



Three candidates shortlisted for the 2022 Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

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The selection panel of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize, which rewards outstanding civil society action in the defense of human rights in Europe and beyond, has today announced the shortlist for the 2022 Award.

Meeting in Prague today, the panel – made up of independent figures from the world of human rights and chaired by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) Tiny Kox – decided to shortlist the following three nominees, in alphabetical order:

Vladimir Kara-Murza, Russian Federation

The nominee is a Russian politician, author and historian. He is one of the opposition leaders in the Russian Federation. The nominee is a coordinator for the Open Russia Foundation, founded by Mikhail Khodorkovsky. Mr Kara-Murza was arrested in April 2022 and faces up to 10 years imprisonment.

Rainbow Coalition/Invalid Campaign for LGBTQIA+ rights, Hungary

The nominee is a coalition of human rights organisations, LGBTQI rights groups and other civic movements. The Rainbow Coalition has been campaigning and mobilizing support for the defense of LGBTQI rights in Hungary.

Ukraine 5 AM Coalition

The nominee is a coalition of Ukrainian human rights organisations whose aim is to uncover, document, collect and preserve evidence, while raising awareness of alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Ukraine during the ongoing war of aggression by the Russian Federation.

The overall winner of the 2022 Prize is due to be announced at the opening of PACE's Autumn plenary session in Strasbourg on 10 October next.

Announcing the panel's choice, the PACE President said that the Council of Europe has worked since its creation to safeguard freedom, the rule of law and social justice on the continent. "Every year, the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize celebrates the concrete, courageous and determined action by women, men and organisations who defend human rights. Their courage and determination in standing up for basic principles of justice and fairness deserve our profound respect and gratitude," he added.

The discussion among the seven-member jury helmed by the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe centred on the importance of the issue of human rights during this tense period. The finalists include **Vladimir Kara-Murza**, a political prisoner and leading Russian democracy

campaigner; Ukraine's **5 AM Coalition**, which gathers evidence of human rights abuses stemming from Russia's invasion of the country; and Hungary's **Rainbow Coalition defending LGBTQIA+ rights**. "This year's selection reflects the central role that human rights play in the current European crisis," says Michael Žantovský, jury member and executive director of the Václav Havel Library.

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize is awarded each year by PACE, in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation. It consists of a sum of 60,000 euros, a trophy and a diploma.

Since its creation, the Prize has been awarded in turn to Belarusian human rights activist Maria Kalesnikava (2021), Loujain Alhathloul (2020), jointly to Ilham Tohti and the Youth Initiative for Human Rights (2019), Oyub Titiev (2018), Murat Arslan (2017), Nadia Murad (2016), Ludmilla Alexeeva (2015), Anar Mammadli (2014) and Ales Bialiatski (2013).

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