



Overview of the Salem Award

The Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice was established by the Salem Witch Trials Tercentenary Committee and was first presented in 1992. The purpose of the Award is to promote an understanding of the lessons of the Salem Witch Trials in the context of contemporary life.

Selection Criteria

By studying the Salem Witch Trials, we learn that order was restored to the Salem community by the outspoken protests of a few good citizens who spoke bravely and acted courageously in opposition to the prevailing chaos. In Salem, Massachusetts in 1692, certain individuals risked their lives to speak against the oppression of the trials and to call for order and forgiveness. Today, we continue to depend upon those few individuals who will not be silenced by fear and social disorder.

In recognizing and honoring present day champions of human rights and social justice , we publicly acknowledge the powerful significance and practical consequence of their work and join them in fostering tolerance, compassion, and reconciliation within our community.

In particular the individual and/or organization to whom the Award is given must:

- Demonstrate a commitment to and efforts towards human rights and social justice issues particularly within the two years preceding their nomination;
- Demonstrate courage in the face of bigotry and intolerance.

The VAI utilizes Guidestar, Charity Navigator, 990 Finder , YouTube and other sources to do due diligence on each nominee and to ensure to the best of their ability that the nominee has solid managerial skills and exercises appropriate stewardship of their resources.

Specific Requirements

1. The Salem Award Committee will assess the merits of your nomination based on your responses to the criteria listed on the following pages and on any additional materials you provide. Please list your main sources of information for the facts contained in this nomination. Be as specific as possible, noting persons interviewed, websites, videos, film, articles, and/or print media. It is helpful to provide web links to articles, books, film, and/or videos that document the nominee's activities. Such web links are most useful if they were recently published and come from a reputable news source.
2. Two letters of support are required to be secured by and provided to SAF by the nominator. Please provide contact information for each as representatives of the SAF may contact individuals listed to gather additional information about the nominee. Letters of support should address the nominee's contributions to human rights and social justice and address the criteria for the award. Letters of support should also note the nature of the relationship between the nominee and the writer.
3. If the nominator has a direct relationship with the nominee, please briefly describe the nature of the relationship.

Self nominations will not be considered. Nominations for members of the current honorary or advisory committee or current Board of Directors members will not be considered. The nominee may be an individual or an organization.



Nomination Form

Proposed Nominee—Name of Organization if applicable

Name: _____

Name of organization, if applicable: _____

Mailing Address (if an international address, please be as specific as possible):

Email Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Cell Telephone: _____

Website: _____

Nominator's Information

Name: _____

Name of organization, if applicable: _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____

Work Telephone: _____

Cell Telephone: _____

**Please describe how the nominee meets each of the identified criteria.
The narrative statement for each criteria must be limited to 500 words.**

1. The nominee has demonstrated a commitment to human rights and social justice and has particularly demonstrated such a commitment through work with a particular focus on their work over the past two years. Consider the actions the nominee has taken to bring about change in an area pertinent to human rights and social justice. As much as possible, identify the dates and context of the nominee's actions.

2. The nominee has demonstrated courage in the face of bigotry and intolerance. Detail how and when the nominee has demonstrated courage. Identify personal risks and/or hardships faced by the nominee in connection with human rights and social justice work.

The undersigned grants to Voices Against Injustice the right to copy, re-print, quote, or publish nomination materials and letters of support as part of its annual Awards program or in other public and promotional communications. Nomination materials become the property of Voices Against Injustice and will not be returned.

Signature of Nominator _____

Date of submission of nomination _____

You may list my name as a Salem Award nominator (check one): Yes No

Nominations must be postmarked or electronically dated by October 31 of each year in order to be considered for receipt of Award in the following year.

Voices Against Injustice
P.O. Box 8484
Salem, MA 01971

Emailed nominations are accepted and encouraged as well.
After downloading and completing the PDF of the application, save the PDF file using your name and the date you completed the form as the file name.

Then attach the PDF to an email to this address: info@salemaward.org