

# JUDGES

**Rachel Billington**, OBE, has published 21 novels for adults, the latest entitled *Glory*, as well as children's books, and non-fiction titles. In 2018 she edited the 7th vol. of *Inside Poetry: Voices from Prison*, published by *Inside Time*. She is Honourary Vice-President of English PEN, and an Associate Editor of and a contributor to *Inside Time*.

**Akala** is a BAFTA/MOBO award-winning hip hop artist, writer and TV presenter. He is also founder of the Hip-Hop Shakespeare Company, a music theatre production company specialising in the delivery of education programmes, live events and music productions aimed at engaging young people to help them achieve artistic excellence.

**Erwin James** is an author, *Guardian* columnist and Editor of *Inside Time*, the national newspaper for people in prison. He is the author of three books: *A Life Inside, a prisoner's notebook*, *The Home Stretch, from prison to parole*, and *Redeemable, a memoir of darkness and hope*. He is a trustee of the Prison Reform Trust.

**Minette Walters** is a psychological thriller writer. She achieved a unique triple when her first three novels won the highest awards for crime and thriller fiction in the UK and USA. She is published in 36 countries and five of her stories have been adapted for television. Her major interest is working with offenders, both inside prison and on release.

**Chris Mullin**, author, journalist and former MP, Minister and chairman of the Home Affairs select committee. His books include three volumes of diaries, and the novel *A Very British Coup*, which was made into an award-winning TV series. His latest book is *Hinterland - A Memoir*. He was a judge of The Man Booker Prize, 2011.

**Femi Oyeniran** is an award-winning London-based actor/filmmaker who has starred in hit films *Kidulthood* and *Anuvahood*. His first feature film as filmmaker, *It's a Lot*, was released theatrically in 2013. His production company Purple Geko produced the 10-part Sky Living series called *Venus vs Mars* and ITV2's *Dropperz*. His latest films include, *The Intent* (2016), *The 12* (2017) and *The Come Up* (2018).

# RULES

1. The competition is open to prisoners, prisoners' families and friends, and to former prisoners.
2. Your work must be in English.
3. Please say which competition you are entering. You may enter all three competitions. Also, we would like to know how you heard about this competition.
4. Your work must be your own.
5. You must stick to the word limit.  
Comment: 500 words maximum.  
Short stories: 1,000 words maximum.  
Spoken Word: 400 words maximum.
6. Your work cannot directly talk about any crime you have been convicted of, anybody else involved in the crime or any victim(s).
7. Send one copy of your work. Your work should be typed but we will also accept readable handwritten entries.
8. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you would like us to tell you that we have received your work.
9. Your work will only be returned to you if you ask us to do this when you send your entry in.
10. Closing date for entries is Monday, 6 August, 2018.
11. Please write your name, address, age if 21 years or under, and, if in prison, your prison number, on your entry.

The PRT hopes to announce the winners for each category of the competition in October 2018. If you are likely to be released before that date, please give us your release address or an address where you can be contacted. Please tell us if you are transferred during the competition. You can write to the free post address below with your new address.

#### Entries should be posted or emailed to:

Michele Byam  
Prison Reform Trust  
FREEPOST ND6125  
London  
EC1B 1PN  
michele.byam@prisonreformtrust.org.uk

PRISON  
REFORM  
TRUST

# 2018

# WRITING COMPETITION



## SHORT STORY



## SPOKEN WORD



## COMMENT/ ARTICLE

**SPECIAL  
PRIZE OF:  
£100**

for people of  
21 years or under  
entering any  
category

**+ PRIZES IN  
EACH CATEGORY**

# TOPICS

## 'WHAT IS PRISON FOR?'

### COMMENT/ARTICLE

Your comment/article piece must relate to the topic **'WHAT IS PRISON FOR?'**. It can be about a news story or from your own experience (although not your life story or about any crime you have been convicted of).

Word limit: 500 words maximum.

## 'INSIDE OUT'

### SHORT STORY

Your story should be about the topic **'INSIDE OUT'**. Using your imagination, the story should try to engage the reader and hold their attention. Autobiographies and stories longer than 1,000 words will not be considered. Word limit: 1,000 word maximum.

## 'SPEAK OUT'

### SPOKEN WORD

Your spoken word poem must relate to the topic **'SPEAK OUT!'**

It can be about a news story or from your own experience (although not your life story or about any crime you have been convicted of). Word limit: 400 words maximum.

## WHAT HAPPENS TO MY WORK

Every entry is carefully considered. Many of the winning contributions have been published as articles or helped with research. Previous winners have been published in the *Times Literary Supplement* and the *Guardian*. Others have been published in the Prison Reform Trust's newsletter. We reserve the right to publish the work anonymously.

## TOP TIPS FOR ALL ENTRANTS

1

Be clear before you start what it is you are trying to say.

2

Any piece should have a strong **introduction**, an interesting **middle**, and a punchy **ending**.

3

Be sure the writing contains enough practical elements to keep the reader hooked, i.e. the right amounts of narrative, dialogue, and description. Nobody likes to read overlong pieces of text.

4

Don't worry if writing seems like hard work. It is quite common for a serious writer to 'sweat blood' in order to get a good result.

5

Always keep your readers in mind and never forget that you are writing for them - not for you. **Good luck.**

## PRIZES - EACH COMPETITION

1st PRIZE

£200

2nd PRIZE

£100

3rd PRIZE

£75

AN ADDITIONAL PRIZE **£100**

For the best entry in any topic for people of 21 years and under