

CALL FOR ENTRIES

1st Photovoice Award “Change Begins at School”

Madrid Science and Innovation Week 2026 · Event: November 18, 2026, Faculty of Social Work, UCM

1. Introduction and Purpose

The Dispute Resolution Lab (DRLab) at Universidad Complutense de Madrid announces the 1st Photovoice Award “Change Begins at School,” which recognizes the best group photovoices created by upper-secondary (Bachillerato) and university students on coexistence, inclusion, human rights, mental health, and a culture of peace within their educational environment.

Photovoice is a participatory social research technique that enables historically marginalized groups to document and reflect on their reality. Using photographs and first-person narratives, participants express their needs and concerns to drive social change or influence public policy. You can consult the guide to learn more about this technique and for suggestions on how to carry it out.

2. Participants

- Groups of students in Years 1 and 2 of Bachillerato (upper secondary school) from educational institutions in the Community of Madrid.
- Groups of university students from UCM or other higher education institutions.
- Groups will consist of between 3 and 7 people. Each group may submit only one photovoice, with the support of their teachers and the project team, particularly DRLab UCM.

Participation by students under 16 will require authorization and informed consent signed by their legal guardians, to be managed by the school.

3. Theme

From the students’ own perspective, photovoices must address one or more of the following areas within their educational environment: coexistence, inclusion, human rights, mental health and care, conflict prevention and collaborative conflict management, and a culture of peace.

4. Format of the Entries

Each group will submit a single photovoice, in one of the following two formats:

- **Format A – Photography with printed narrative:** entre 5 and 7 photo-narratives. Each photo-narrative includes an original photograph provided by the group, a title, and a short text of between 100 and 250 words expressing what the group wants to communicate (it does not need to literally describe the image). Please send it via a link or in PowerPoint, Canva, or similar format. The group must bring their photo-narratives printed on the day of the event for the exhibition; the organizers will provide display boards and poster boards.
- **Format B – Video/TikTok:** a video no longer than 3 minutes that integrates the group’s images and narrative. Please send it via a link.
- In both formats, entries must include an overall title for the photovoice and a brief presentation of the group, the chosen subtopic, and the message they wish to convey (maximum 300 words).

- **Language:** photovoices may be produced in Spanish or English. Videos must include subtitles in the other language, and photo-narratives must be accompanied by a translation of their texts into the other language.
- All entries must be submitted in digital format (JPG or PNG with sufficient resolution for printing, or a video file/link) via the following [form](#).

5. Ethical Requirements

- All photographs must be original and taken by the group's members. Images downloaded from the internet or generated by artificial intelligence will not be accepted.
- If recognizable individuals appear in the images, their express consent must be obtained (and that of their legal guardians in the case of minors). Symbolic or abstract images, or images in which people are not identifiable, are recommended.
- Entries must respect people's dignity and may not contain offensive or discriminatory content, or content that infringes on the rights of third parties.

6. Schedule and Submission Procedure

- **Until October 31, 2026:** submission of photovoices to drlab@ucm.es indicating the school, group name, members, chosen format, and supervising teacher.
- **From October 31 to November 10, 2026:** evaluation of the entries by the review committee according to the call's rubric.
- **November 18, 2026:** in-person event, exhibition, and award and certificate ceremony.

7. Exhibition and Science Week Event

The in-person event will take place on **November 18, 2026** at the Faculty of Social Work of Universidad Complutense de Madrid (Somosaguas Campus), from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as part of Science and Innovation Week 2026. It will be a participatory university-school event that will include: an exhibition of the photovoices in an interactive-museum format (mural displays or video presentations with the possibility of interacting with attendees), a short informative session on conflict management and Photovoice, a participatory dialogue panel between Bachillerato and university students ("What can change starting from school?"), the award and certificate ceremony, and a guided tour of the campus. Format A groups must bring their photo-narratives printed and ready for display.

8. Review Committee and Assessment Criteria

The review committee will be made up of professionals in education and collaborative conflict management proposed by DRLab, with the participation of partner organizations. The committee will evaluate the entries between October 31 and November 10 according to the following criteria:

- Empathic function and critical framing: the work's ability to make viewers recognize themselves in the situation and become engaged with it, presenting the issue critically (30%).
- Clarity of message: a clear, focused main idea well supported by the image and narrative (25%).
- Creativity and expressive quality of the photograph-text combination (25%).
- Social relevance and transformative potential of the proposal within the educational environment (20%).

9. Awards

The awards, which are symbolic in nature, will be presented during the November 18 event in the following categories:

- Best Photovoice Award.
- Best Exhibition Award.
- Most Transformative Change Proposal Award.
- Visual and Narrative Creativity Award.
- Special Audience Mention, awarded by attendees at the event.

The awards will consist of a certificate, a gift, and featured promotion of the work. All participating groups, partner schools, and the university students who facilitated the project will receive a certificate of participation.

10. Data Protection and Image Rights

The personal data provided will be processed exclusively for the management of this call, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and Spanish Organic Law 3/2018 on the Protection of Personal Data and the Guarantee of Digital Rights. Participants retain the intellectual property rights to their works and authorize their non-profit exhibition and dissemination within the project's activities.

11. Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in this call implies full acceptance of these rules. Any circumstance not covered herein will be resolved by the organizers.

More information and contact:

drlab@ucm.es

<https://www.ucm.es/labdr/>