



FPdGi Fundació Fundación
Princesa de Girona

Forever committed to youth

PRESS RELEASE [7.6.2019]

The jury, meeting today in Girona

The cofounder of Humanity Crew, Maria Jammal, wins the first edition of the Princess of Girona Foundation International Award

Lawyer and psychologist, 32-year-old Jammal was chosen for her excellent work at the helm of an organisation that both highlights and creates solutions for the mental health problems suffered by refugees.

*The jury was made up of epidemiologist and director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme **Pedro Alonso**, astrophysicist and editor of Springer Nature **Philip Campbell**, artist **Mat Collishaw**, managing director of Endeavor Catalyst **Allen Taylor**, Director of Gatesfoundation European Office, **Anja Langenbucher**, historian and journalist **Giles Tremlett**, architect and FPdGi Arts and Literature Award winner **Olga Felip** and chemist and FPdGi Scientific Research Award winner **Samuel Sánchez**.*

***Maria Jammal** completes the list of the 2019 FPdGi Award winners along with neurologist **Ignacio H. Medrano** (Business), theatre director **Rafael R. Villalobos** (Arts and Literature), social worker **Begoña Arana** (Social) and mathematician **Xavier Ros-Oton** (Scientific Research).*

*Today marks the start of the **call for entries for the 2020 edition of the Awards that the FPdGi presents every year to young people aged 35 and under who stand out for their innovative and entrepreneurial work**, and which come with a prize of 20,000 euros. The nomination period closes on 30 September.*

The FPdGi Awards ceremony will be held in Barcelona in November in the presence of Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain, during the celebratory events organised to mark the Foundation's tenth anniversary.

PHOTOS AND VIDEO

Girona, 7.6.2019. Today, lawyer and psychologist **Maria Jammal** has won the **2019 FPdGi International Award** for “her excellent work as cofounder and CEO of Humanity Crew, an outstanding organisation that both highlights and creates solutions for the mental health problems suffered by refugees.

The announcement was made today after the jury of international experts met at the Foundation’s offices in Girona this morning for their deliberations. The winner was chosen from among the 30 nominations received in the first edition of this new category, which recognises the professional and personal efforts of young people anywhere in the world who stand out for their work, their merits and their exemplarity.

The chair of the jury, epidemiologist and director of the WHO Global Malaria Programme **Pedro Alonso**, explained: “at Humanity Crew, Maria helped to develop numerous initiatives to tackle the trauma suffered by people who have been forced to flee from their homes with their families”.

Maria set up the **NGO Humanity Crew** after witnessing the suffering and trauma of refugees arriving in the Greek islands in 2015. This organisation has so far deployed more than 220 professionals and volunteers to provide support in refugee camps and shelters. It also runs an innovative online clinic for refugees worldwide, extending the reach of the organisation. “We feel confident that Maria will continue to develop strategies and programmes to help deal with one of the most important, and least attended to, problems in refugee communities around the globe”, concluded the members of the jury.

In addition to Alonso, the jury also included astrophysicist and editor of Springer Nature **Philip Campbell**, artist **Mat Collishaw**, managing director of Endeavor Catalyst **Allen Taylor**, Director of Gatesfoundation European Office, **Anja Langenbacher**, historian and journalist **Giles Tremlett**, architect and FPdGi Arts and Literature Award winner **Olga Felip** and chemist and FPdGi Scientific Research Award winner **Samuel Sánchez**.

Maria Jammal is the first young person to receive the new International Award, which, unlike the other awards, works by nomination. With the creation of this new category, which seeks to identify and **reward excellence among the world’s young people**, the Foundation is taking a first determined step towards **internationalising its awards and firmly establishing itself as a leading example of support for young talent on an international scale too**.

FPdGi, 10 YEARS: “Always with young people”

Maria Jammal completes the list of award winners in 2019. This year, the Princess of Girona Foundation has also recognised the work of neurologist **Ignacio H. Medrano** (Business), theatre director **Rafael R. Villalobos** (Arts and Literature), social worker **Begoña Arana** (Social) and mathematician **Xavier Ros-Oton** (Scientific Research).

More than 40 award winners make up the list of outstanding young people who the Foundation has held up as examples over the past decade; young people who have all embarked on a **transformative journey** and carried out work that contributes towards **improving the society they live in**.

Coinciding with the Foundation's tenth anniversary, the **Awards ceremony** will be held this year in Barcelona, in November, in an event presided over by Their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain and which forms part of the **programme of activities planned to commemorate the occasion**.

New call for entries for 2020

After revealing the names of all 2019's winners, the FPdGi **has today opened the call for entries for 2020** with the aim of recognising and promoting, once again, the **work of young entrepreneurs and innovators who are seeking to build a more just world in a globalised environment and who are willing to take risks and have the necessary motivation to bring about changes in society**. The Awards include a prize of 20,000 euros, except the International category, which does not have a financial element. The call for entries for the 2020 edition will remain open until 23.59 h on **30 September 2019**.

There are five awards in total:

Princess of Girona Foundation Social Award (individual): designed to recognise young people who, through their leadership and personal commitment, have successfully created and promoted social projects with new visions and tangible achievements in the framework of social organisations or businesses.

Princess of Girona Foundation Scientific Research Award (individual): designed to recognise young scientists (including those working in the field of human and social sciences) with outstanding research projects or experiences in their discipline that are enterprising, innovative and show strong potential for future development.

Princess of Girona Foundation Arts and Literature Award (individual): designed to recognise talented young people involved in promising work in any discipline of the arts and literature, and which serves as an example and inspiration for other young people.

Princess of Girona Foundation Business Award (individual): designed to recognise young people who show entrepreneurial initiative in the execution of an original and viable business project.

Princess of Girona Foundation International Award (individual): this award seeks to recognise the professional career of young people from anywhere in the world who stand out for their work, their merits and their exemplarity. Unlike the other categories, entries for the International Award are made by nomination.

Maria Jammal: 2019 FPdGi International Award

Maria Jammal (Israel, 1987) is the cofounder and CEO of Humanity Crew, an international humanitarian aid organisation that provides mental health services and psychological support to refugees in times of crisis. Maria decided to create Humanity Crew after volunteering on the coasts of the Greek islands in 2015. She holds a degree in Law and Psychology from the University of Haifa (Israel) and a post-graduate degree in Intellectual Property Law from George Washington University in the United States, which she obtained through a Fulbright scholarship. Among other actions and services, Humanity Crew has a network of mental health professionals who provide online support to displaced populations around the world.

Maria is also a board member of the Mossawa Center, based in the city of Haifa, which was created in 1997 as a civil society organisation to promote equality for Arab citizens in Israel.