



# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS SHORT STORY COMPETITION

## Human Rights Through Storytelling

**T**he Free State Centre for Human Rights at the University of the Free State invites undergraduate and postgraduate students to participate in a creative writing competition aimed at promoting human rights awareness among primary school learners (ages 8–12).

This initiative seeks to harness the power of storytelling to make human rights concepts accessible, engaging, and meaningful for young audiences.

### THEME: “HUMAN RIGHTS IN EVERYDAY LIFE”

Participants are encouraged to explore themes such as dignity, equality, fairness, inclusion, freedom, and respect through imaginative and age-appropriate storytelling. Possible themes include:

- **“We All Belong”**  
Inclusion, diversity, and acceptance of differences (culture, language, ability, etc.).
- **“Kindness Is a Right Too”**  
Dignity, respect, and how small actions can protect others’ rights.
- **“My Voice Matters”**  
Freedom of expression and the importance of being heard.

### SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- **Eligibility:** Open to all registered students at the University of the Free State
- **Word count:** 500 – 1 000 words
- **Language:** English
- **Target audience:** Children aged 8–12
- **Format:** Typed, 12pt font, Arial, 1.5 spacing (PDF or Word document)
- **Originality:** Submissions must be original and unpublished
- **Use of generative AI:** Submissions must be the author’s own original

work. The use of AI is not permitted and may result in disqualification if detected. Entrants may be required to confirm authorship.

- **Deadline:** 01 August 2026
- **Submission method:** Submit via [Free State Centre for Human Rights: Short story competition – Fill out form](#)
- **Submissions must be accompanied by a cover page noting the following:**
  - Name and Surname
  - Student number
  - Faculty/School and Department
  - Contact details (Email and cell phone number)

### WHAT WE’RE LOOKING FOR

Stories should:

- Communicate human rights concepts in a **clear, relatable, and age-appropriate way**
- Be **engaging and imaginative**, with a strong narrative voice
- Avoid overly technical or legal language
- Reflect **diverse experiences and inclusive perspectives**
- Offer a **positive or empowering message**

### PRIZE AND RECOGNITION

- **Winner:** R1 500 (paid into student account)
- **First runner-up:** R1 000 (paid into student account)
- Winning entries may be **published and used in educational and awareness programmes** run by the Free State Centre for Human Rights
- Selected stories may be **adapted for schools, workshops, or digital platforms**

### ENQUIRIES

For more information, please contact: [FSCHR@ufs.ac.za](mailto:FSCHR@ufs.ac.za)



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through quality, impact, and care.*



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