The award ceremony

The Prize will be awarded at a ceremony which shall take place in Strasbourg on the Monday of the Autumn Session of the Parliamentary Assembly, usually in late September or early October. The name of the prize-winner is announced by the President of the Parliamentary Assembly. The former Czech First Lady, Dagmar Havlova, is invited to honour the ceremony with her presence.

Conference in honour of the prize-winner

The Václav Havel Library will organise, at a later date, an international conference in Prague in honour of the prize-winner.

Timetable for 2013

- **30 June 2013:** deadline for submission of nominees for the 2013 Prize
- **August 2013:** the selection panel will hold a first meeting in Prague and proceed to the selection of a shortlist of three nominees; the names of the shortlisted nominees will subsequently be made public by the President of the Assembly
- **29 September 2013:** a second meeting of the panel will take place in Strasbourg to select the final prize-winner from the shortlist of nominees
- **30 September 2013:** the Prize award ceremony will take place in Strasbourg in the debating chamber of the Parliamentary Assembly during its 2013 Autumn Session.

Further information:

Secretariat of the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize:
hrprize.pace@coe.int +33 3 90 21 48 27

Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website:
http://assembly.coe.int/vaclav-havel-human-rights-prize/

Václav Havel
Human Rights Prize

Parliamentary Assembly
Assemblée parlementaire

COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

KNIHOVNA VÁCLAV HAVEL LIBRARY

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Václav Havel Human Rights Prize

"Without dreaming of a better Europe we shall never build a better Europe."

Václav Havel, *before the Parliamentary Assembly*.
Strasbourg, May 1990.

The Prize

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize is awarded each year by the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) in partnership with the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation to reward outstanding civil society action in the defence of human rights in Europe and beyond.

The Prize is awarded in memory of Václav Havel, playwright, opponent of totalitarianism, architect of the Velvet Revolution of 1989, President of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic and an enduring symbol of opposition to despotism. Nominations of any individual, non-governmental organisation or institution working to defend human rights are taken into consideration. The Prize consists of a sum of €60 000, a trophy and a diploma.

On 25 March 2013, the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize was launched at a ceremony in Prague with the signature of the Co-operation Agreement by the President of the Assembly, Jean-Claude Mignon, the Director of the Václav Havel Library, Marta Smolíková, and the Chair of the Steering Committee of the Charta 77 Foundation, František Janouch, in the presence of Czech Foreign Minister Karel Schwarzenberg.

The Václav Havel Human Rights Prize replaces the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly Human Rights Prize, which was created in 2007 and awarded every two years, first in 2009 to the NGO British Irish Human Rights Watch and then, in 2011, to the Russian NGO Committee against Torture.

Detailed regulations for the Prize can be found at the following address:
http://assembly.coe.int/vaclav-havel-human-rights-prize/

Who can be nominated?

Individuals or non-governmental institutions active in the defence of human rights can be nominated for the Prize.

Submission of nominations

Nominations for the Prize should be addressed to the Secretary General of the Parliamentary Assembly and be signed by at least five sponsors, other than the nominee, on the special form to be found at the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize website. Nominations shall provide details of the nominee's work in the defence of human rights and specify the reasons why the nominee's work can be considered to be outstanding. Relevant supporting documents should be provided. Nominations should be submitted in either of the two official languages of the Council of Europe, English or French.

The selection panel

The selection panel of the Prize is composed of the President of the Assembly (or a person designated by him/her) and six independent persons (who cannot be current members of the Assembly) with recognised moral standing in the field of human rights. The panel will examine the nominations, submit a shortlist of three nominees to the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly for information and, subsequently, designate the prize-winner for the year in question. Three panel members are appointed by the Bureau of the Parliamentary Assembly and three panel members by the Václav Havel Library and the Charta 77 Foundation. The six independent experts are appointed for a two-year period, renewable twice. The panel is chaired by the President of the Assembly or a person designated by him/her.