

PLURAL+



UNAOC YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



Rules and Regulations

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#PLURALplus26



2023 PLURAL+ Ceremony at the UNHQ in New York.

About PLURAL+

WHAT IS PLURAL+?

In a world often characterized by intolerance, polarization, and cultural divisions, the **PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival** recognizes youth as powerful agents of social change, and empowers them to share their creative vision that fosters inclusion and respect for diversity.

Launched in 2009, PLURAL+ is an initiative of the [United Nations Alliance of Civilizations \(UNAOC\)](#), with a network of [more than 20 partner organizations](#) around the globe.

Every year, PLURAL+ gives young people around the world the opportunity to express their vision and their creativity through multimedia production. PLURAL+ invites young people of up to 25-years-old to submit original and creative short films focusing on the themes of migration, diversity, social inclusion, among other pressing social issues, while combatting xenophobia and discrimination, countering hate speech, disinformation, and misinformation, as well as promoting dialogue and inclusive narratives.

PLURAL+ THEMATIC AREAS

PLURAL+ invites short films that explore key global challenges related to migration, diversity, and social inclusion, while engaging with the broader narratives, perceptions, and identity dynamics shaping our societies, including but not limited to the following thematic areas:

- **Migration:** Explores human mobility through a human-centred lens, including the experiences, contributions and challenges of migrants. The theme encourages storytelling that promotes evidence-based and balanced narratives, fosters understanding and inclusion, and counters negative perceptions and misrepresentations of migrants.

- **Diversity:** Highlights cultural diversity as a strength in our societies. It encourages exploration of how perceptions and narratives influence attitudes toward different communities and promotes mutual respect and understanding across different identities.
- **Social Inclusion:** Promotes equal opportunities and meaningful participation for all individuals, particularly those in vulnerable and marginalized settings. The theme explores stories and narratives that foster social cohesion in diverse societies.
- **Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue:** Promotes dialogue as a means to foster mutual understanding, strengthen social cohesion, and prevent identity-based tensions.
- **Countering Hate Speech, Disinformation and Misinformation:** Promotes positive and responsible narratives that foster mutual respect and support more inclusive and constructive public discourse, while countering the spread of harmful narratives, including hate speech, disinformation and misinformation, and encouraging the ethical and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence, digital platforms and emerging technologies.
- **Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination:** Amplifies narratives that combat racism, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination, including those based on religion, belief, or ethnicity.

PLURAL+ VIDEOS

PLURAL+ video entries are five minutes maximum in length and can be of any genre (*including animation, documentary, music video, comedy, etc.*) as long as they convey a message that can contribute to making the audience think in constructive ways about the cross-cutting issues of migration, diversity, social inclusion, among other cross-cutting social issues. In addition, videos can be in any language as long as English subtitles are provided.

PLURAL+ INTERNATIONAL JURY DISTINCTIONS

PLURAL+ International Jury Distinctions are conferred according to **three age categories**:

- up to 12 years old;
- 13-17 years old; and
- 18-25 years old.

An **International Jury** helps select **three recipients of PLURAL+ International Jury Distinctions** in each age category, based on impact, creativity, originality, and relevance to the festival's themes.

PLURAL+ SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

In addition, UNAOC will confer recognitions in the following special categories:

- The **Special Recognition for Combating Xenophobia and Discrimination** will be conferred to a video that promotes mutual respect and highlights global issues of xenophobia and discrimination. This includes discrimination based on ethnicity, religion or belief, including antisemitism, Christianophobia, Islamophobia, and other forms of intolerance against other religions and faiths.
- The **Special Recognition for Responsible Narratives on Migration** will be conferred to a video portraying efforts to tackle online misinformation and disinformation affecting migrants, while promoting ethical storytelling and dissemination of accurate, fact-based information from reliable sources.
- The **Special Recognition for AI for #OneHumanity** will be conferred to a video harnessing the power of Artificial Intelligence to foster intercultural and interreligious dialogue, through ethical and responsible means. This includes exploring how AI can be used as a force for good to advance inclusive and responsible digital narratives, strengthen mutual understanding, and contribute to positive social impact.

PLURAL+ PARTNER RECOGNITIONS

Each year, PLURAL+ partner organizations also grant recognitions and professional opportunities to more than 20 videos every year.

PLURAL+ RECIPIENTS

Videos are chosen on the basis of their potential to have an impact on the audience, as well as on their artistic, innovative, and creative content. The recipients of the PLURAL+ International Jury Distinctions and Special Categories will be invited, all expenses paid, to participate in the PLURAL+ Ceremony, which will take place in late 2026.

Selected films also benefit from continued global visibility through screenings and distribution through United Nations platforms and partner networks around the world.

You can find out more about past PLURAL+ Annual Ceremonies and other relevant news through the [Press Room](#).

PLURAL+ IN NUMBERS

Since its inception, videos recognized through PLURAL+ have been selected among thousands of video entries from more than 100 countries. They have been screened and broadcast in dozens of festivals, movie theaters and television networks around the world, as well as in schools and global conferences, and they have received more than one million views on various online platforms, including YouTube and Vimeo.

Now in its 18th year, PLURAL+ was jointly established by the **United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC)** and the **International Organization for Migration (IOM)**, and has since evolved into a global platform for youth media distribution.



PLURAL+ Recipients at the 2023 Ceremony at the UNHQ in New York.

Eligibility

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The PLURAL+ Youth Video Festival (hereinafter “PLURAL+”) is open to young people of all nationalities with a keen interest in the cross-cutting issues of migration, diversity, social inclusion, as well as broader narratives, perceptions, and identity dynamics shaping our societies.

Entrants to PLURAL+ **must be no older than 25 years old** at the time of the production of their videos.

PLURAL+ is organized into three age categories:

1. 12 years old and under
2. 13 to 17 years old
3. 18 to 25 years old

Anyone can appear in your video, but it must reflect your perspective as a young filmmaker on migration, diversity, and social inclusion, as well as the special themes/categories of the current edition. While there is no age limit to the people appearing in the video (i.e. actors can be of all ages), the video must reflect the thoughts and opinions of the young filmmaker(s) about migration, diversity, social inclusion, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, countering hate speech, disinformation and misinformation and combating xenophobia and discrimination. The person submitting the video (“the entrant”) must be actively involved in its making; e.g. either as a director, writer, camera person, editor, actor, coordinator, etc.

Immediate family members of staff members of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), and members of the PLURAL+ International Jury are not eligible to enter the competition.

CAN WE SUBMIT A VIDEO AS A GROUP?

Yes! You can work with friends or a team to create a video. Multiple young people can work together on one video. When submitting a video as a group, the video will fall into the age category of the main entrant.

CAN WE ASK OUR TEACHERS, FRIENDS OR FAMILY FOR HELP?

While people over the age of 25 (parents, teachers, etc.) can provide support and assistance in the making of the video, their role should remain minimal. However, it is understood that for the youngest age category (12 years old and under), adults may play a more substantial role. Each case will be reviewed, and approval will be at the discretion of the PLURAL+ team.



PLURAL+ Recipients at the 2025 Ceremony in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

WHAT TYPES OF VIDEOS DO YOU CONSIDER? WHAT'S THE REQUIRED FORMAT?

PLURAL+ video entries must be:

- Between one (1) and five (5) minutes in length, including title(s) and opening/closing credits. If an entry is slightly below or above the aforementioned time limit, it will be reviewed and evaluated on a case-to-case basis at the discretion of the PLURAL+ team.
- In English or have English subtitles
- Created or produced after 1 January 2023.
- In addition, PLURAL+ video entries can be of any genre (animation, documentary, music video, comedy, etc.) as long as they have the potential to make the audience think in constructive ways about the PLURAL+ themes.

PLURAL+ invites short films that explore key global challenges related to migration, diversity, and social inclusion, while engaging with the broader narratives, perceptions, and identity dynamics shaping our societies, including but not limited to the following thematic areas: migration, diversity, social inclusion, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, countering hate speech, disinformation and misinformation, and combating xenophobia and discrimination.

If selected, entrants must be prepared to submit a digital copy of their video in either of the following formats: MOV (preferred), MP4, AVI, QT, MKV, or FLV. Full HD resolution (1920×1080) or higher is preferred but not required.

Content

CAN I USE INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES?

Yes. When quoting or referencing information from other sources in your submission, you must ensure that the data is accurate, sourced from reliable references, and properly cited. Entrants should use reputable sources such as academic studies, official reports, and trusted media outlets. It is advisable to cross-check information across multiple sources before including it in your video. Sources must be cited either within the video itself or in the video credits. If using direct quotes or statistics, make sure to clearly reference the source. Failure to provide accurate citations may lead to disqualification from the competition. PLURAL+ reserves the right to request proof of sources for any factual claims made in video submissions.

CAN I USE STOCK FOOTAGE AND IMAGES?

The aim of the PLURAL+ Call for Submissions is to foster creativity, therefore we welcome artworks that are the original work of the entrant(s) in their entirety. However, we understand that limitations might arise when producing specific types of shots. To this end, you can use stock footage in your video, but it should make up no more than 15% of your video. However, please strictly restrict the use of stock footage and images under 15% of the total duration of your video. Overuse of such materials may result in immediate disqualification, subject to the discretion of the International Jury and PLURAL+ staff.

Free-of-charge attributable materials must be credited at the end of your video. When using copyrighted materials, please make sure to obtain the pertinent licenses and keep a registry of them. You must either own the copyright or obtain the necessary permissions or licenses for all submitted content. The PLURAL+ team reserves the right to seek proof of copyright ownership or usage license. Submissions containing copyrighted materials without proper licensing or permission will not be eligible.

CAN I USE ANY MUSIC AND SOUND EFFECTS?

No. Only use music, footage, or images that you created, are royalty-free, or have a proper license. You cannot use covers or adaptations of songs without prior consent from the original creators and/or musicians.

Alternatively, **you can use royalty-free music and sounds**, provided that you can submit either proof of copyright ownership and/or proof that the audio exists in the public domain.

Make sure to credit free-of-charge attributable music and sound effects at the end of your video, or obtain the pertinent licenses and keep a registry of them. You must either own the copyrights and/or have the necessary permissions or

licenses for all submitted content. The PLURAL+ team might ask you for proof. Submissions containing copyrighted materials without proper licensing or permission will not be eligible.

Check the PLURAL+ website to find music [resources](#) for your video.

CAN I REPURPOSE FOOTAGE FROM MEDIA OUTLETS, FILMS, AND SERIES?

Footage and multimedia content from media outlets, feature and short films, and series, is protected by copyright: it can only be used under a license or by obtaining permission from the copyright holder.

In some cases, content from media outlets might be protected under licenses such as Creative Commons, allowing for distribution, remixing, adaptation, or building upon such materials. Read carefully the conditions of such licenses before including the content in your video and make sure to credit the source adequately.

You must own the copyright(s), or obtain permission, or acquire a license for all materials submitted. The PLURAL+ team might ask you for proof. Submissions containing copyrighted materials without proper licensing or permission will not be eligible.

WHAT SHOULD MY VIDEO BE ABOUT?

PLURAL+ recognizes young people as powerful agents of social change and video entries should therefore serve as an instrument for them to express their thoughts and opinions on one or several of the main themes of PLURAL+: migration, diversity, social inclusion, intercultural and interreligious dialogue, countering hate speech, disinformation and misinformation, and combating xenophobia and discrimination.

PLURAL+ video entries can be of any genre (animation, documentary, music video, comedy, etc.) as long as they have the potential to make the audience think in constructive ways about the cross-cutting social issues pertaining to the themes of PLURAL+, ranging from, but not limited to, peace and human rights, to racism and discrimination. To get a better idea, interested candidates should browse [past PLURAL+ winning videos](#).

PLURAL+ video entries should not contain profanities or material that some audiences may find inappropriate or offensive, nor should they be created for commercial purposes.

CAN I USE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE GENERATIVE TOOLS?

PLURAL+ recognizes the growing role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in creative processes and encourages its ethical, transparent and responsible use in ways that support creativity and positive social impact.

Submission and Timeline

HOW DO I SUBMIT MY VIDEO?

To submit a video for consideration, you must first complete the [online form](#).

Please provide all of the required information. Incomplete submissions will lead to disqualification.

The form will ask you to submit your videos in one of two ways¹:

- 1. Through a video-streaming website (e.g. YouTube or Vimeo).** If submitting through this option, the entrant will be asked to include the URL of the video in the online form. The entrant must ensure that the video link is accessible and not private.
- 2. Through a file-hosting website (e.g. Google Drive, Dropbox, Box, etc.)** where the entrant's video is saved. If submitting through this option, you will be asked to include the URL of the video in the online form. The entrant must ensure that the video link is accessible and not private.

DO I MAINTAIN THE RIGHTS TO MY VIDEO?

Yes! However, by submitting your video for consideration through the PLURAL+ website, you acknowledge and agree that PLURAL+ and its Partners will have unlimited access and use of the selected videos in perpetuity. This means that PLURAL+ will have the right to publish your video on all platforms, including the PLURAL+ website, YouTube channel, and social media for promotional or educational purposes.

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT MY VIDEO?

Submissions must be completed by **30 June 2026**, 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (EDT/ New York time). Late entries will not be accepted.

WHEN ARE PLURAL+ RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED?

All entrants to PLURAL+ will be notified about the outcome of their submissions by mid-October 2026, and the PLURAL+ recipients will be publicly announced at a Ceremony which will take place in late 2026. More information regarding the ceremony will be shared on our social media platforms closer to the date of the event.

¹ Services that require sending files via email (e.g. WeTransfer, FileMail, etc.) are not acceptable.

PLURAL+ entrants may utilize AI for tasks such as script assistance, editing enhancements and partial modification of footage/images, color correction, resolution enhancement, and background effects, provided that these tools serve to refine and not replace the filmmaker's creative input. AI-generated elements such as sound design (special effects, voice-overs, background music, music remixing), animation, or visual effects are acceptable as long as they are integrated into videos where the artistic choices, direction, and storytelling remain primarily developed by humans.

AI tools cannot be used to generate entire scripts, but they may be used to generate performances or assist in creating visual content, including through text-to-video technologies, as long as the filmmaker retains meaningful creative authorship. However, the unauthorized use of any person's likeness—whether a private individual or public figure—is strictly prohibited. Submissions that fabricate or replicate real individuals without consent, or that rely on synthetic actors designed to intentionally imitate real, identifiable people, will not be accepted. The PLURAL+ team reserves the right to disqualify videos where AI is deemed to have overtaken the filmmaker's role, showing poor creativity, or containing prominent artifacts and/or deformed representations of reality or human anatomy.

To maintain transparency and fairness, participants must disclose any use of AI in their film, specifying the tools and extent of their application in the submission form. Failure to comply will result in disqualification.



PLURAL+ Recipients at the 2024 Ceremony in Cascais, Portugal.



Panel discussion with the PLURAL+ International Jury at the 2024 Ceremony in Cascais, Portugal.

Selection and Recognition

HOW DO YOU CHOOSE THE PLURAL+ RECIPIENTS?

Initially, an eligibility screening will be done by PLURAL+ staff to determine if all submissions comply with content rules and regulations. Videos that do not meet PLURAL+ quality and relevance standards will not be eligible for the next stage of the process.

Eligible submissions are then carefully reviewed by a pre-selection committee consisting of representatives from UN entities, civil society, media companies, and other key stakeholders. This committee selects the shortlist of the best videos, which are then further evaluated by a prestigious International Jury.

The International Jury comprises a group of six to eight members who are selected every year by UNAOC for their experience and achievements in the fields of filmmaking and media, and expertise across areas such as migration, diversity, social inclusion, and other pressing global issues. The International Jury members will be announced through the festival's social media platforms and on our website later in the year. In the meantime, learn about members of the PLURAL+ International Jury from past years here and follow PLURAL+ on social media for frequent updates.

WHAT DO PLURAL+ RECIPIENTS GET?

Recipients of the International Jury Distinctions and Special Recognitions are invited to the location of the PLURAL+ Ceremony, all expenses paid. (While the venue may occasionally change, most of the past Ceremonies have been hosted in New York.)

The invitation covers the travel and accommodation expenses of 1 person per video only. If you submit a video as a group, only 1 person will be invited to receive the recognition on behalf of the entire group and therefore only 1 person will be

covered to travel. Other members of the group are welcome to attend the Ceremony at their own expense. In the case of participants under the age of 18, the invitation will also cover the travel and accommodation costs of an adult chaperone (parent or legal guardian).

PLURAL+ recipients of Partner Recognitions are invited to attend the ceremony at their own expense.¹

The ceremony is attended every year by a diverse, global audience (United Nations employees, media professionals, representatives of civil society organizations, academics, etc.). PLURAL+ recipients gain international exposure and the opportunity to connect and network with a multitude of professionals, peers, and organizations and to explore opportunities for further distribution and dissemination of their work. Partner recognitions vary according to the Partner organization.

DO I GET A CERTIFICATE OF PARTICIPATION IF MY VIDEO IS NOT RECOGNIZED?

Filmmakers who receive recognition through any of the PLURAL+ distinctions, as well as those recognized by PLURAL+ Partners, will receive digital certificates.

Additionally, digital certificates of participation will be issued to creators whose videos have been shortlisted, which means they have advanced through the initial selection process and have received an email acknowledging their inclusion in the shortlist from the PLURAL+ team. Certificates will only be given after, not before, the PLURAL+ Ceremony.

¹ All invited recipients must hold a valid passport and are responsible for securing any required visas or travel authorizations. While the organizers may provide supporting documentation where appropriate, visa issuance remains at the discretion of the relevant national authorities.

PLURAL+



UNAOC  **YOUTH VIDEO FESTIVAL**
United Nations Alliance of Civilizations



Submit your video:

<https://pluralplus.unaoc.org/submit/>



Deadline:

30 June 2026



More information:

<https://pluralplus.unaoc.org/>



Contact:

pluralplus@unaoc.org