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## WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION 2026

# Terms and conditions of entry

## KEY DATES AND DEADLINES

JULY

7

**Monday 7 July 2025**

- **Submissions open.** Entry forms are online at:  
<https://womensprize.com/submissions-non-fiction-2026/>

AUGUST

29

**DEADLINE: Friday 29 August 2025**

- Complete **online entry forms** for submissions in all categories including call-in suggestions.

AUGUST

29

**DEADLINE: Friday 29 August 2025**

- Supply digital text files and **3 x (three) bound proofs and/or 6 (six) finished copies** of titles published between *1 April 2025 and 30 September 2025*.

OCTOBER

31

**DEADLINE: Friday 31 October 2025**

- Supply digital text files and **3 x (three) bound proofs and/or 6 (six) finished copies** of titles published between *1 October 2025 and 30 November 2025*.

NOVEMBER

28

**DEADLINE: Friday 28 November 2025**

- Supply digital text files and **3 x (three) bound proofs and/or 6 (six) finished copies** of titles published between *1 December 2025 and 31 March 2026*.



### SUBMISSIONS

Publishers should send bound proofs in the first instance if finished copies are not yet available, but all finished copies should be delivered as soon as possible (before the applicable deadline).



### ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- Women's Prize for Non-Fiction 2026  
Big Yellow Hanger Lane Storage Units  
Quill Street, Alperton  
London W5 1DN



### NEED HELP?

- If you have any queries, please email us at:  
[nonfiction@womensprize.com](mailto:nonfiction@womensprize.com)

# Announcement dates

## 2025 ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>OCTOBER</b> <b>8</b>	<b>Wednesday 8 October 2025</b> > <b>WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION 2026 JUDGES' ANNOUNCEMENT</b>
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## 2026 ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS



### SCHEDULING

The exact time of each announcement will be shared closer to the date.

<b>FEBRUARY</b> <b>11</b>	<b>Wednesday 11 February 2026</b> > <b>WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION 2026 LONGLIST ANNOUNCEMENT</b>
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<b>MARCH</b> <b>25</b>	<b>Wednesday 25 March 2026</b> > <b>WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION 2026 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCEMENT</b>
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<b>JUNE</b> <b>10</b>	<b>Wednesday 10 June 2026</b> > <b>WOMEN'S PRIZE LIVE &amp; SHORTLIST READINGS</b>
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<b>JUNE</b> <b>11</b>	<b>Thursday 11 June 2026</b> > <b>SUMMER PARTY &amp; WINNERS' ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>  Please refer to section 3.17 (page 6) regarding the winning author's publicity commitments following the announcement.
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# 1 THE PRIZE



The Charlotte is awarded annually to the winner of the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

- 1.1 The 2026 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction (the Prize) is worth £30,000. The prize money, together with a sculpture named 'the Charlotte', (both gifted by the Charlotte Aitken Trust) will be awarded to the woman who, in the opinion of the judges, has written the best narrative non-fiction book that is eligible for the Prize and fulfils the criteria set out in 1.4. The Prize may not be divided or withheld. The decision of the judges will be final.
- 1.2 The judges will be responsible for compiling a shortlist of no more nor fewer than six of the books submitted for the Prize. For inclusion in this shortlist, a title should have the full support of at least one judge in whose opinion it is a valid contender for the Prize itself.
- 1.3 The judges will be responsible for compiling a longlist of no more nor fewer than sixteen of the books submitted for the Prize. For inclusion in this longlist, a title should have the full support of at least one judge in whose opinion it is a valid contender for the shortlist.
- 1.4 The judges consider the titles submitted using the guiding tenets of excellence, originality and accessibility. For the purposes of judging, 'excellence' means excellence in quality of writing, research and delivery; 'originality' means originality of ideas, vision and research; and 'accessibility' means titles that look outwards to a cross-section of readers.

# 2 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 Any narrative non-fiction book written in English by a woman of any nationality is eligible.
- 2.2 Books from all narrative non-fiction categories intended for general readership (commonly known as 'trade non-fiction') are encouraged. This includes but is not limited to: autobiography, biography, economics, history, memoir, mind body spirit, music, philosophy, politics, psychology, nature writing, science, self-improvement, smart thinking and sport.
- 2.3 All books must be written by a single human author. Books that include text written using AI technology are not eligible.
- 2.4 Books written by one author on behalf of another are not eligible. This includes books with named or un-credited ghost writers or editorial mentors. The only exception is where a work has been transcribed by an amanuensis. Books written by two or more authors are not eligible.
- 2.5 All books must be unified works. Collections of essays, columns and other writing previously published by an author is permissible if there is a unifying thread through the book and if 50% of the book is new and/or unpublished.
- 2.6 All books must be substantial works, with a minimum word count for entries of 30,000.
- 2.7 Translations of books originally written in languages other than English are not eligible.



## QUESTIONS?

If you have any queries about eligibility, please email us at: [nonfiction@womensprize.com](mailto:nonfiction@womensprize.com)



The Women's Prize for Non-Fiction is run by the Women's Prize Trust. The Trust is a registered charity (no. 1181253)

- 2.8 All entries (bar suggested call-in titles) must be submitted in print form (six finished copies **or** three proofs with finished copies to follow), as well as digitally, as a typeset or print-ready PDF and ePub file when available.
- 2.9 Audio files may also be requested for submissions; publishers will be contacted by email if audio files (or discount codes providing free access) of individual titles are required.
- 2.10 All entries must be first published as a print or e-book edition in the United Kingdom between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, although they may have been previously published outside the UK. Titles with simultaneous UK and US publications, or UK and Republic of Ireland publications, within this timeframe are eligible.
- 2.11 All entries must be produced by an established publishing house for adult titles based in the UK. 'Established' is here defined as a house which publishes a list of at least three non-fiction titles by different authors and with ISBNs every year, and distributes its books nationally through established retail and/or online outlets. For the avoidance of doubt, 'established' publishing house does not include print-on-demand services or companies who publish titles via a commercial arrangement through which they are paid by the author. The publishing house must have a registered UK address and company number, visible in the Companies House online directory. Any book submitted must have a UK ISBN, have the price printed in pounds sterling and be distributed in the UK through established retail and/or online outlets.
- 2.12 Self-published books are not eligible for the Prize, where the author is the publisher. If the publisher is a company which has been specifically set up to publish the title in question, and/or the author is the person who owns the majority shareholding or otherwise controls the company, the title is ineligible for the Prize.
- 2.13 It is the responsibility of the publisher to ensure that any title they submit for the Prize is eligible.
- 2.14 It is the responsibility of the publisher to ascertain that the author of any title they submit for the Prize gives their consent to entry prior to submission and that the author will abide by the terms and conditions throughout the prize process.
- 2.15 It is the responsibility of the publisher to ensure that all team members interacting with the Prize and the author abides by the Women's Prize Trust's **code of conduct** throughout the prize process.
- 2.16 The author of any title submitted must be alive at the date of submissions opening.
- 2.17 The decision of the Women's Prize Trust on eligibility is final, and no correspondence will be entered into on the subject.

### 3 CONDITIONS OF PRIZE

Any eligible book that is entered for the Prize shall not qualify unless its publisher agrees:

- 3.1 that the author will be available for and cooperate with publicity and promotional requests throughout the prize process, particularly around key announcements. If there is any issue around this matter, it is the responsibility of the publisher to notify and discuss this with the Women's Prize Trust immediately. The winner in particular is required to undertake interviews immediately after the announcement and in the following days.
- 3.2 to collaborate with the Women's Prize Trust to publicise the title and facilitate recorded interviews/readings with the author to be used by the Women's Prize Trust, media and partners.
- 3.3 to obtain permission from the copyright holder and agree to broadcast, record and/or make available a downloadable audio and/or audio visual and/or text file extract, to be used for publicity or promotional purposes on the website, podcast, any other partner websites or platforms, and/or the Women's Prize Trust's merchandise. The publisher agrees to inform the Women's Prize Trust of the copyright credit to be used, and to obtain the required permission to supply the epub, cover and metadata for sale on the website, podcast and any other partner websites or platforms.
- 3.4 to ensure that print runs of the book refer to the longlisting/shortlisting/win as appropriate on the front or back cover, using the relevant Prize branding, as shared and approved by the Women's Prize Trust; the submitting publisher must bring this requirement to the attention of the literary agent and to its global counterpart(s) elsewhere.

#### AT LONGLIST STAGE

- 3.5 to connect the Women's Prize Trust team with its international counterparts, particularly English-language publishers, to support at each subsequent stage of the Prize announcement and promotion relevant to your title.
- 3.6 to contribute £1,250 (plus VAT) for promotional activity. This payment is to be made promptly within seven days by BACS on receipt of an invoice. This stipulation is subject to appeal by a publisher for whom such expenditure would prove prohibitive and may be adjusted or waived at the discretion of the Women's Prize Trust.
- 3.7 to provide 25 copies for promotional and administrative purposes, and agree to sell further copies to the Women's Prize Trust at a minimum of 70% discount for promotional use or outreach activities in perpetuity.
- 3.8 to provide within two weeks of the longlist announcement an electronic text and audio version to the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) (or, if requested by the Women's Prize Trust, to any other approved body), for the purposes of producing and distributing on a not-for-profit basis accessible copies to visually impaired persons. It is the publisher's responsibility to inform rights owners that accessible copies are being produced and distributed.





- 3.9 to ensure that their title is available as physical and digital editions, and use their best endeavours to produce an audio edition for national distribution if it is not already available.
- 3.10 to use best endeavours to ensure authors participate in public events (live and virtual) as requested. Publishers will be responsible for covering any travel costs and relevant expenses for authors.

### AT SHORTLIST STAGE

- 3.11 to contribute £6,000 (plus VAT) for promotional activity. This payment is to be made promptly within seven days by BACS on receipt of an invoice.
- 3.12 to provide a further 75 copies for promotional and administrative purposes.
- 3.13 to ensure that their title is available as paperback and audio editions within an agreed timetable, if it is not already available.
- 3.14 to ensure authors attend and participate in public events (live and virtual) as requested, and the Women's Prize Trust summer party in London where the winner is announced. Publishers will be responsible for covering any travel costs and relevant expenses for authors.



### AT WINNER STAGE

- 3.15 to contribute a further £6,000 (plus VAT) for promotional activity. This payment is to be made promptly within seven days by BACS on receipt of an invoice.
- 3.16 to provide a further 50 copies for promotional and administrative purposes.
- 3.17 to ensure the author's availability and understanding of publicity commitments following the announcement, and work with the Trust in promoting the Prize.

## 4 ENTRY OF BOOKS

- 4.1 Titles will be accepted for submission for the 2026 Women's Prize for Non-Fiction from Monday 7 July 2025.
- 4.2 Imprints with a list of 15 or more non-fiction titles per year between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 may submit as general submissions up to **two** full-length titles with first publication dates between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. Books that make up the threshold of 15 must be titles published for the first time in the UK in the eligibility window (ie. hardbacks or paperback originals and not second edition paperbacks).

Imprints with a list of 14 or fewer non-fiction titles per year between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 may submit as a general submission **one** full-length title with first publication dates between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026.



#### AUTHORS ELIGIBLE FOR A 'FREE PASS'

Authors who have previously been shortlisted for or won the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.

See the list on page 10.

## FREE PASSES

Publishers may enter as 'free passes' in addition to the allocation of **one/two non-fiction titles per imprint** any titles with first publication dates between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 **by authors who have previously been shortlisted for or won the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.**

Please note that books by authors who have previously won or been shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction (in all iterations), Orange Award for New Writers, Discoveries or any other project of the Women's Prize Trust are not eligible for this free pass.

## CALL-IN TITLES

Imprints may submit **one** additional title as a suggested 'call-in'. Publishers suggesting a 'call-in' title must include a pitch for the submission of not more than 250 words in the **online entry form**. Call-in titles are not compulsory and how many, if any, the judges wish to call in, is at their discretion. Coercion of judges will not be tolerated.

Publishers will be contacted if judges wish to call in any titles, and print / digital books will be requested at that stage; please **do not send books for suggested call-in titles.**

## GENERAL SUBMISSIONS

The following steps (4.3, 4.4 and 4.5) should be taken for titles being submitted:

### DEADLINE

AUGUST

29

#### 4.3 By 5pm BST Friday 29 August 2025

➤ Complete the **online entry form** for **all titles** they are submitting (general submissions and free passes) and for their suggested call-ins.

#### FOR TITLES PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1 APRIL 2025 AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2025

➤ Send a PDF and ePub file where available to:  
**nonfiction@womensprize.com**

Please name the file as the **book title + author name.**

➤ Send **six finished copies or three proofs\*** for each submitted title published between 1 April 2025 and 30 September 2025, to:

#### Women's Prize for Non-Fiction 2025

**Big Yellow Hanger Lane, Quill Street, Alperton, London, W5 1DN**

*\*If a publisher is sending proof copies in the first instance, they should ensure they are the latest version available, bound and accompanied by a rough cover. Publishers should send finished copies to the above address as soon as they become available (before the applicable deadline).*



#### REMINDER!

Please **do not send** any digital files or physical copies of suggested call-in titles unless requested.

## DEADLINE

OCTOBER

31

### 4.4 By 5pm GMT Friday 31 October 2025

**FOR TITLES PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1 OCTOBER 2025  
AND 30 NOVEMBER 2025**

➤ Send a PDF and ePub file where available to:  
**nonfiction@womensprize.com**

Please name the file as the **book title + author name**.

➤ Send **six finished copies or three proofs\*** for each submitted title published between 1 October 2025 and 30 November 2025, to:

**Women's Prize for Non-Fiction 2026**  
**Big Yellow Hanger Lane, Quill Street, Alperton, London, W5 1DN**

*\*If a publisher is sending proof copies in the first instance, they should ensure they are the latest version available, bound and accompanied by a rough cover. Publishers should send finished copies to the above address as soon as they become available (before the applicable deadline).*

## DEADLINE

NOVEMBER

28

### 4.5 By 5pm GMT Friday 28 November 2025

**FOR TITLES PUBLISHED BETWEEN 1 DECEMBER 2025  
AND 31 MARCH 2026**

➤ Send a PDF and ePub file where available to:  
**nonfiction@womensprize.com**

Please name the file as the **book title + author name**.

➤ Send **six finished copies or three proofs\*** for each submitted title published between 1 December 2024 and 31 March 2025, to:

**Women's Prize for Non-Fiction 2026**  
**Big Yellow Hanger Lane, Quill Street, Alperton, London, W5 1DN**

*\*If a publisher is sending proof copies in the first instance, they should ensure they are the latest version available, bound and accompanied by a rough cover. Publishers should send finished copies to the above address as soon as they become available before the applicable deadline.*

## DEADLINE

If you know finished copies will not be available in time for this deadline, please inform us as soon as possible at:  
**nonfiction@womensprize.com**

We will discuss alternative arrangements with you regarding a final text and a dummy copy with the final jacket and spine, in lieu of a finished copy as required.



## ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND INFORMATION

- 4.6 Each publisher agrees to provide access to an audio file for judging purposes upon request.
- 4.7 The judges may request to call in additional titles not submitted by publishers, with publication dates between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026. If the publishers agrees that the works are to be considered, the publishers will be asked to complete the **online entry form**, submit six finished copies **or** three proofs of the book and a PDF and ePub file as soon as possible, and agree to abide by the terms and conditions of entry to the Prize.
- 4.8 The Women's Prize Trust will not acknowledge receipt of submissions and does not accept any responsibility for late, lost or damaged entries. Proof of sending is not proof of receipt.
- 4.9 Successful submissions made via the **online entry form** will result in an automated acknowledgement message on-screen upon completion; entrants will not receive a message to the email address provided.
- 4.10 No book entered by publishers or called in by the judges will be returned to publishers.

## 5 ADMINISTRATION AND COMMUNICATION

- 5.1 All entries for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction are strictly confidential and may not be used to publicise an author in the future, unless they have been longlisted, shortlisted or won.
- 5.2 All data and personal information shared with the Women's Prize Trust shall be handled in the strictest confidence and in accordance with the Women's Prize Trust's **privacy policy**.
- 5.3 In entering works to the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, the publisher agrees to allow the Women's Prize Trust to raise funds from any unused stock, in order to support its charitable mission, or donate them.
- 5.4 Any copies of books sent without request or without an official submission must be collected at the publishers' expense and arrangement, or the Women's Prize Trust reserves the right to donate them or sell them as per clause 5.3.
- 5.5 The publisher acknowledges and agrees that to the extent permitted by law, the Women's Prize Trust and any other person(s) in connection with the Prize will not be liable for any loss or damage (whether such damage or losses were foreseen, foreseeable, known or otherwise) including financially and/or to reputation and/or disappointment, suffered by any entrant, or publisher or agent on behalf of an author, entering the Prize or as a result of accepting any Prize.
- 5.6 These rules and the entry submitted in accordance with them shall constitute a contract governed by the exclusive laws and the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.
- 5.7 For any eligibility queries for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction, please email: **nonfiction@womensprize.com**

# Free pass eligibility (authors)

YEAR	TITLE	AUTHOR	PUBLISHER
Shortlist 2025	Thunderclap: A Memoir of Art and Life and Sudden Death	<b>Laura Cumming</b>	Chatto & Windus
	★ Doppelganger: A Trip Into the Mirror World	<b>Naomi Klein</b>	Allen Lane
	A Flat Place	<b>Noreen Masud</b>	Hamish Hamilton
	All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake	<b>Tiya Miles</b>	Profile
	Code Dependent: Living in the Shadow of AI	<b>Madhumita Murgia</b>	Picador
	How to Say Babylon: A Jamaican Memoir	<b>Safiya Sinclair</b>	4th Estate
Shortlist 2024	A Thousand Threads	<b>Neneh Cherry</b>	Vintage
	★ The Story of a Heart	<b>Rachel Clarke</b>	Little, Brown
	Raising Hare	<b>Chloe Dalton</b>	Canongate Books
	Agent Zo: The Untold Story of Courageous WW2 Resistance Fighter Elżbieta Zawacka	<b>Clare Mulley</b>	Weidenfeld & Nicolson
	What the Wild Sea Can Be: The Future of the World's Ocean	<b>Helen Scales</b>	Atlantic Books
	Private Revolutions: Coming of Age in a New China	<b>Yuan Yang</b>	Bloomsbury
Winner 2025	The Story of a Heart	<b>Rachel Clarke</b>	Little, Brown
Winner 2024	Doppelganger: A Trip Into the Mirror World	<b>Naomi Klein</b>	Allen Lane