

## Overview

The Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity is a new global award that will be given annually to people who put themselves at risk to enable others to survive and thrive. Recipients will be recognized for the exceptional impact their actions have made to preserving human life or advancing humanitarian causes, despite the challenges that they have overcome.

A grant of US \$1 million will be given to the organization that the Prize recipient identifies as the inspiration for his or her actions. In this way, the Aurora Prize will make a tangible difference to the causes that motivate people to risk their health, liberty, reputation, or livelihood by voluntarily carrying out acts that enable others to survive.

The Aurora Prize has been developed as part of 100 LIVES, an international humanitarian project rooted in the events of the Armenian Genocide. This year marks the centenary of the Genocide where an estimated 1.5 million Armenians were killed. In spite of this tragedy, approximately 500,000 survived and found shelter abroad, many with the help of strangers. 100 LIVES is a global effort to pay tribute to and thank the individuals and institutions whose actions saved lives a century ago.

The name Aurora was chosen to honor the memory of Aurora Mardiganian who, as a child, was forced to witness the atrocities of the Armenian Genocide, including losing her father and brothers. Against the odds she survived and went on to devote her life to providing humanitarian relief and raising awareness of the 1915 atrocities. The Prize was inspired by Aurora, and the thousands of untold stories of courage and survival during these events 100 years ago.

Aurora was also the Roman Goddess of Dawn and the Prize is a means of both showing gratitude for acts of humanity but also giving substantive help to those creating brighter tomorrows for people around the world.

We have gathered together an extraordinary group of people to be part of the Aurora Prize Selection Committee. Each of them are accomplished in a diverse range of fields, but are united in their commitment to the principles of humanitarianism and social justice. Their individual achievements give them an excellent perspective into what humanitarian endeavors deserve to be given global recognition. Selection Committee members include Nobel laureate Elie Wiesel, humanitarian and Academy Award-winning actor George Clooney, Nobel Peace Prize Winner Oscar Arias, former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mary Robinson, UN Secretary-General Advisor on Genocide, Gareth Evans, President of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Vartan Gregorian, and former United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Human Rights Defenders, Hina Jilani.

Online nominations for the Aurora Prize will open in June of this year. Members of the public will be able to nominate people who best exemplify the Prize criteria. These nominations will then be assessed by a dedicated Secretariat comprised of experts in the field and overseen by independent auditors. A shortlist will be drawn up for consideration by the Selection

Committee. The inaugural Aurora Prize will be presented in April 2016 at a ceremony in Yerevan, Armenia.