The Sandford St Martin Trust

2027 Awards Criteria

- All entries must have been broadcast for the first time between **1 January and 31 December 2026** and should be submitted **as originally transmitted or published**. Please do not submit compilations.

- Entries will be accepted from UK or ROI-based broadcast or production organisations, news providers and freelance or independent content-producers. Entries must have been publicly available to a general UK audience.

- All entries and programme files must be completed and received by **23.59 on Sunday 10 January 2027**. This deadline is final, and late entries are barred automatically.

- Non-English content must be either dubbed or subtitled in English.

- **Please provide up-to-date contact details for someone who will remain a reliable point of contact for the entry throughout the Awards process.** We may need to get in touch several months after entries close with news about your submission, questions about your entry, or information about the next stages of the Awards. Where possible, please provide an alternative contact if the person submitting the entry is unlikely to be available later in the year.

- **Copyright and permissions:** Please ensure that you have the necessary permission from the copyright owner or an exclusive licensee for any copyright material — including audio, video, text or images — supplied as part of your entry to be used by the Sandford St Martin Trust for the purposes of judging and presenting the Awards and promoting the Trust's work. If you are unsure whether you can meet this requirement, please contact us so that we can discuss the particular circumstances of your entry.

- Please note, if your entry is shortlisted for an award, we will require a HD (video) or WAV (audio) copy of your entry before it can progress to the final judging stage.

- There is no entry fee.

Categories

There are four categories. If you are unsure which category is the most appropriate for your entry, please contact the Awards Administrator at info@sandfordawards.org.uk.

Journalism Award:

This category is for broadcast journalism with a **clear and substantive religious dimension** — either because religion or belief is intrinsic to the story or issue being reported, or because that dimension is meaningfully explored through the contributors, perspectives or experiences included.

Entries may include audio or video coverage of breaking news and current events, as well as original investigative, analytical or explanatory journalism. Judges will be looking for journalism that brings fresh insight or understanding to the **role or experience of religion or belief** in political, social or economic events, debates and decisions.

Broadcast content requirement: Entries must include a substantial audio or video component. This is an award for broadcast journalism, so print or text-based journalism alone is not eligible.

Eligible entries may include:

- stand-alone news reports;
- news reports or sequences within programmes or strands;
- current affairs programmes or documentaries; and
- online audio or video journalism, either as stand-alone content or produced as part of, or to accompany, text-based journalism.

Please note: This award recognises a specific piece of journalistic work. Please do not submit portfolios, compilations of unrelated work, entire broadcast platforms or services.

Television/Video Award:

This category is for visual broadcast content that explores **religious, ethical or spiritual themes** of particular interest or relevance to religious and belief communities, while also having broad appeal to a general audience.

Entries may include traditional religious broadcasting and programmes that directly explore religion or belief, but the category is deliberately broader than this. We welcome content that engages with questions of belief, spirituality, values and ethics through people's lives and experiences — including how people understand their place or purpose in the world, the

principles and values they live by, the choices they make, and their relationships and responsibilities towards others.

We are interested in programmes that illuminate not only **what people believe, but how they live and why**. Entries do not therefore need to be explicitly about religion or belief, but they should make a clear and meaningful connection to religious, ethical or spiritual ideas, questions or experiences rather than simply touching on them incidentally.

You may submit any combination of:

- **Stand-alone programmes:** A maximum of two individual or stand-alone programmes.
- **Individual episodes:** A maximum of two episodes or instalments from the same series or strand, submitted for consideration as separate, stand-alone entries. Each must be submitted using a separate entry form.
- **A series as a single entry:** You may enter a complete series for consideration as one entry. Please submit **one representative episode** for the judges to review and use your synopsis to explain:
    - how the episode you have chosen reflects or represents the series as a whole; and
    - how the series as a whole meets the criteria for this award.

Radio/Audio Award:

This category is for audio broadcast content that explores **religious, ethical or spiritual themes** of particular interest or relevance to religious and belief communities, while also having broad appeal to a general audience.

Entries may include traditional religious broadcasting and programmes that directly explore religion or belief, but the category is deliberately broader than this. We welcome content that engages with questions of belief, spirituality, values and ethics through people's lives and experiences — including how people understand their place or purpose in the world, the principles and values they live by, the choices they make, and their relationships and responsibilities towards others.

We are interested in programmes that illuminate not only **what people believe, but how they live and why**. Entries do not therefore need to be explicitly about religion or belief, but they should make a clear and meaningful connection to religious, ethical or spiritual ideas, questions or experiences rather than simply touching on them incidentally.

You may submit any combination of:

- **Stand-alone programmes:** A maximum of two individual or stand-alone programmes.

- **Individual episodes:** A maximum of two episodes or instalments from the same series or strand, submitted for consideration as separate, stand-alone entries. Each must be submitted using a separate entry form.
- **A series as a single entry:** You may enter a complete series for consideration as one entry. This option is intended particularly for multi-episode dramas, documentaries or other strands in which a narrative, subject or theme develops across several episodes or instalments.
  Please submit **one representative episode** for the judges to review and use your synopsis to explain:
  - how the episode you have chosen reflects or represents the series as a whole; and
  - how the series as a whole meets the criteria for this award.

Entries longer than 59 minutes must be accompanied by an approximate running order to help judges navigate the programme.

Young Audience Award:

This category is for audio and video content made for audiences under the age of 18 that helps deepen understanding of religion or belief and/or enables young people to explore contemporary moral or ethical issues.

You may submit a maximum of five entries in total.

Within that limit you may include:

- **Individual episodes:** You may submit a maximum of two episodes or instalments from the same series or strand as separate, stand-alone entries. Each episode or instalment must be submitted using a separate entry form.
- **A series as a single entry:** You may enter a complete series for consideration as one entry. Please submit **one representative episode** for the judges to review and use your synopsis to explain:
  - how the episode you have chosen reflects or represents the series as a whole; and
  - how the series as a whole meets the criteria for this award.