

Initiatives of Change 2026 Trustbuilding Awards

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Trustbuilding Awards?

- The **IofC Trustbuilding Awards** celebrate innovative initiatives that foster trust, reconciliation, and collaboration within communities worldwide. These awards recognize individuals and organizations making a lasting impact through creative and meaningful efforts to bridge divides and build understanding.

Eligibility

Who is eligible to apply?

- **Trustbuilder of the Year Award:** Open to any organization or individual. Teams or initiatives may apply under an organization. For specific queries, feel free to contact us.
- **Young Trustbuilder of the Year Award:** Open to individuals under 30 years of age.
- **Lifetime Achiever Award:** Open to individuals with at least 20 years of experience in trustbuilding or related work.

Applications/Nominations

Can I apply/nominate myself for an award?

- Yes, you can self-nominate/submit your own application for the Trustbuilder of the Year Award or the Young Trustbuilder of the Year Award.
- Self-nominations are **not** allowed for the Lifetime Achiever Award.

Can I nominate someone else for an award?

- Yes, you may nominate someone for the Lifetime Achiever Award (**only**).
- Nominations are not accepted for the Trustbuilder of the Year Award and Young Trustbuilder of the Year Award.

Can I apply for myself and nominate someone else for Lifetime Achiever?

- Yes, you may apply for Young Trustbuilder of the Year and/or Trustbuilder of the Year and also nominate someone else for a Lifetime Achiever Award.

Can I make a joint application with another individual?

- Yes, joint applications (maximum of 2 people) are permitted for the Trustbuilder of the Year Award and Lifetime Achiever Award. However, note that the Young Trustbuilder of the Year Award recognizes individuals only. Joint applications should reflect significant collaboration throughout the majority of your trustbuilding work.

Do I need the nominee's consent to submit an application for the Lifetime Achiever Award on their behalf?

- Yes, you must obtain the nominee's consent before submitting on their behalf the application with their nomination for the Lifetime Achiever Award. It's recommended to involve the nominee in completing the application to ensure accuracy.

Application process

When is the application deadline?

- All applications must be submitted by **26 April 2026, 11:59pm US EDT**.

When will I hear back about my application?

- Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. If you haven't heard from us by **15 June 2026**, unfortunately, your application was not selected this year.

Can I apply in another language?

- Currently, applications are accepted in English only.

How can I apply?

- To apply, visit our website [[Trustbuilding Awards | IofC International](#)], complete and submit the application form for the specific award that you wish to apply for.
- Applications are open from 26 February to 12 April 2026. Don't miss the deadline!
- Applications will be reviewed by a jury and shortlisted candidates will be invited for a brief interview to assist in the final decision.

Award criteria

Trustbuilder of the Year

- Demonstrates exceptional leadership through their vision in the pursuit of building trust.
- Track record of trustbuilding work that directly engages divided groups with sustained interactions that fosters social cohesion and inclusive societies;
- Commitment to bridging polarized groups through building relationships of trust.
- The work addresses a clear division or conflict
- An effective strategy that advances diversity, inclusion, trust, and social cohesion.
- Trustbuilding work has specific results and measurable impact.
- Evidence of the trustbuilding work being sustained.
- Evidence of innovation in the trustbuilding work.
- Presents a vision and future goals

Young Trustbuilder of the Year

- Must be under 30 years of age
- Has inspired other young people in the work of trustbuilding.
- Demonstrates leadership as a young person by showing vision, initiative, responsibility, and positive influence in trustbuilding work.
- Track record of trustbuilding work that directly engages divided groups with sustained interactions that fosters social cohesion and inclusive societies;
- Commitment to bridging polarized groups through building relationships of trust.
- The work addresses a clear division or conflict
- An effective strategy that advances diversity, inclusion, trust, and social cohesion.
- Trustbuilding work has specific results and measurable impact.
- Evidence of the trustbuilding work being sustained.
- Evidence of innovation in the trustbuilding work.
- Presents a vision and future goals

Lifetime Achiever

- Track record of trustbuilding work that directly engages divided groups with sustained interactions and evidence that fosters social cohesion and inclusive societies;
- Commitment to bridging polarized groups through building relationships of trust.
- Long-term passion for trustbuilding: must have at least 20 years of exceptional leadership and depth of service in trustbuilding work and accomplishments.

- This award is for lifetime achievement rather than a single contribution.
- Displayed willingness to adapt and evolve over time within the trustbuilding field. Showed a dedication to learn and remain flexible in their approach to trustbuilding over the years.

Do I need to provide additional information after submitting the application?

- Shortlisted applicants may be asked to provide additional information if needed.

Awards ceremony

Will there be an awards ceremony?

- Yes, an in-person awards ceremony will take place. Details will be shared closer to the event date. The winner of each category will be invited to the ceremony.

Additional information

Are the awards open to applicants from any country?

- Yes, the awards are open to applicants worldwide, provided you meet the criteria for your chosen category.

Do I have to be affiliated with Initiatives of Change to apply?

- No, these awards are open to all individuals and organisations that meet the criteria.

How can I contact you if my question isn't answered here?

- Please email us at TrustAwards@iofc.org for any additional inquiries.