

## The Judges

**Rachel Billington** OBE has published 21 novels for adults, the latest entitled *Glory*, as well as children's books and non-fiction titles. She is Honorary Vice President of English PEN, and an Associate Editor of and contributor to *Inside Time*.

**Kingslee 'Akala' Daley** 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 in Chief of *Inside Time*, the national newspaper for people in prison. His autobiography, *Redeemable: A Memoir of Darkness and Hope*, was published in paperback in February 2017. 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** is an 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 *Venus vs Mars* and ITV2's *Dropperz*. His latest film, *The Intent*, was released in the summer of 2016.

## Rules of the competition

1. The competition is open to prisoners, prisoners' families and friends, and to former prisoners.
2. Your work must be in English. (If you perform on a CD/tape for the lyric/rap prize this 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.  
Lyric/rap: 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. Entries for the lyric/rap prize may be submitted on CD or tape. You may need to speak to the education department about getting security clearance. Please include your name and address with the recorded entry. Written lyrics or raps will also be accepted.
9. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you would like us to tell you that we have received your work.
10. Your work will only be returned to you if you ask us to do this when you send your entry in.
11. Closing date for entries is Monday 7 August 2017.
12. Please write your name, address, age if 21 years or under, and, if in prison, your prison number, on your entry.

If you will be released before the results are announced in October 2017, 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 and CDs/tapes should be posted or emailed to:**  
**Michele Byam, Prison Reform Trust, FREEPOST ND6125**  
**London EC1B 1PN**  
**[michele.byam@prisonreformtrust.org.uk](mailto:michele.byam@prisonreformtrust.org.uk)**

PRISON  
REFORM  
TRUST

Writing  
competition  
2017

Comment/Article

Short Story

Lyric/rap

SPECIAL  
PRIZE:  
for people  
21 years and  
under  
£100

## 'All In It Together, Fixing the Prison Community'

### Comment/Article

Your comment/article piece must relate to the topic 'All In It Together, Fixing the Prison Community'. 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.

## 'Stand Up and Be Counted'

### Lyric/rap

Your rap/lyric must relate to the topic 'Stand Up and Be Counted'. You can put your entry on CD or tape. (You may need to speak to the Education Department about getting security clearance).  
You can also write out or type your lyrics or rap.  
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*, the *Guardian* and *Inside Time*. Others have been published in the Prison Reform Trust's newsletter. We reserve the right to publish the work anonymously.

## The Topics

1st PRIZE:  
£200

2nd PRIZE:  
£100

3rd PRIZE:  
£75

### Prizes in each competition

\* An additional prize, for the best entry in any category for people of 21 years or under

£100

## Top Tips for all entrants

- \* Be clear before you start what it is you are trying to say.
- \* Any piece should have a strong introduction, an interesting middle, and a punchy ending.
- \* 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.
- \* 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.
- \* Always keep your readers or listeners in mind and never forget that you are writing for them - not for you. If you do have trouble writing things down it's fine to ask for help from the Education Department or the Librarian. **Good luck.**

## 'Life Starts Now'

### Short Story

Your story should be about the topic 'Life Starts Now'. 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 words maximum.