AURORA HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVE

Founded on behalf of the survivors of the Armenian Genocide and in gratitude to their saviours, the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative seeks to empower modern-day saviours to offer life and hope to those in urgent need of basic humanitarian aid and thus continue the cycle of giving internationally.

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative is Gratitude in Action. It is an eight-year commitment (2015 to 2023, in remembrance of the eight years of the Armenian Genocide 1915-1923) to support people and promote projects that tackle the needs of the most helpless and destitute, and to do so at great risk.

The Aurora Humanitarian Initiative instigates, includes and supports projects designed to raise public awareness and address some of the world’s most pressing humanitarian issues.

These projects include:

- **Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity**
- **Aurora Dialogues**
- **Aurora Humanitarian Index**
- **Aurora Gratitude Projects**
- **100 LIVES**
- **Aurora Movement**
Open to all UWC schools and colleges, the Aurora Humanitarian Project for UWC Schools and Colleges (AHP) aims to encourage students to engage in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and practical manner with current humanitarian issues affecting a community. The Aurora Humanitarian Project for UWC Schools and Colleges will recognize projects designed to have meaningful impact – and provide them with a financial grant to further the development of the project.
To encourage current UWC students to actively engage in humanitarian issues by creating an initiative addressing such issue on their own or by further developing an established student-led initiative.

To encourage, support, and showcase student-driven projects from across UWC schools and colleges which address concrete humanitarian issues, and go even further by providing solutions through innovative and economically, socially and environmentally sustainable approaches.
A LOOK BACK AT
AHP 2017
OVERVIEW

15 of the 17 UWC schools and colleges participated in the first edition of the AHP. Their project proposals addressed a broad and diverse range of humanitarian issues identified in the vicinity of their schools and colleges and often proposed close collaborations with local communities. Each of the teams had to submit a detailed project budget setting out how they would spend the prize fund for the first three, six and twelve months of the project, should they win.

After a highly competitive selection process, three UWC schools’ and colleges’ project proposals were chosen to proceed to the final round of the AHP. The finalists were: Waterford Kamhlaba UWC of Southern Africa in Swaziland, UWC Robert Bosch College in Germany and UWC Mahindra College in India.

The three finalist teams presented their projects at the Aurora Dialogues that took place at UWC Dilijan in Armenia on 27 May 2017. UWC Robert Bosch College was announced as the winner on the same day and was awarded a grant of €4,000.

Thanks to generous donations from anonymous donors, the two other finalists, Waterford Kamhlaba UWC and UWC Mahindra College, also received €4,000 each towards the further development and funding of their respective projects.
AHP 2017 FINALIST PROJECT:
UWC ROBERT BOSCH COLLEGE IN GERMANY

The DoGood project is focused on topics close to the heart of the UWC Robert Bosch College community: the refugee crisis and working towards a more sustainable future. This project proposed to support refugees in two ways: Firstly by providing an online platform on which the refugees could sell their own upcycled, handmade products and secondly by helping them to gain education, qualifications and job training. This project aimed to tackle environmental issues alongside the development of people’s skills through the recycled and handmade nature of these products which are low cost and environmentally friendly. “This will help refugees not just sell these products and earn money, but also be part of society and get a job,” said Mohamed, one of the students on the team. “Furthermore, one of our future plans is to train these refugees to run the platform, so they will gain IT skills and increase their chances of employment. This will help these refugees change society’s point of view about them.” The initiative works with other organisations, such as Paritaetische, one of Germany’s largest umbrella organisations of self-help initiatives in the area of social work. Alumni advisor Katarina Beckman noted that her UWC education instilled in her “a strong sense of commitment to service”, while first year student Haider stated: “We are working on one of the world’s most pressing humanitarian issues and we need the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative’s support to raise awareness about helping refugees all over the world.”
The **Kriyā Iron** project seeks to address the issue of anaemia in the rural villages which surround the College, building on work done by Kriyā, a scheme formed in 2013 that allows underprivileged women to develop their skills through outdoor activities. The team has found a specific solution to anaemia: Lucky Iron Fish™ ingots, originally developed in Cambodia, are placed in boiled water with a few drops of lemon juice. The ingots are made from recycled material and last for up to five years. The long term goal, however, goes beyond this practical solution and is to drive forward a conversation about nutrition and women’s health more generally and to empower women to improve their own health. The students found the experience enlightening and reported that it changed their viewpoints profoundly: “When the Kriyā team first started discussing the issue of iron deficiency and anaemia, it was difficult for me to comprehend the lack of access to both information and iron-rich food many families in this area face. How could they not understand the importance of iron in their diet? And how could they not afford to consume more nutritious food? I’m continuing to learn how to approach these issues with an attitude that balances humility and respect with idealism.” said Kathryn, one of the student members of the team.
This team recognised the issue of gender inequality and the unequal treatment of women and girls within Swaziland by designing **BraveGirl Camp**, a weeklong camp for 15-18 year old Swazi girls from urban areas that hopes to give opportunities to future female leaders in Swaziland. BraveGirl Camp aims to take “a holistic approach to girls’ empowerment, starting with a look at personal goals and health and moving towards a focus on the outside world of media and the environment”. The students could count on the expert advice of Waterford Kamhlaba UWC alum Kgomotso Magagula: “Kgomotso has first hand experience of what is like to be a driven young woman in a society that frowns upon the concept of empowered women. Her understanding of Swazi culture has helped shape our approach as to how we can present the project to the public, maintain a sense of sensitivity, and generate an interest without offending the Swazi people”, said the team. Topics for the camps’ workshops include concerns such as female friendships, media and body image, as well as practical advice such as the importance of sleep, interview tips and support for HIV/AIDS. As well as empowering the girls attending BraveGirl Camp, the team members found the experience to be encouraging: “Before working on Girl Rising Week and BraveGirl Camp, I had never realized what I could accomplish or to what extent my ideas were actually useful.”
MOVING FORWARD

AHP 2018
PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

1. Projects must address a concrete humanitarian concern identified by the Project Team which is **relevant to the UWC school or college’s geographic location**, i.e. the concern must have an impact on the communities or environments in the geographical vicinity of the UWC school or college. Humanitarian concerns may include, for example, the refugee crisis, child homelessness, human trafficking, women’s health, etc.

1. The activities or action proposed as part of the Project should address the identified humanitarian concern and propose concrete steps to reduce it in, or eliminate it from, the community in concern.

1. Projects must be student-initiated and student-led. They may be a completely new project, or be part of an already existing initiative at the UWC school or college (such as a CAS activity), provided that the existing initiative is also student-led.

1. Each UWC school or college can only nominate one Project to the AHP. Any UWC school and college is invited to conduct an internal pre-selection of projects if it wishes to do so in order to identify the one Project which will be nominated to the AHP.

1. Each team submitting a Project **must consist of**:
   a. At least four current students from the respective UWC school or college
   b. Two alumni of UWC schools or colleges who assist the Project as advisors with regard to a specific skill or expertise they can add (these alumni should not be current employees of the relevant UWC school or college)
   c. One staff member/teacher from the relevant UWC school or college
PROJECT SUBMISSION

In order to participate in the AHP, Projects must be presented in a Project Proposal, consisting of the following sections A-D.

Applicants are to submit sections A-C as one cohesive document. The document must include:

- A title page
- A table of contents
- Clearly-marked sections A-C

The document must be labelled with the UWC school or college name, “AHP Project Proposal” and the name of the Project Proposal (ie. UWC Robert Bosch - AHP Project Proposal - Do Good; UWC Thailand - AHP Project Proposal - Save Children… etc.).

The document must be submitted in PDF or Microsoft Word format, and must include a word-count immediately following each section A-C.

Section D of the Project Proposal should be submitted as a video file, and labelled with the UWC school or college name, “AHP Video” and the name of the Project (ie. UWC ISAK Japan - AHP Video - Humanity; UWC USA - AHP - RefugeeBook Video… etc.).

If your team has access to a Google/GMail account, all sections (A-D) of the Project Proposal should be submitted at the following link: https://goo.gl/forms/BKJy5fHx0PNX15EG2. An email confirming the upload of the Project Proposal to the indicated website must be sent within the same deadline to communications@uwcio.uwc.org.

If your team does not have access to a Google/GMail account, please send sections A-C of the Project Proposal to communications@uwcio.uwc.org, along with a link to where we can access section D.
SECTION A:

As section A, each Project Proposal must include a Project Presentation with the following content:

a. A brief summary of the Project. This important part of the application, the abstract, should be under 150 words and will give the selection panel a first impression of your Project.

b. A brief description of the humanitarian concern that will be addressed and an explanation of why the Project Team chose to focus on this humanitarian concern (What is the issue? Why did you specifically choose to address it?).

c. A brief analysis of the causes of the humanitarian concern within the specific context in which the Project is addressing it (including, as relevant, political, geographic, cultural, religious and historical context).

d. Answers to the following questions:

i. Are there other projects addressing this concern?

ii. Is the Project different from other projects addressing this concern? If so, how?

iii. How could the Project join forces with existing initiatives to address this concern?

f. An explanation of who the Project will impact in its delivery, and how it will impact them.

g. An explanation of how the impact of the Project will be measured or determined (How will you know whether the Project has been successful? What would a successful or unsuccessful outcome for the Project look like?).

h. A brief description of the challenges that have been encountered in the process of implementing or developing the Project, and how they have been addressed. In addition, please indicate what challenges may be expected in the further development and implementation of the Project, and possible solutions (applicants are encouraged to answer this question in the format of a table).

h. A brief statement of the role of the UWC alumni advisors, and the expertise they have and will provide.

Section A: Maximum of 1000 words, including any titles. The use of pictures/visuals is encouraged, but not mandatory.
SECTION B:

An operative Project Plan describing:

a. The next steps in the development of the Project in the next 3, 6 and 12 months and defining the overall duration of the Project. This should be presented in the format of a table or timeline.

b. A budget plan for the same periods indicating what amount of resources (including financial and staffing) are needed for the Project and where they will be sourced from. This should be presented in the format of a table.

c. A budget plan describing how the Project would use the money from the AHP if it was awarded. This should be presented in the format of a table.

d. An explanation of how the Project would develop should it not be awarded the money from the AHP.

Section B: Maximum of 1000 words, including any titles. The use of pictures/visuals is encouraged, but not mandatory.

SECTION C:

Biographical section:

a. A maximum 100 word biography of each of the participating students.

b. A maximum 200 word statement from each student on the following two questions:

   i. Why do I think the Project and its approach is relevant to deal with the humanitarian concern?

   ii. What did I learn about myself working on the Project?

SECTION D:

a. A video (maximum 3 minutes) presenting the Project.
PLAN AND TIMELINE

The overall time frame of the Aurora Humanitarian Project for UWC schools and colleges will span over a period of 6 months and consist of a three-stage selection process.
1. CONFIRMATION OF PARTICIPATION:

Each UWC school or college who wishes to participate in the AHP 2018 must confirm its participation on or before 10 February 2018, 23:59 GMT by email to communications@uwcio.uwc.org. The email must not yet indicate any details about the Project the UWC school/college wishes to nominate, nor must it list the Project Team members. It must, however, indicate one dedicated contact person for the AHP at the school/college with name and email address. The Head of the UWC school/college must be copied (in cc) to the email.

2. SUBMISSION OF PROJECTS:

Project Proposals must be submitted according to the instructions on page 12 hereof on or before 3 March 2018, 23:59 GMT. Late submissions will not be accepted. An email confirming the submission of the Project Proposal must be sent within the same deadline to communications@uwcio.uwc.org. The Head of the UWC school/college must be copied (in cc) to the email.

3. SELECTION OF PROJECTS:

- On or before 8 April 2018, the Pre-Selection Panel will judge all submitted Project Proposals and select 3 Projects to enter the Final Round of selections (to be “Finalists”).
- All Project Teams will be informed about the outcome of the pre-selection after 8 April 2018 and feedback on all submitted Project Proposals from the Pre-Selection Panel will be provided. This will allow time for Finalists to revise their Project Proposals according to the feedback received before submission to the Final Round of selections.
- All three Finalists must submit their finalized Project Proposals on or before 6 May 2018, 23:59 GMT according to instructions which will be provided to them closer to that date. Additionally, the three Finalists must provide a 1 page executive summary of their Project Proposal within the same deadline (a template will be provided to the three Finalists after 8 April 2018).
- All three Finalist Projects will be presented on the Aurora Prize Website on or before 21 May 2018.
- Finalists are invited to present their Project Proposals during the Aurora Prize Weekend on 8-10 June 2018. The final presentation of the three Finalist Projects has to be done by a minimum of two and a maximum of four students per Project Team. The staff member and alumni involved in the Project Team are not eligible to play a part in the final presentation.
- The winning Project will be selected and announced by the Final Selection Panel during the Aurora Prize weekend.
TIMELINE

3 MARCH 2018
Project Proposal Submission

6 MAY 2018
3 Finalists submit their final Project Proposals with 1 page executive summary for website

8 APRIL 2018
Pre-Selection Panel announces 3 Finalist Projects

21 MAY 2018
3 Finalist Projects are presented on Aurora Prize website

8-10 JUNE 2018
Presentation of 3 Finalist Projects during Aurora Weekend in Armenia

8-10 JUNE 2018
Final Selection Panel announces the winning project
EVALUATION / SELECTION CRITERIA

Each project will be evaluated based on the selection criteria below:

- **Creativity:** How does the Project address a humanitarian concern in a manner which demonstrates new, innovative and "out of the box" approaches?

- **Sustainability:** How economically, socially and environmentally sustainable is the Project set up to be? Does the Project consider its use of or need for resources? Does it ensure the stability of its structures, and consider the Project’s acceptance within the wider community? Are additional funding or partnership prospects addressed?

- **Quality of Research:** How well does the research address and seek to understand the reasons for the existence of the humanitarian concern?

- **Impact:** What is the anticipated impact of the Project? What are the short-term and the long-term results?

- **Commitment:** How do the members of the Project Team demonstrate selflessness in the creation of the Project and in their implementation intentions and actions?

- **Self-Reflection:** How well do the members of the Project Team reflect on their own role and challenges in setting up and implementing the Project?

- **Format:** Does the Project Proposal follow the guidelines set out in the Project Passport? Does it adhere to the restrictions on length and style?
SELECTION PANEL

PRE-SELECTION PANEL
Members of Pre-Selection Jury:
Representatives of the UWC International Board and the UWC International Council.

FINAL SELECTION PANEL
Members of Final Selection Jury:
Selection Committee members of Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity and a member of the UWC International Board.
PRIZE

The three Finalist Project Teams will be invited to attend the **Aurora Prize Weekend, 8-10 June 2018** in Armenia. The winning Project will be awarded **USD $4000** towards the further development and funding of the Project.
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

TEAM STRUCTURE:

Each Project Team has to consist of at least 7 members: 4 current UWC students, 1 UWC staff member or teacher and 2 UWC alumni.

TRAVEL COST AND ACCOMMODATION:

a. Aurora Humanitarian Initiative will fund the travel costs of 2 students from each Finalist Project team to Armenia for the Aurora Prize Weekend on 8-10 June 2018, and will fund the accommodation of 3 members in total of each Finalist Team during the same weekend.

b. The travel costs of any UWC teachers or staff members travelling with Finalist Project student team members to the Aurora Prize Weekend will not be funded by the Aurora Humanitarian Initiative - the participating UWC school or college is to cover the travelling cost of any teachers/staff members travelling with students.

DISCLAIMER:

All Project Teams submitting materials to the AHP agree that any audio or visual materials submitted as part of their application may be used by UWC International or by the Aurora Humanitarian Project on their website, social media presence or printed material at any time.
CONTACTS:

For more information and questions, please contact

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