



Voices of Courage Awards 2010

“Innovating for Change”

**Accepting Nominations for Honorees
Looking for Refugee Innovators
Deadline: October 15, 2009**

Each year, the Women’s Refugee Commission honors individual refugee women and young people who are working on behalf of other refugees. We are now seeking candidates to be honored at our **Voices of Courage Awards** luncheon on May 6, 2010.

In 2010, we will honor cutting-edge innovations in conflict-affected settings led by refugee or internally displaced women or youth, which measurably improve the lives of displaced women, children and young people. An “innovation” can be a product, a service or an approach developed by a person who is leading change in a new way. Some examples:

- Developing a reproductive health response that helps reduce the incidence of maternal mortality
- Pioneering an alternative to detention to improve asylum practice in the U.S.
- Finding a way for refugees to have a place in a thriving market economy and safely earn a living
- Developing an ethanol-fueled cook stove so that women and girls do not have to leave camps to collect firewood, risking rape
- Training refugee youth to run vocational training programs for displaced young people with disabilities
- **Your project here!**

Two refugee or asylum-seeking women or young people (up to age 30) will be selected to receive the Voices of Courage Award. The 2010 Voices of Courage honoree’s organization will receive a \$5,000 grant from the Women’s Refugee Commission to further his or her critical work to benefit refugee and displaced people in his or her community. We will also feature descriptions of the top innovations in our luncheon journal.

Candidate criteria:

- The candidate may live in the United States or overseas.
- Candidates should be current or former refugees, internally displaced women or young people or asylum-seekers who have developed successful innovations that serve people displaced by conflict or seeking asylum in the United States.
- Candidates should be passionate advocates for improving the lives and protecting the rights of refugee and internally displaced women, children and young people.
- Candidates must be able to travel to New York for a week in May (the luncheon is Thursday, May 6, 2010) to accept their award (all travel and housing expenses will be paid).
- Candidates must be willing to participate in media interviews.
- The ability to speak English is preferred.

To nominate a candidate for a Voices of Courage award, please send: 1) a **letter of nomination** that details the innovation and tells the story of the nominee; 2) the **curriculum vitae, résumé** or **biography** of the nominee; and 3) the names and email/phone/fax of **three references**. If you email your nomination, please include all the information in a single attachment or include it in the body of the email. Include the name of the nominee in the subject of the email. Please do not send any additional materials (photos, etc.) as they will not be considered.

Please email your nomination by **October 15, 2009** to luncheon@wrcommission.org. You may also fax the nomination to +1.212.551.3180 or mail to: Women’s Refugee Commission, Attn: Voices of Courage Nominees, 122 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 10168-1289, USA.

PLEASE NOTE: We can only consider nominations that are in English.

Thank you for your help. For more information on the luncheon, contact us at the above address.

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