

“I will tell your story” Results of the National Student Contest on refugees

The UN Refugee Agency in Greece is pleased to announce the results of the 19th Annual Student Contest on refugee-related themes organized in 2013-2014 in cooperation with the Youth Awareness Committee¹.

Last year was one of the most challenging years for UNHCR, with the number of displaced people worldwide exceeding 50 million people, for the first time after World War II.

Through the Student Contest **“I will tell your story”** students and schools from all over Greece were invited to tell the story of a refugee and his/her family, either from the present or the past with the view to shed light on the personal tragedies behind the statistics..

“Kazantzakis said once: ‘I hope for nothing. I fear nothing. I am free.’ According to this view refugees will never be free, since they hope for a better life, a better future and they fear of everything: death, life, but above all people.”

These words coming from one of the students who excelled in the Contest remind us of the strength and resilience of millions of people forced to leave everything behind due to war or persecution.

Thirty-nine students from various parts of Greece (including Attica, Volos, Thessaloniki, Kastoria, Xanthi, Patra) excelled with individual or group essays, sketches, posters and videos, while there were entries that were awarded for their sensitivity and originality.

In parallel, **unaccompanied and separated asylum seeking children (UASC)** hosted in reception centers in Agria, Volos and in Makrinitza participated in the Contest sharing their personal experiences and the challenges of their integration in the local community. Lastly, there were also noteworthy special entries from adult students attending second chance schools and night schools.

¹ Members of the Youth Awareness Committee are the following: Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, General Secretariat for Lifelong Learning and Youth, National Centre for Educational Research of Primary Schools (IPEM/DOE), Greek Council for Refugees, Marangopoulos Foundation for Human Rights, Centre for Intercultural Education of Athens University, Research and Documentation Centre (KE.ME.TE) of the Federation of Secondary Education Instructors (OLME), Panhellenic Association of Arts Teachers, Panhellenic Association of Literature Teachers, Greek Ombudsman – Ombudsman for Children’s Rights and UNHCR.

Awarded entries from students of primary and secondary education as well as from UASC will be hosted at UNHCR's dedicated microsite: <http://www.unhcr.gr/refugeestories/>

Evaluation of all entries was held by special committees consisting of members of the Youth Awareness Committee.

Note for editors:

Attached you can find the list with names of the winning students and their areas of origin. All awarded entries of the 2013-2014 National Student Contest are available in Greek on our website: <http://www.unhcr.gr/index.php?id=221>

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