

SAHEL PEACE INITIATIVE



La foi ne connaît
pas de limites



2026 REGULATIONS

Journalism for Peace and Social Cohesion Award (PJPCS)

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Context

Article 1:

The Journalism for Peace and Social Cohesion Award (PJPCS) is part of the implementation of the Sahel Peace Initiative / Initiative Paix au Sahel (SPI), launched in 2019 by West African Episcopal Conferences in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS Burkina). It aims to promote the work of media professionals in relation to peace and social cohesion.

Article 2:

The PJPCS aims to engage media professionals in the promotion of peace and social cohesion in the context of the crisis affecting the Central Sahel and, beyond, the West African region, through the production of related works. The 5th edition of the award in 2026 has as its theme: *"Strengthening peace and social cohesion through the promotion of resilience, community dialogue, and the fight against violent extremism and radicalization."*

After four successful editions and as desired by the various stakeholders, the PJPCS is embarking, through the 2026 edition, on a sub-regional trajectory in line with the SPI vision. Thus, for this edition, a special award focused on cross-border initiatives to promote peace and social cohesion will be presented by the SPI Regional Coordination Office.

Organization

Article 3:

The organization of the PJPCS is led by the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of Burkina (CJP-Burkina), which also takes the lead in implementing the activities of the Sahel Peace Initiative / Initiative Paix au Sahel (SPI) in Burkina.

Article 4:

The Award is organized in two major stages: the official launch marking the beginning of the reception of application files, and the awards ceremony for laureates marking the end of the competition for the edition that was launched.

Media Categories, Genres, Formats and Language

Article 5:

The selected media categories, genres, formats and language are as follows:

Categories	Genres	Formats	Languages
Radio	Feature report, Dossier, Interview	26 minutes maximum	French
Television	Feature report, Dossier, Interview	26 minutes maximum	
Print Media	Report, Portrait, Interview	5 pages maximum with illustrations	
Online Media	Report, Portrait, Interview	8,000 characters maximum with illustrations	

Jury and Evaluation Criteria

Article 6:

A Jury of five (05) members is constituted by the CJP-Burkina for the assessment of works and the selection of laureates. It is composed of media and communication professionals and individuals who are highly knowledgeable on issues of peace and social cohesion.

Article 7:

Regarding special awards, the organizations presenting said awards are invited to participate in the juries in order to ensure that the specific criteria and objectives targeted by each award are taken into account.

Article 8:

The Jury remains sovereign in its assessment of the works submitted to it. Its decisions may therefore not be challenged.

Article 9:

The Jury will examine the works submitted for its assessment according to the following general criteria:

- The relevance of the work in relation to peace and social cohesion;
- The emphasis on educational content.

Specific criteria for each category will also be taken into account in the assessment of the works.

Specificities of the Cross-Border Regional Award**Article 10:**

The Cross-Border Regional Award is open to all professional male and female media workers from the five SPI intervention countries, namely Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Niger.

Article 11:

The award is oriented towards promoting works (across all 4 categories) that address realities related to peace, coexistence, cohesion, etc., between two or more border areas of the five aforementioned countries.

Article 12:

Applying for the Cross-Border Regional Award does not exclude the possibility of submitting an application in one of the categories of the Award organized by the National SPI in Burkina Faso.

Article 13:

For this Cross-Border Prize, application files must be submitted in either French or English.

Article 14:

The jury of the Cross-Border Regional Award will have a sub-regional character. It will be composed of 6 members in total. Each member country will propose one member from the community of media and communication professionals. The Jury will ensure that the cross-border dimension is effectively taken into account in the work to be awarded.

Award Composition

Article 15:

The top three in each category will be rewarded at a ceremony organized by the CJP-Burkina. The awards for the laureates of the fifth edition of the PJPCS are composed as follows:

- 1st Prize: 500,000 FCFA + a trophy + a certificate;
- 2nd Prize: 300,000 FCFA + a certificate;
- 3rd Prize: 200,000 FCFA + a certificate.

In addition to the official awards presented by SPI Burkina, special awards will be granted by the SPI regional coordination and partner organizations based on their focus on themes related to the general theme. With the exception of the special award offered by the SPI Regional Coordination (500,000 F), the amounts of these awards range between 200,000 FCFA and 400,000 FCFA. In any case, the amount of a special award may not exceed that of an official 1st prize.

Participation Conditions

Article 16:

Any journalist working in a recognized Burkinabe media outlet, or in one of the SPI member countries (for special awards presented by the SPI regional

coordination), may enter the award. The relevant media categories are radio, television, print media and online media.

Article 17:

Candidates may only apply in one category and with a single production. Works, produced in French, must have been broadcast or published between May 24, 2025 and May 20, 2026.

Article 18:

The application file consists of:

- A registration form duly completed by the candidate;
- A copy of the work:
- In PDF format for print media productions;
- On a USB drive or a download URL link for radio and television productions;
- A URL link to the work for online media productions.

The CJP-Burkina reserves the right to disqualify incomplete files.

Article 19:

Applications are accepted until May 24, 2026 at 7:00 AM by email: secretariat@cjpburkina.org with a copy to akpoda@cjpburkina.org, or by physical submission (digital version) on a USB drive in a sealed envelope at the General Secretariat of the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace (CJP-Burkina), located at the Centre National Cardinal Paul ZOUNGRANA.

Article 20:

By submitting an application, the candidate authorizes the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace of Burkina to use their data and their work, without any compensation, within the framework of the communication activities of the Sahel Peace Initiative (SPI).