-year fight against the child sex trade in the US. During her childhood in England, Rachel herself suffered abuse and was exploited in the sex industry.
- [Valeriu Nicolae](#) for his tireless efforts to support extremely vulnerable children in Romania's Ferentari ghetto. Valeriu grew up in poverty and was discriminated against because he was Roma.





### **Chosen in a Global Vote**

The recipient of the World’s Children’s Prize is chosen in a [Global Vote](#), an integral part of the WCP program, which educates and empowers children to become changemakers who stand up for human fellowship, the equal value of all people, the rights of the child, democracy and sustainable development. The WCP program is the world’s largest annual educational initiative focusing on these values.

Some 42 million children have participated since 2000. The majority live in poor countries affected by conflict, such as DR Congo, Burma/Myanmar and Pakistan. For the first time, they find out through the program that they have rights and can make their voices heard.

The Child Rights Hero who receives the most votes from the children has the honour of being awarded the World’s Children’s Prize and SEK 350,000. The other two Child Rights Heroes receive the World’s Children’s Honorary Award and SEK 175,000 each. The prize money is to be used in their work for children.

### **Children lead press conference and award ceremony**

The candidates have been chosen by an international [Child Jury](#), which also leads the press conference and award ceremony. The members of the Child Jury are experts in children’s rights through their own experiences of living in vulnerable situations, including as child soldiers and slave children. The World’s Children’s Press Conference is held at the same time in many different countries where children have participated in the program.

### **Broad support**

The WCP program has the support of more than 70,000 schools in 116 countries, as well as over 778 organisations and education ministries and institutions. Since the start, half a million teachers have been trained in working with children’s rights and democracy in schools.

The initiative is run by the World’s Children’s Prize Foundation (WCPF), with the support of organisations including the Swedish Postcode Lottery, Sida, Forum Syd, Julia & Hans Rausing Trust, Queen Silvia’s Care About the Children Foundation and the Survé Family Foundation.

