

WORLD PRESS PHOTO

**JUDGING PROCEDURES
2023 CONTEST**

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A - INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 CONTEST

In 2021 World Press Photo launched a new strategy and adopted a regional approach across all its work. By putting our focus on the “World,” while staying committed to photojournalism, accuracy, freedom of expression, and connecting people to the stories that matter, we are addressing the imbalance in representation in all our activities. In the 2021 Photo Contest, for example, only 7% of entrants came from South America, 5% from Southeast Asia and Oceania, and 3% from Africa, despite a lot of incredible talent in photojournalism and documentary photography across the world. As a result of the first regional contest in 2022, we have seen a slight increase in entries from those underrepresented regions and 19 of the 24 winners were local to the region they won in.

In each of the six regions of our contest model (Africa, Asia, Europe, North and Central America, South America, and Southeast Asia and Oceania), a selection of entries per category is first made by a regional jury. Each regional jury is composed of five professionals from and/or working in that region, with a range of expertise. With the knowledge of the region that each jury member possesses, their deliberations will be informed by their political, social and cultural understanding of the region. This year the Asia jury will take place offline at our partner organization Drik Picture Library in Dhaka, Bangladesh. All other regional juries will take place online. In the coming years, more regional juries will take place live in the regions as we roll out collaborations with more regional partners.

The global jury is composed of the six regional jury chairs and one additional member – the global jury chair. Once the regional juries have made their selection of entries, the global jury decides on 24 regional winners and from those, the four global winners: World Press Photo of the Year, World Press Photo Story of the Year, World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award, and the World Press Photo Open Format Award.

In line with a new strategy that focuses on increased visibility and connection in regions around the world, regional partnerships such as the one with Drik will allow the World Press Photo Foundation to better connect to local networks and provide more regional visibility for local photojournalists and documentary photographers. The regional partners will provide local knowledge and contextualization of the World Press Photo Contest to the local photography communities. Drik is our regional partner for the region Asia, regional partners for the other regions will follow in the years to come. Next to outreach for the contest and judging in the region, we will also work with the regional partners on educational programs, funding opportunities and local exhibitions.

The core motivation behind the regional contest model is to give a platform to more diverse accounts of our world. In order to adequately represent and contextualize stories, World Press Photo will present the jury with relevant information about the photographer at an early stage in the judging process in order to facilitate a more comprehensive approach to understanding and judging entries. In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of winners, World Press Photo has also established representation criteria to select at least one local winner and one winner identifying as female or non-binary per region.

Each region has four format-based categories: Singles, Stories, Long-Term Projects and Open Format. These categories welcome entries that witness or document news moments, events and/or aftermaths, as well as social, political and environmental issues or solutions.

The prize package includes monetary prizes for the regional and global winners, along with being featured in our exhibition, yearbook, online, a physical award and an invitation to a winners event in Amsterdam.

In addition to the regional and global winners, the jury may choose to draw attention to an entry that deserves special recognition by awarding it an Honorable Mention. Honorable Mentions are reserved for entries that witness or report on significant news moments, events and/or their aftermaths from the contest year (2022). The jury may award a maximum of one Honorable Mention per region, and they can only be selected from the Singles or Stories categories.

B - STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY

The World Press Photo Contest rewards the best photojournalism and documentary photography of the past year. It acts as a platform that connects professionals and their work to a global audience through high quality, non-fiction reporting, and storytelling that can be trusted.

The criteria for entries is that they are accurate and visually compelling insights about our world. Entrants must ensure that all entered material has been created ethically and that it provides a fair representation of the stories and people photographed. It must also comply with World Press Photo's Code of Ethics (section F).

World Press Photo sets the contest categories and entry rules, requires entrants to accept the contest code of ethics, and selects the jury. Once appointed, the jurors are independent of the foundation, and its staff members and other representatives have no vote on which entry wins.

Once the winners have been decided and announced, they are presented to the world via World Press Photo's website, social media channels, exhibition and yearbook. This means that millions of people around the world see the winning photographs and stories, often for the first time.

Being a global platform gives us the responsibility to present the most accurate and compelling work. As such, without restricting the jury's decisions, we would like the jury to consider the following when deliberating on the entries:

- Whether the photographs and stories under consideration reinforce or challenge stereotypes.
- Whether graphic and violent photographs are appropriate for the story presented, especially when they involve vulnerable people and/or groups.
- Whether consent seems to have been appropriately handled, with consideration for relevant local and international laws and for the ability of an individual to give informed consent, for example when working with vulnerable people and children. Consider the potential impact the use and distribution of photographs via the contest could have on individuals and/or groups photographed.
- Whether necessary measures have been taken to protect identity especially when photographing vulnerable individuals and/or groups and children.
- Whether the images and stories under consideration repeat well-known examples or are distinctive.

We recognize these are often matters of judgment, but they indicate some of the issues World Press Photo deals with as it presents the winning stories to the world.

C - ROLES IN THE JUDGING PROCESS

The judging process for the World Press Photo contest involves six regional juries and a global jury. It takes place in several rounds over a six-week period in January-February of each year.

We are working with six regional juries: Africa, Asia, Europe, North and Central America, South America, and Southeast Asia and Oceania. Each jury consists of five members and judges the first three rounds of entries submitted to their region. This year, five regional juries will be judged online and the Asia jury is held live in Dhaka, Bangladesh, organized with our regional partner Drik.

Each jury has a chair responsible for maintaining the integrity of the process, ensuring the deliberations are conducted in accordance with the highest standards, and making certain that all jury members are fully involved in the judging process. English is the sole operating language of the contest and the juries (translation assistance will be provided where possible).

The global jury, consisting of the global jury chair and the six chairs of the regional juries, then selects the winners. The global jury is assisted by a secretary. The secretary is responsible for all procedural matters and ensures the rules and procedures are fairly and properly applied. The secretary does not contribute to debate on the merits of any entry, and has no vote in the balloting.

Each jury is supported by a jury coordinator, who is a staff member of the World Press Photo Foundation. The coordinator is the principal conduit of information between the jury and the organization on all matters related to the judging. The coordinator does not contribute to debate on the merits of any entry, and has no vote in the balloting.

In case of illness or other exceptional circumstances, World Press Photo can seek replacements. The regional juries require a minimum of three members to take a valid decision, the global jury requires a minimum of five members to be attending the judging. Before judging begins, members of the jury are required to sign a statement committing themselves to following the procedures laid down in these judging procedures. They are also required to sign a non-disclosure agreement ensuring both the confidentiality of jury debates and the details of the regional and global winners until the official announcement dates, and an anti-harassment policy.

D - GENERAL PROCEDURES

The general procedures ensure a fair judging process and must be adhered to at all times.

- (i) Jury members cannot enter the contest in the year they are judging.
- (ii) Each jury member, whether an ordinary member or chair, has one equal vote.
- (iii) Jurors cannot abstain from voting at any stage of the judging process.
- (iv) Jurors have to do the judging themselves. No other person is allowed to do the judging on their behalf.
- (v) All proceedings and deliberations of each jury are conducted in confidence. Jurors are required to sign a non-disclosure agreement to ensure they do not reveal any details of the deliberations, or the identity of regional or global winners prior to the public announcement. This means jurors cannot discuss any aspect of the entries, debates or decisions, both during the process and after the announcement of the results, with anyone other than a fellow juror.
- (vi) During the judging process, caption information and information about the background of the entrant (nationality, where they are based, gender) will be made available to the jury at certain stages.

The jury members will not be given the photographer's name, or other personal information not listed above, during the judging process. This is to preserve the anonymity of the entrants as much as possible until winners are selected.

At no stage of the process - and in no discussion either in or outside the judging process - should jury members speculate on, or reveal, any names of participating photographers, agencies or publications.

However, in the case of Open Format entries, this information might be included in the product (for example in the embedded credits at the end of videos and webdocs), which is unavoidable.

- (vii) If jury members recognize they are personally involved in submitted work, through either a personal or professional relationship, they must declare their conflict of interest openly at the beginning of any discussions on the work.
- (viii) In the global jury, the chairs represent their regional juries and present to the rest of the global jury why their regional jury has selected the entries in their region. The global jury will take into account this information when deliberating on the entries they forward to the later rounds and choosing the winners.

- (ix) The global jury must award 24 regional winners, one per category (Singles, Stories, Long-Term Projects and Open Format) per region (Africa, Asia, Europe, North and Central America, South America, and Southeast Asia and Oceania).
- (x) The global jury must award four global winners: the World Press Photo of the Year, the World Press Photo Story of the Year, the World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award, and the World Press Photo Open Format Award. The global winners will be chosen from the regional winners in their respective categories.
- (xi) In addition to the regional and global winners, the jury may choose to draw attention to an entry that deserves special recognition by awarding it an Honorable Mention. Honorable Mentions are reserved for entries that witness or report on significant news moments, events and/or their aftermaths from the contest year (2022). The jury may award a maximum of one Honorable Mention per region, and they can only be selected from the Singles or Stories categories.
- (xii) Work submitted to the contest undergoes a rigorous verification process in order to prove its authenticity, during and after judging, and before announcing the winners. This includes entry checks, a manipulation review, fact-checking, and story text checking.

The manipulation review is only applicable for entries in the Single, Stories, and Long-Term Project categories, as the Open Format category welcomes a range and/or mixture of storytelling mediums. More information about the manipulation review is detailed in appendix 2 and 3.

- (xiii) In situations for which the judging procedures do not provide, the secretary, in close consultation with the jury chair, the jury coordinator and the contest director, will decide how to proceed. If no agreement can be reached, the World Press Photo Foundation, in the person of its executive director, will decide on the proper procedure.

E - JUDGING CRITERIA AND REPRESENTATION REQUIREMENT

Judging criteria

The World Press Photo Contest rewards accurate and visually compelling photojournalism and documentary photography of the past year that share a multiplicity of relevant stories and voices.

During their deliberations the jury will consider the following criteria:

- **Visual quality:** this can include creativity, technical skill and visual style, and the edit of the story (where relevant)
- **Story:** this refers to the story and/or issues covered in the photographs, its relevance or significance, and the way in which the photographer has chosen to approach the story
- **Representation:** this refers to the importance of awarding a diverse range of stories and photographers

The categories welcome entries that witness or document news moments, events and/or aftermaths, as well as social, political and environmental issues or solutions. The jury will decide on the appropriate balance of newsworthy and documentary entries in the winners selection.

The organization recognizes that the jury comprises a diverse group of industry experts who each bring relevant knowledge of their regions and insight into different aspects of photojournalism and documentary photography. Therefore whilst the organization sets these criteria, it also allows the jury the freedom to determine and define what makes an entry worthy of an award.

Representation requirement

The core motivation behind the regional contest model is to give a platform to more diverse accounts of our world. In order to adequately represent and contextualize stories, World Press Photo will present the jury with relevant information about the photographer in order to facilitate a more comprehensive approach to understanding and judging entries. In doing so, the judging process emphasizes the importance of context and that means acknowledging accountability, transparency and positionality in image-making. The jury is made up of industry professionals who respect the work of each entrant, and have extensive discussions in order to award the best and most insightful work.

During the judging process, information will be made available to the jury at certain stages. To ensure that judging is as fair and efficient as possible, the following information will be given in the respective rounds:

Round 1: No photographer information given.

This is to ensure that the entries progressing to Round 2 are selected for their visual quality.

Round 2 onwards: Information about photographer nationality, where they are based, gender, and title of the work will be given.

From Round 2 onwards, jury members will be able to view and discuss remaining entries considering the nationality, location and gender of entrants, as well as the title of the work.

Round 3 onwards: An edit of the caption given.

The who, what, when, where and why in a single or story will be available on the judging platform. This is an edit by World Press Photo based on the entered caption that summarizes the basic information of good journalism to facilitate a clear and fair judging process.

Round 4 onwards: Relevant additional information given.

From Round 4 onwards, jury members will be able to discuss additional information relating to how and why the story was made, such as the motivation to work on the project, the type of project (assignment/personal project), and funding of the project. This information is requested on entry.

The jury members will not be given the photographer's name, or other personal information not listed above, during the judging process. This is to preserve the anonymity of the entrants as much as possible until winners are selected. However, in the case of Open Format entries, this information might be included in the product (for example in the embedded credits at the end of videos and web-based projects), which is unavoidable.

In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of winners, World Press Photo has established the following representation criteria:

- At least one local* winner per region;
- At least one winner identifying as female or non-binary per region.

**Local is considered as a photographer who is from the country (and/or community) in which the story is being covered. This can either mean that they have a nationality, or have been living and working in the country for at least ten years.*

F - CODE OF ETHICS

Jurors should be aware that entrants are required to accept the photo contest code of ethics as a condition of entry.

World Press Photo Contest Code of Ethics

The World Press Photo Contest rewards the best photojournalism and documentary photography of the past year. The criteria for entries is that they are accurate and visually compelling insights about our world.

World Press Photo connects high-quality and trustworthy non-fiction reporting and storytelling with a global audience – through digital channels, exhibitions, and the yearbook. Millions of people around the world see the winning photographs and stories, often for the first time. Being a global platform gives us the responsibility to present the most accurate and compelling work.

Entrants to the World Press Photo Contest must ensure that all entered material has been created ethically and provides a fair representation of the stories and people photographed. Entrants must comply with the following code of ethics:

1. Must be aware of the influence the photographer's presence can have on a scene they photograph.
2. Must not intend to mislead by recreating or staging events. In certain cases, deliberate reenactments can be acceptable if they serve a clear purpose for the story and/or issue being documented, and the photographer must be transparent about their motivation and process. Any direct influence over the scene, such as reenactments or posed portraits, must be included in the captions.
3. Must ensure that individuals and/or groups photographed are treated with dignity and respect, and that the photographer causes no physical and/or psychological harm.
4. Must ensure that consent has been appropriately handled, with consideration for relevant local and international laws and for the ability of an individual to give informed consent, for example when working with vulnerable people and children. Consider whether individuals and/or groups are adequately informed about the potential use and distribution of photographs via the contest, and what impact that could have on them. Information about consent should be indicated in the caption.
5. Consider whether measures need to be taken to protect identity especially when photographing vulnerable individuals and/or groups and children—either when photographing or in the caption.

6. Must ensure that independence is upheld and must not pay individuals and/or groups for information or participation, or accept any form of compensation – such as gifts, money or favors—from those who may seek to influence the story.
7. Must ensure that the personal safety of everyone involved – including the photographer, fixers and individuals and/or groups photographed – is appropriately handled. Avoid taking unnecessary risks that can result in dangerous situations.
8. Respect the work of other photographers and do not plagiarize. Consider whether work repeats well-known examples or is distinctive.
9. Must ensure that the content and edit of photographs and stories present an accurate and comprehensive representation of individuals and/or groups. Consider whether graphic and violent photographs are appropriate for the story presented, especially when they involve vulnerable people.
10. Avoid reinforcing stereotypes and be aware of biases that can result in misrepresentation.
11. Ensure captions, and any other textual elements, are accurate.
12. Must be open and transparent about the entire process through which their photographs are made, and are accountable to the World Press Photo Foundation for their practice.

World Press Photo's code of ethics is in line with journalistic and documentary practices and standards. The organization reserves the right to seek clarification or explanation should concerns arise during or after the judging process.

G - ENTRY RULES

In order to facilitate a fair entry and judging process, it is important that every entrant reads these entry rules and agrees to them when submitting their entry. These entry rules outline who can enter the contest and what can be entered.

World Press Photo Contest Entry Rules

General Entry Rules

1. The World Press Photo contest is open to professional photographers working in the field of journalism and/or documentary photography. Every entrant needs to provide a document with a valid date that confirms their current professional status. Examples of documents include, but are not limited to:

- press card, stating you are working as a photographer;

OR

- at least 1 proof of publication (for example a tearsheet) from 2021 or 2022, with your name visible as credit, in either online or print format from a recognized media organization or publication;

OR

- journalism union membership card;

OR

- membership document from a recognized photographic association that shows the photographer is a professional member;

OR

- a recent letter of reference (must be from 2021 or 2022) from a photo agency, photo editor, media organization or publication, stating you have worked for them as a photographer;

OR

- if you are not able to provide proof that meets the above criteria, you may register with alternative (multiple) documents so that we can gain a better understanding of your professional status.

The organization reserves the right to ask for additional information to help clarify the entrant's professional status.

2. Team entries of two or more photographers are allowed. Proof of professional status must be provided for each team member.
3. The photographer(s) must be the author(s) of the photographs submitted in their name.
4. The photographer(s), agent or representative entering on their behalf, must be the copyright holder(s) or have been authorized by the copyright holder(s) to submit the photographs.

5. Entries must comply with the categories, as described [here](#).
6. Entries must meet the [technical requirements](#).
7. Photographs can be submitted whether or not they have been published.
8. Photographs taken at restricted events are not accepted (i.e. events where only photographers commissioned by those organizing the event have access, for example photographers commissioned by governments, political parties or corporations).
9. All entries must have accurate captions and descriptions, written in English. If the captions have been translated, please also provide the original caption. Captions must contain all the information described in the [guidance on captions](#).
10. Each entry must include relevant additional information, such as motivation, the type of project (assignment/personal project) and funding.
11. All entries must comply with the World Press Photo Code of Ethics. [Read the Code of Ethics](#).
12. Entries can only be submitted via [Picter](#), the official contest entry platform.
13. The deadline for creating an account on the contest entry platform [Picter](#), completing registration and for submitting entries to the 2023 Contest is Tuesday 10 January 2023, 13.00 Central European Time.
14. Members of the World Press Photo staff, Supervisory Board, International Advisory Committee and 2023 Contest jury are not permitted to enter the 2023 Contest.

Additional entry rules for the Singles, Stories and Long-Term Projects categories

15. A photograph can only be entered once, either as a Single or as part of a Story, or as part of a Long-Term Project. However, projects entered to the Open Format category can contain photographs that have also been entered to the Singles, Stories or Long-Term Projects categories.
16. Photographs must not show the name of the photographer, agency, or publication, or any other information (these details can be included in the metadata of the photograph but must not be visible on the photograph itself).
17. Photographs entered to Singles, Stories and Long-Term Projects must comply with our rules on manipulation and must not be altered by adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting or removing people and/or objects from within the frame. Read the rules on manipulation [here](#).

18. Entrants must provide file(s) as recorded by the camera for all images that proceed to the final stages of the contest. These file(s) will be requested and studied confidentially between 25 January and 25 February 2023. Failure to provide these files when requested will lead to the exclusion of the entry.

Terms and Conditions

19. Copyright holders retain copyright of their work. For awarded entries and honorable mentions, copyright holders grant the World Press Photo Foundation unlimited non-exclusive use of high-resolution photographs and Open Format entries for activities in all media, including social media, online and print, in relation to the contest, the exhibition, the yearbook, the public archive, and all promotional and educational activities for and under the auspices of the World Press Photo Foundation, without any remuneration being due.
20. For all entries except awarded entries, copyright holders grant the World Press Photo Foundation non-exclusive use of low-resolution photographs and Open Format entries in a non-public archive for its educational and research activities, without any remuneration being due.
21. The copyright holders represent and warrant that submission of the entries does not breach any law, and further that no third party can hold any claims or any objections regarding the rights granted to the World Press Photo Foundation specified in articles 21 and 22. The copyright holders will hold the World Press Photo Foundation harmless of any claims from third parties related hereto.
22. The Entry Rules and any dispute, proceedings or claim of whatever nature arising out of or in any way relating to the Entry Rules (including any non-contractual disputes or claims), shall be governed by Dutch law.
23. Any dispute arising from the Entry Rules (whether contractual or non-contractual) shall be decided solely and exclusively by the competent court of Amsterdam.
24. The conditions set out in the Entry Rules are binding, and the World Press Photo Foundation reserves the right to refuse or exclude any entry at its own discretion.

For more information on GDPR and the contest, please click [here](#).

H - CATEGORIES

Each region has four format-based categories: Singles, Stories, Long-Term Projects and Open Format. These categories welcome entries that witness or document news moments, events and/or aftermaths, as well as social, political and environmental issues or solutions.

All submitted entries were entered in one of the following categories:

Singles

- Single frame photographs.
- All singles must have been shot in 2022.
- All singles will be eligible for the World Press Photo of the Year.

Stories

- Stories can contain between 4 and 10 single frame photographs.
- All photographs entered into the stories category must have been shot in 2021 or 2022. At least four photographs in a story must have been shot in 2022.
- All stories will be eligible for the World Press Story of the Year.

Long-Term Projects

- Projects on a single theme containing between 24-30 single frame photographs.
- An entry must contain photographs from at least three different years, and a minimum of six photographs must have been shot in 2022.
- All projects will be eligible for the World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award.

Open Format

The Open Format category welcomes visual journalism with photography at its core, that may use a range and/or mixture of storytelling approaches and/or photographic methods. Open Format is open to the following types of projects: photo stories, using methods or techniques such as (but not limited to) polyptychs, multiple exposures, photographic collages, alternative or experimental image processing; short photo-based videos of up to 15 minutes; and photo-centered web-based projects.

- The main visual content of the project must be still photography.
- Entries in this category must have been produced or first published in 2022.
- Entrants must indicate the type of project and include a description of what processes and methods were used in the production of the project, as well as providing information about the intention behind the project and chosen approach.
- All projects that include text elements must have English-language text

available. In the case of video, entries must have English-language audio or include English subtitles.

- Entries of web-based projects must include the URL to the project itself as well as a screener of 1 minute.
- Entries in this category must be available via the contest platform Picter. Video files, including screeners, must be uploaded directly into Picter. The jury will only consider the content of entries as presented to them via Picter.
- All projects will be eligible for the World Press Photo Open Format Award.

Find out more about uploading requirements for Open Format [here](#).

When viewing Open Format entries, the description will state whether the entry is a photo story, a short photo-based video or a web-based photo project.

In the case of a short photo-based video or a web-based photo project, the entrant was asked to upload 10-25 JPEG image files of the photography included in the project. These image files are requested for quality checks and production only, and should not be judged as the entered product itself.

I - PRIZES

For the 2023 World Press Photo Contest, the winners will be chosen by regional and global juries. Regional juries, made up of five professionals from and/or working in that region, will first prepare a selection of entries per region. From this selection, a global jury, made up of the six regional jury chairs and the global jury chair, will then award the regional and global winners.

Regional winners

Every regional winner of the contest receives:

- A monetary prize of €1,000
- Inclusion in the annual World Press Photo year-long worldwide exhibition
- Inclusion in the annual collectible yearbook, available in multiple languages with a worldwide distribution of more than 30,000 copies
- Publication in the online collection and a personal profile on World Press Photo's website
- Promotion on World Press Photo's platforms
- Invitation to a winners' event
- A physical award

In addition, winners are often featured in major publications and invited to speak at public events, exhibition openings, and lectures throughout the year.

24 regional winners will be awarded, one per category (Singles, Stories, Long-Term Projects and Open Format) per region (Africa, Asia, Europe, North and Central America, South America, and Southeast Asia and Oceania).

Global winners

A global jury selects the four global winners: the World Press Photo of the Year, the World Press Photo Story of the Year, the World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award, and the World Press Photo Open Format Award. The global winners will be chosen from the regional winners in their respective categories.

In addition to their regional prizes, global winners will also receive:

- An additional monetary prize of €5,000
- An additional physical award

Honorable Mentions

In addition to the regional and global winners, the jury may choose to draw attention to an entry that deserves special recognition by awarding it an Honorable Mention. Honorable Mentions are reserved for entries that witness or report on significant news moments, events and/or their aftermaths from the contest year (2022). The jury may award a maximum of one Honorable Mention per region, and they can only be selected from the Singles or Stories categories.

Honorable Mention awardees receive:

- Inclusion in the annual World Press Photo year-long worldwide exhibition

- Inclusion in the annual collectible yearbook, available in multiple languages with a worldwide distribution of more than 30,000 copies
- Publication in the online collection and a personal profile on World Press Photo's website
- Promotion on World Press Photo's platforms

J - JUDGING ROUNDS

The contest has six voting rounds: the first, second, third, fourth and fifth rounds and the finals.

(I) Specific responsibilities of each jury

Each of the juries is assigned a specific responsibility in this process:

- a) The six regional juries will judge the first three rounds of all categories of their respective regions until a certain number of entries are left in the contest:
 - 20 Singles
 - 20 Stories
 - 12 Long-Term Projects
 - 12 Open Format entries

If the Long-Term Project and Open Format categories in a region should contain fewer than 12 entries to start with, the regional jury will still view and judge them until six to nine entries remain in the contest.

- b) The global jury will judge all categories as of the fourth round until the winners are chosen.
- c) Entries voted out by the regional juries cannot be reintroduced by the global jury.

(II) Round: 1

Categories: all

Jury: regional juries

The goal of the first round is to vote on all entries in the judged category and select what to forward to round 2. There is no specific number that the entries in this round have to be reduced to.

- a) An entry needs at least one vote in order to remain in the contest.
- b) Entries in the Open Format category in round 1, should be viewed for a maximum of three minutes, including the screener in the case of a web-based photo project.
- c) At this stage, caption information and information about the background of the entrant (nationality, where they are based, gender) cannot be consulted yet. This is to ensure that the entries progressing to round 2 are selected for their visual quality.
- d) At this stage, entries may not be transferred to a different category or region. Transferring to another category, within the same region, will be possible from round 2 onwards.

If the jury finds a particularly strong entry made in multiple regions that they want to transfer to another region, they will keep it in their region for the time being. After the third round, the entries will be transferred to the proposed regions. The global jury will be informed of the transfers when they start the fourth round, and the regional chair of the region an entry has been added to has a veto on accepting the entry in that region.

- e) At this stage, if a juror wants to promote an individual photograph from a story to the next round, the whole story needs to be promoted. In round 3 it will be possible to select singles from Stories and Long-Term Projects voted out and transfer them to the singles category (when shot in 2022).
- f) There will not be a call after the first round, the first call will be after the second round.

(III) Round: 2

Categories: all

Jury: regional juries

The goal of the second round is to reduce the number of entries in the judged category to a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 45 entries.

- a) An entry needs at least two votes in order to remain in contest.
- b) Entries in the Open Format category in round 2, should be viewed for a maximum of five minutes.
- c) From round 2 onward the title of each entry is available, as well as information about photographer nationality, where they are based, and gender, for the jury to consider during their discussions.
- d) During the call concluding the second round, the jury can request specific information concerning the who, what, when, where or why in an entry if this is crucial for the understanding of the story. At this point, a summarized edit of the caption is not available yet (will be from round 3 onwards). Specific questions will be looked up in the original caption that the entrant submitted only if the jury deems this crucial to the understanding of the story.
- e) In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of winners, World Press Photo has established the following representation criteria:
 - At least one local* winner per region;
 - At least one winner identifying as female or non-binary per region.

**Local is considered as a photographer who is from the country (and/or community) in which the story is being covered. This can either mean that they have a nationality, or have been living and working in the country for at least ten years.*
- f) At this stage, if the jury wants to transfer an entry to another category, it is possible to transfer within the same region. An entry needs at least two votes in order to transfer categories.

If the jury finds a particularly strong entry made in multiple regions that they want to transfer to another region, they will keep it in their region for the time being. After the third round, the entries will be transferred to the proposed regions. The global jury will be informed of the transfers when they start the fourth round, and the regional chair of the region an entry has been added to has a veto on accepting the entry in that region.

- g) At this stage, if a juror wants to promote an individual photograph from a story to the next round, the whole story needs to be promoted. In round 3 it will be possible to select singles from Stories and Long-Term Projects voted out and transfer them to the singles category (when shot in 2022).
- g) At the end of the round, each jury member may propose to re-introduce entries that have not been promoted on to the next round. Re-introduction requires at least two votes.
- h) At the end of the second round, a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 45 entries per category must remain in the contest.

(IV) Round: 3

Categories: all

Jury: regional juries

The goal of the third round is to reduce the number of entries in the judged category to a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 22 entries in the Singles and Stories categories, and to a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 in the Long-Term Projects and Open Format categories.

- a) An entry needs at least three votes in order to remain in contest.
- b) Entries in the Open Format category should be viewed in full (for timing purposes we calculated an average of 10 minutes per entry; 5 minutes per photo story and maximum 15 minutes per video).
- c) The entries in the Singles category will be viewed by the jury in the judging platform Pictor in their own time, but voting will take place in the call concluding the third round (as Singles may be extracted from other categories in this round).
- d) The who, what, when, where and why in a single or story will be available on the judging platform Pictor (the 'override' of the single caption or story description).

Please note: this is an edit by World Press Photo based on the entered caption that summarizes the basic information of good journalism to facilitate a clear and fair judging process.

Please also note: for singles that have been taken out of stories, an edit of the caption will not be available. The jury administrator will read out the who, what, when, where and why from the caption of the entrant during the call concluding the third round.

- e) Information about photographer nationality, where they are based, and gender is available, for the jury to consider during their discussions.
- f) In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of winners, World Press Photo has established the following representation criteria:
 - At least one local* winner per region;
 - At least one winner identifying as female or non-binary per region.

**Local is considered as a photographer who is from the country (and/or community) in which the story is being covered. This can either mean that they have a nationality, or have been living and working in the country for at least ten years.*

- g) At this stage, if the jury wants to transfer an entry to another category, it is possible to transfer within the same region. An entry needs at least three votes in order to transfer categories.

If the jury finds a particularly strong entry made in multiple regions that they want to transfer to another region, they will keep it in their region for the time being. After the third round, the entries will be transferred to the proposed regions. The global jury will be informed of the transfers when they start the fourth round, and the regional chair of the region an entry has been added to has a veto on accepting the entry in that region.

- h) If a story or long-term project has been voted out, individual images that have been taken in 2022 can be transferred into the Singles category with two votes (because the singles have yet to be voted on in this round).
- i) At the end of the round, each jury member may propose to re-introduce entries that have not been promoted on to the next round. Re-introduction requires at least three votes.
- j) At the end of the third round a minimum of 18 and a maximum of 22 entries in the Singles and Stories categories, and a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 14 in the Long-Term Projects and Open Format categories, must remain in the contest.

(V) Round: 4

Categories: all

Jury: Global Jury

The goal of the fourth round is to reduce the number of entries in the judged category to a minimum of six and a maximum of nine entries.

- a) Round 4 starts with a preview of the entries still in the contest.
- b) Entries in the Open Format category should be viewed in full (for timing purposes we calculated an average of 10 minutes per entry; 5 minutes per photo story and maximum 15 minutes per video).
- c) An entry needs at least four votes in order to remain in contest.
- d) At the end of the fourth round a minimum of six and a maximum of nine entries per category need to remain in the contest.

The fourth round starts with a round of positive voting. If after the round of positive voting a minimum of six up to a maximum of nine entries remain, the fourth round is finished.

If fewer than six entries remain, the jury will hold another round of positive voting, on only those entries taken out of contest by the previous round of voting.

If more than nine entries remain, the jury will revert to a negative vote on the entries still in contest.

Alternating between positive and negative voting will continue until there are a minimum of six up to a maximum of nine entries left.

Positive voting means it requires four votes from the jury to keep an entry in the contest. Negative voting means it requires four votes from the jury to take an entry out of the contest.

- e) Compact descriptions of the who, what, when, where and why in a single or story are available and can be requested by the jury at any time.

Please note: this is an edit by World Press Photo based on the entered caption by the entrant. The captions are summarized in line with the basic information of good journalism, to facilitate a clear and fair judging process for all entries left in the contest. The original caption by the entrant is available and the jury can ask for specific additional information from it.

- f) From round 4 onwards, additional information relating to how and why the story was made, such as motivation, the type of project (assignment/personal project) and funding, will be available for jury members to discuss.
- g) In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of winners, World Press Photo has established the following representation criteria:
- At least one local* winner per region;
 - At least one winner identifying as female or non-binary per region.
**Local is considered as a photographer who is from the country (and/or community) in which the story is being covered. This can either mean that they have a nationality, or have been living and working in the country for at least ten years.*
- h) If the jury finds a particularly strong entry made in multiple regions that they want to transfer to another region, the jury may transfer an entry to a different region with four votes, including the vote of the chair of the region the entry will be moved to.
- i) If a story or long-term project has been voted out, individual images that have been taken in 2022 can be transferred into the Singles category with three votes (because the singles have yet to be voted on in this round).
- j) At the end of the round jury members may propose to re-introduce entries that have not been promoted to the next round. Re-introduction requires at least four votes.
- k) In addition to the regional and global winners, the jury may choose to draw attention to an entry that deserves special recognition by awarding it an Honorable Mention. Honorable Mentions are reserved for entries that witness or report on significant news moments, events and/or their aftermaths from the contest year (2022). The jury may award a maximum of one Honorable Mention per region, and they can only be selected from the Singles or Stories categories.

(VI) Round: 5

Categories: all

Jury: Global Jury

The goal of the fifth round is to reduce the number of entries in the judged category to three entries per category, per region. The winners will be determined in the following and last round.

- a) In the fifth round, the jury will view all entries and discuss them before voting.
- b) Entries in the Open Format category should be viewed in full (for timing purposes we calculated an average of 10 minutes per entry; 5 minutes per photo story and maximum 15 minutes per video).
- c) An entry needs at least five votes in order to remain in contest.
- d) At the end of the fifth round, three entries per category per region need to remain in the contest.

The fifth round starts with a round of positive voting. If after the first round of voting three entries remain, the fifth round is finished.

If fewer than three entries remain, the jury will hold another round of positive voting, on only those entries taken out of contest by the previous round of voting.

If more than three entries remain, the jury will revert to a negative vote on the entries still in contest.

Alternating between positive and negative voting will continue until there are a three entries left.

Positive voting means it requires four votes from the jury to keep an entry in the contest. Negative voting means it requires four votes from the jury to take an entry out of the contest.

After three rounds of voting that leads to fewer or more than three entries, the vote will be decided by a simple majority of four votes.

- e) Compact descriptions of the who, what, when, where and why in a single or story are available and can be requested by the jury at any time.

Please note: this is an edit by World Press Photo based on the entered caption by the entrant. The captions are summarized in line with the basic information of good journalism, to facilitate a clear and fair judging process for all entries left in the

contest. The original caption by the entrant is available and the jury can ask for specific additional information from it.

- f) Additional information relating to how and why the story was made, such as motivation, the type of project (assignment/personal project) and funding, will be available for jury members to discuss.
- g) In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of winners, World Press Photo has established the following representation criteria:
 - At least one local* winner per region;
 - At least one winner identifying as female or non-binary per region.

**Local is considered as a photographer who is from the country (and/or community) in which the story is being covered. This can either mean that they have a nationality, or have been living and working in the country for at least ten years.*
- h) If the jury wants to transfer an entry to another category, it requires at least five votes.
- i) If the jury finds a particularly strong entry made in multiple regions that they want to transfer to another region, the jury may transfer an entry to a different region with five votes, including the vote of the chair of the region the entry will be moved to.
- l) If a story or long-term project has been voted out, individual images that have been taken in 2022 can be transferred into the Singles category with four votes (because the singles have yet to be voted on in this round).
- j) At the end of the round, jury members may propose to re-introduce entries that have not been promoted to the next round. Re-introduction requires at least five votes.
- k) In addition to the regional and global winners, the jury may choose to draw attention to an entry that deserves special recognition by awarding it an Honorable Mention. Honorable Mentions are reserved for entries that witness or report on significant news moments, events and/or their aftermaths from the contest year (2022). The jury may award a maximum of one Honorable Mention per region, and they can only be selected from the Singles or Stories categories.

(VII) Round: 6 (finals)

Categories: all

Jury: Global Jury

The goal of the finals is to choose one winner per category, per region.

- a) All finalists are presented to the jury with a time allowance to discuss the choices made and to check whether themes, balance of documentary and news, and quality of finalists are in balance.
- b) Compact descriptions of the who, what, when, where and why in a single or story are available and can be requested by the jury at any time.

Please note: this is an edit by World Press Photo based on the entered caption by the entrant. The captions are summarized in line with the basic information of good journalism, to facilitate a clear and fair judging process for all entries left in the contest. The original caption by the entrant is available and the jury can ask for specific additional information from it.

- c) Additional information relating to how and why the story was made, such as motivation, the type of project (assignment/personal project) and funding, will be available for jury members to discuss.
- d) In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of winners, World Press Photo has established the following representation criteria:
 - At least one local* winner per region;
 - At least one winner identifying as female or non-binary per region.
**Local is considered as a photographer who is from the country (and/or community) in which the story is being covered. This can either mean that they have a nationality, or have been living and working in the country for at least ten years.*
- e) Jury members may propose to re-introduce entries that have not been promoted to the finals. Re-introduction requires a unanimous vote.
- f) In categories where the finals have not taken place yet, the jury may transfer entries made in multiple regions, to another region with at least five votes, including the vote of the chair of the region the entry will be moved to. In categories where the finals have already taken place, a transfer requires a unanimous vote.
- g) If a story or long-term project has been voted out, individual images that have been taken in 2022 can be transferred into the Singles category. If the image is transferred to a category that has not yet been voted on in this round, the transfer requires five

votes. If the image is transferred to a category where the winner has already been selected, a transfer requires a unanimous vote, and a re-vote to select a new winner.

- h) Ranking: for each category in each region the jury must allocate 10 points to the three shortlisted entries to identify the winner, the first runner-up, and the second runner-up. The runner-ups will not be shared publicly, and are only selected as a back up in case of unforeseen circumstances leading to removal of a winning entry.

The first place may be given no more than 7 points and the second place may be given no more than 4 points. Therefore the following combinations are possible (in any order):

7 3 0
7 2 1
6 4 0
6 3 1
6 2 2
5 4 1
5 3 2
4 4 2
4 3 3

- i) Voting is done through written secret ballots. Once the ballots have been handed out and voting has started, the jury members are not allowed to discuss the entries or their votes anymore.
- j) The admin team will declare the results to the jury.
- k) In the case of two or more winning entries receiving the same number of votes, a written ballot between the equal finalists will take place, which requires at least five votes. If needed, this procedure will be repeated another two rounds. After three rounds of voting, a simple majority of four votes will be used to decide the vote.
- l) The reversal of the jury's decisions in the final round of a category can only occur by unanimous decision of the jury in a written secret ballot.
- m) In addition to the regional and global winners, the jury may choose to draw attention to an entry that deserves special recognition by awarding it an Honorable Mention. Honorable Mentions are reserved for entries that witness or report on significant news moments, events and/or their aftermaths from the contest year (2022). The jury may award a maximum of one Honorable Mention per region, and they can only be selected from the Singles or Stories categories.

K - GLOBAL AWARDS

The global awards are chosen after the jury has determined all regional winners, and is chosen from the regional winners in their respective categories. The global awards are defined as follows.

The World Press Photo of the Year award honors a visually creative and skillfully made photograph that documents and represents an important event, moment or issue of 2022.

The World Press Photo Story of the Year award honors a visually creative, skillfully made and edited photo story that documents and represents an important event, period or issue of 2022.

The World Press Photo Long-Term Project Award honors a visually creative, skillfully made and edited photo project that documents and represents an important story encompassing at least 3 years.

The World Press Photo Open Format Award honors a visually creative, skillfully made and edited photo-based project that documents and represents an important story.

During their deliberations the jury will consider the following criteria:

- **Visual quality:** this can include creativity, technical skill and visual style and the edit of the story (where relevant)
- **Story:** this refers to the story and/or issues covered in the photographs or project, its relevance or significance, and the way in which the photographer has chosen to approach the story
- **Representation:** this refers to the importance of awarding a diverse range of stories and photographers

In order to ensure that the jury awards a diverse group of global winners, World Press Photo has established the following representation criteria:

- At least one local* winner;
- At least one winner identifying as female or non-binary.
**Local is considered as a photographer who is from the country (and/or community) in which the story is being covered. This can either mean that they have a nationality, or have been living and working in the country for at least ten years.*

The global awards are decided according to the following process:

- a) The candidates for all four global awards will be considered at the same time. First, the entries will be reduced from the six entries per category to two entries per category. Then, the entries will be reduced from two to one entry per category, which decides the global award winner.
- b) The total number of six eligible entries is reduced to two entries through a series of

voting rounds requiring five votes to keep entries in the contest, followed by a voting round requiring five votes to eliminate entries from the contest. This vote can be done by a show of hands.

- c) The final vote between the last two entries per category will be done by written, secret ballot.
- d) Each member of the jury can only vote for one of the two remaining entries.
- e) Each global award winner requires a supermajority of five votes.
- f) The jury will deliberate and, if needed, successive secret ballots will be held until five votes are cast for one of the two entries under consideration. After three rounds of voting, a simple majority of four votes will be used to decide the vote.
- g) After the results of the voting on a global awards has been announced to the jury, the vote can be reopened with a unanimous vote of the jury. In this case, each juror may re-introduce a maximum of one entry and the judging will be restarted and be revoted according to procedure.

L - VERIFICATION PROCESS

The World Press Photo Contest has a verification process with four elements to ensure compliance with its code of ethics and entry rules.

(I) Entry checks for:

Single, Stories and Long-Term Project entries

Our team conducts several checks to ensure entries are in line with the entry rules, including: as only single frame photographs can be entered to these categories, we check to see if there are multiple exposures, polyptychs, stitched images or photographs with added texts or added borders; we also check whether creation dates are according to the rules; and to spot any other problems that might have occurred when uploading to our entry platform.

Open Format entries

Entries in Open Format must meet the [entry rules](#) and [category requirements](#). During an entry check our team ensures that the entries meet all the rules and requirements such as (but not limited to): The main visual content of the project must be still photography; entries in this category must have been produced or first published in 2022; all projects that include text elements must have English-language text available. In the case of video, entries must have English-language audio or include English subtitles.

(II) Manipulation review for Single, Stories and Long-Term Project entries

Entry rule 17 states photographs “must not be altered by adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting or removing people and/or objects from within the frame.” For full details please see the entry rules on manipulation on the [what counts as manipulation page](#) which describes and shows what alterations to the content of a photograph are not acceptable.

There are two exceptions to this: (i) cropping that removes extraneous details is permitted; (ii) sensor dust or scratches on scans of negatives can be removed.

The process for ensuring compliance with this rule takes place later in the judging process. Entrants whose photographs remain in the contest and are eligible to progress are contacted between 25 January and 25 February 2023 and required to provide the file as recorded by the camera. These files could be:

- RAW file(s) (only 1 frame per contest image is required)
OR
- Full format JPEG file(s). These must be as delivered by the camera, and provided in a series showing at least seven frames (three frames before the contest entry, the frame

of the actual contest entry, and three frames after the contest entry)

OR

- For smartphones, the unedited photograph emailed directly from the phone to contest@worldpressphoto.org and provided in a series showing at least seven frames (three frames before the contest entry, the frame of the actual contest image, and three frames after the contest image)

OR

- Unprocessed unedited positive scans of film negative(s), plus a contact sheet of a series showing at least seven frames (three frames before the contest entry, the frame of the actual contest entry, and three frames after the contest entry).

Failure to provide these files will lead to the elimination of the entry, making it ineligible for a possible award.

Two independent digital analysts compare original files with contest entries to determine whether the content of any photograph (either a single photograph or frame in a story) has been altered.

The exact process of the manipulation review for the jury is detailed in appendix 2 and 3.

(III) Fact-checking

Once the winners are chosen, an external research team will check the context in which each image or story was produced, distributed and/or published. This could include (but is not limited to): if the persons named in the caption are in the photo; if a news event can be confirmed to have taken place; if an animal is depicted, is the correct species named; is the location accurate; is the date correct; etc.

The fact-checking process will be where clause 2 of the code of ethics (that entrants “must not intend to mislead by recreating or staging events”) is handled. Captions must explain the circumstances in which a photograph was taken. If the photographer influenced the scene in any way, or gave directions to a subject to pose in any way for a portrait, this must be disclosed in the caption.

(IV) Story text

Once the jury has selected the winners, the external research team gathers background information on each photograph and story. While we rely on the photographers for the basic captions, which are edited for accuracy and clarity, we often need additional information. This is so we can provide – in the yearbook, exhibition and on the website – the full story that gives the context for each photograph and story. The foundation is responsible for the content of this text. If required information is missing or incorrect, photographers will be contacted and asked

to provide the correct information. Winning photographers are asked to fact check the captions and story descriptions before they are published.

M - PROCESS FOR ISSUES ARISING AFTER PRIZES HAVE BEEN AWARDED

From the conclusion of the 2023 Contest onwards, if, at any time after a winner is announced, an entry is alleged to have broken one or more of the entry rules, or contravened the code of ethics, or an entrant has allegedly engaged in discrimination or harrasment, the allegation will be considered.

The process for determining the status of an award in these circumstances is as follows:

- (i) The allegations must be presented to the World Press Photo Foundation, in the person of the executive director, in a written statement containing supporting evidence. The executive director can seek legal and other advice, and will determine whether the allegation warrants either an investigation or a decision. The World Press Photo Foundation, in the person of the executive director, can also initiate an investigation.
- (ii) If an investigation is considered necessary by the World Press Photo Foundation, the foundation will convene an independent fact-checking team and ask it to conduct an investigation of those allegations, and present the foundation, in the person of the executive director, a written report.
- (iii) A post-award review panel will be convened, comprising four members - the executive director of the World Press Photo Foundation, the chair of the global jury, the chair of the regional jury the award was won in, and a lawyer specialized in the field of the allegation to review the case.
- (iv) The post-award review panel must reach a unanimous decision on whether or not the entry should be disqualified.
- (v) In the event the post-award review panel cannot reach a unanimous decision, the World Press Photo Foundation, in the person of the executive director, will decide whether or not the entry should be disqualified.
- (vi) Once a decision has been reached, the World Press Photo Foundation will publish a statement on the investigation and the decision.

If a winner is disqualified, the award will be revoked and the entry will be removed from the World Press Photo website and if applicable from other output.

APPENDIX 1 - CAPTION GUIDANCE

Jurors should be aware that entrants are required to provide accurate captions.

This is the guidance provided to entrants on what information has to be in a caption:

Captions must be accurate and answer the five basic questions of good journalism (who, what, where, when, why). All entries must have accurate captions and descriptions, written in English. If the captions have been translated, please also provide the caption in the original language.

The first part of the caption must:

- Describe who is in the photograph(s) and/or project and what is going on within the photograph(s) and/or project.
- Name the city, region or state, and country where the photograph(s) and/or project was made.
- Provide the date the photograph(s) and/or project was made.
- Captions must give attribution for actions not seen (e.g., the scene of an accident where more than 10 died, according to police).

The second part of the caption is used to give context to the news event or describe why the photograph(s) and/or project is significant. Any information that is included must be sourced.

The final part must explain the circumstances in which a photograph was taken. If the photographer influenced the scene in any way, or gave directions to a subject to pose in any way for a portrait, this must be disclosed. Information about consent should be indicated in the caption as stated in article 4 of the [code of ethics](#).

Additional information

As well as information provided in the form of captions, entrants are also required to provide relevant additional information relating to how and why the story was made, such as motivation, the type of project (assignment/personal project) and funding. For entries to Open Format, entries must also include a description of the methods and processes involved in the making of the project. This information is collected on entry and will be given to the jury from Round 4 onwards. Entrants may be contacted during the judging process if the jury have questions about their additional information.

APPENDIX 2 - MANIPULATION GUIDANCE

Many things can count as manipulation in photography, but for the World Press Photo Contest, the Code of Ethics and Entry Rules focus on two important issues. Entrants are advised about these criteria when they submit their photographs.

Entry rules on manipulation

The following information is only applicable for the Singles, Stories and Long-Term Projects categories. The Open Format category welcomes a range and/or mixture of storytelling mediums, hence the following rules are not applicable (for more information about the Open Format category, see [here](#)).

Only single frame photographs will be accepted. The following are not accepted:

- Multiple exposures, polyptychs (diptychs, triptychs, and so forth).
- Stitched panoramas, either produced in-camera or with image editing software.

The content of a photograph must not be altered by adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting or removing people and/or objects from within the frame. There are two exceptions:

- (i) Cropping that removes extraneous details is permitted;
- (ii) Removing sensor dust or scratches on scans of negatives is permitted.

Adjustments of color or conversion to grayscale that do not alter content are permitted, with two exceptions:

- (i) Changes in color may not result in significant changes in hue, to such an extent that the processed colors diverge from the original colors.
- (ii) Changes in density, contrast, color and/or saturation levels that significantly alter content by obscuring or eliminating information in the photograph are not permitted. The jury determines which changes are significant, following the video guidance below on what counts as manipulation.

See below for details on what is, or is not, acceptable.

1. The first thing that counts as manipulation is intending to mislead by staging events.

The code of ethics says photographers must not intend to mislead by recreating or staging events. In certain cases, deliberate reenactments can be acceptable if they serve a clear purpose for the story and/or issue being documented, and the photographer must be transparent about their motivation and process. Any direct influence over the scene, such as reenactments or posed portraits, must be included in the captions.

- Staging means arranging something in order to mislead the audience.
- Setting-up or recreating a scene means directing the individuals and/or groups being photographed to do things, or asking them to repeat things they were doing prior to the photographer's arrival.

Staging and recreating events are different from deliberate reenactments and posing for portraits. Portraits are a special genre of photography. They are made through a relationship between the subject and the photographer in which the subject poses for the photographer. However, for the contest, portraits must not present subjects doing things they would not ordinarily do. Portraits must not mislead viewers by faking a scene, meaning they cannot present scenes that appear as something other than they are.

For any portrait, whether entered as a single or as part of a story, directions given to a subject must be disclosed in the caption. Portraits are subject to the same rules on manipulation stated in the entry rules. This means, for example, the face and body of the subject(s) cannot be altered through the addition or removal of physical marks.

2. The second thing that counts as manipulation is adding or removing content from the photograph.

It is important to note that processing by itself is not manipulation, therefore adjustments of color or conversion to grayscale that do not alter content are permitted.

Visual examples are provided on the [website](#).

There are two types of color adjustment that count as manipulation:

- Changes in color may not result in significant changes in hue, to such an extent that the processed colors diverge from the original colors.
- Changes in density, contrast, color and/or saturation levels that significantly alter content by obscuring or eliminating elements in the photograph are not permitted. The jury determines which changes are significant, following the video guidance (provided on our [website](#)) on what counts as manipulation.

Altering the content of a photograph by “adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting or removing people and/or objects from within the frame” is manipulation and makes an entry ineligible for an award.

The examples given here come from alterations in previous contests. They do not specify every imaginable form of manipulation. Alterations that count as manipulation include, but are not limited to, the following.

It is not acceptable to remove things such as:

- physical marks on body
- small objects in the photograph
- reflected light spots
- shadows
- extraneous items on photograph’s border that could not be removed by crop

Visual examples are provided on the [website](#).

It is not acceptable to add things. This includes, but is not limited, to:

- cloning in highlights, enhancing body, or costume size
- painting in object details
- photo montage
- replicating material on the border of a photograph to make a neat crop possible.

Visual examples of altering content of a photograph are provided on our [website](#).

3. The consequences of detecting manipulation in an entry.

Entrants whose work has been identified during the verification process as having content altered by adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting or removing people and/or objects from within the frame, will be excluded and, if applicable, all other entries from that entrant will be excluded from the contest and the entrant will be informed after the winners have been announced.

Entrants whose work has been identified during the verification process as having content altered through changes in color (resulting in significant changes in hue, to such an extent that the processed colors diverge from the original colors), or changes in density, contrast, color and/or saturation levels that significantly alter content (by obscuring or eliminating information in the picture), will be contacted for an explanation in case the forensic experts have technical questions. Once contacted, entrants have 24 hours to respond. The entrant will be informed of the final decision after the winners have been announced. If the jury decides to exclude a photograph that is part of a story, the remaining photographs in the story that are free from manipulation can be transferred to the Singles category.

APPENDIX 3 - MANIPULATION REVIEW

The manipulation review is only for the Singles, Stories and Long-Term Projects categories. The Open Format category welcomes a range and/or mixture of storytelling mediums, hence the following process is not applicable (for more information about the Open Format category, see [here](#)).

- a) The manipulation review will be conducted by two independent forensic analysts retained by the World Press Photo Foundation.
- b) The workflow of the analysts is described on the World Press Photo website [here](#).
- c) Entrants are contacted and required to provide file(s) as recorded by the camera for their entry. If entrants can not or do not provide these files, their entry will be ineligible for a possible award.
- d) After following the workflow, the analysts present a technical report to the jury identifying which, if any, photographs have had content altered, noting the details of the alterations.
- e) Entrants whose work has been identified during the verification process as having content altered by adding, rearranging, reversing, distorting or removing people and/or objects from within the frame, will be excluded and, if applicable, all other entries from that entrant will be excluded from the contest and the entrant will be informed after the winners have been announced.
- f) Entrants whose work has been identified during the verification process as having content altered through changes in color (resulting in significant changes in hue, to such an extent that the processed colors diverge from the original colors), or changes in density, contrast, color and/or saturation levels that significantly alter content (by obscuring or eliminating information in the picture), will be contacted for an explanation in case the forensic experts have technical questions.