

ONG PIM PAM PUM

Official Rules

PARIS

100

Photos

Global Call

CONTEST

WHAT IT IS TO BE A WOMAN?

International Photography Contest 2026

What

it is to be a

WOMAN



www.pimpampum.fr/what-it-is-to-be-woman

wtbwcontest@pimpampum.fr

[@ong_pimpampum](https://www.instagram.com/ong_pimpampum)

ONG Pim Pam Pum, Paris

KEY DATES

May 15, 2026

Contest opening

May 22, 2026

Opening of the gallery on our site and public vote (for the top 50 by vote)

June 15, 2026

Closing of registrations and public vote phase 1

July 1, 2026

Announcement of the 100 Laureates

July 21, 2026

Announcement of the 8 Prize Winners

What
it is to be a
WOMAN?

01

What Is What It Is To Be A Woman?

What It Is To Be A Woman? is an international photography contest organized by the **NGO Pim Pam Pum** (Paris, France), open to anyone in the world.

The contest was created to give visibility to global photographic talent and to ensure the sustainability of the **VISIBLES Project** — a free support program for women photographers residing in territories affected by war, social conflict, and humanitarian crisis. This is its first edition as an international contest.

The VISIBLES Project

It is a program of the NGO Pim Pam Pum that includes:

- An annual photography exhibition in Paris that travels to other cities around the world each year — in previous editions it has visited Madrid, Barcelona, Strasbourg, Geneva, and Bordeaux, among others. This year it celebrates its 5th edition.
- A 3-month mentorship program for the laureate photographers.
- A roundtable discussion — half-day study session, photographers participate online
- A camera collection drive where cameras are repaired and distributed, in collaboration with local partners, to women in refugee camps — with the goal of inspiring and motivating the use of photography as a tool of expression among these women.

Participating in What It Is To Be A Woman? does not imply participation in the VISIBLES Project. They are distinct projects with complementary objectives: the contest funds the program.

Every registration fee is an act of solidarity. It allows another woman, in a crisis zone, to photograph her reality and be seen by the world.

02

Participation

Who can participate?

The contest is open to anyone in the world, regardless of gender, age, nationality, ethnic origin, or professional level.

Participation is done solely and exclusively through the official website:
www.pimpampum.fr/what-it-is-to-be-woman

02

Categories and fees

Category	Description	Fee	Max. photos
Student	Currently enrolled students *	2 €	20 photos
Amateur	Non-professional photographers	5 €	20 photos
Professional	Photographers with professional activity	10 €	20 photos

The category is declared by the participant under their own responsibility. The maximum is 20 photographs per participant, in any combination of styles.

*The Student category requires the submission of a valid student certificate or ID. This document may be requested by the NGO at any point during the process.

03

The Theme

"What It Is To Be A Woman?" is an open question.

There is no precise answer. There is no expected image.

Your photograph can capture what for you represents, evokes, questions, or celebrates being a Woman — from your own perspective, your culture, your history, your imagination.

The interpretation is entirely yours.

The contest revolves around a central question: What is it to be a woman?

Photographs can approach this question from any perspective: documentary, intimate, conceptual, symbolic, or social.

Being a woman is a universal and profoundly singular experience at the same time. It is strength, history, contradiction, tenderness, resistance, legacy, and transformation. This contest is a space to celebrate that multiplicity from all cultures, all perspectives, and all voices in the world.

The color red is the visual axis of the of this contest. It represents life, the cycle, resistance, and the invisible thread that connects women around the world.

It is not a requirement for the photographs — it is the visual spirit of the project this year, shared so that each participant knows it and feels it as part of the community we build together.

To respond with your photograph to What It Is To Be A Woman? The following table is merely an orientative reference. It is not limiting. You are the artist — you decide which image answers the question from your own perspective.

Styles and interpretations

Merely an orientative reference — not limiting.

Documentary

A woman working before dawn. What is done for others without anyone seeing. What is carried in silence. Life as it is.

Portrait

A gaze that says it all. The strength in the face of someone who has survived. What is carried in the body. What is not said but is seen.

Street

What happens in public space that normally no one photographs. Two women meeting. A girl running. The world from her place.

Landscape

The land she cultivates. The landscape that shaped her. What is inherited. What is left behind. A sunset that is hers alone.

Photojournalism

What must be documented so it is not forgotten. Dignity in the midst of chaos. The testimony. What the world must see.

Fine Art & Abstract

A flower, a dress, a texture, a red color. What cannot be said with words. A visual metaphor. What is felt but not named.

Other

Any image that answers the question from a place that no other style names. A necklace, a kitchen, a hand, an object — what for you says it all.

04

Technical requirements

File format

JPG o PNG

Minimum resolution

2,480 x 3,508 pixels (equivalent to A4 at 300 DPI)

Maximum file size

8 MB

Device

Free — professional camera, mirrorless, compact, or mobile phone. The device is not an evaluation criterion. What is evaluated is the image.

Color or black and white

Both accepted in all styles

Techniques

Manual or digital artistic techniques are accepted, including photomontages and compositions, as long as the work is original and creative

05

The 7 Photographic Styles

When submitting each photograph, the participant selects the main style. This information classifies the public gallery and guides the jury. The style describes how the photo is taken — it does not determine the theme, which is always the central question of the contest:

What it is to be a woman?

1 **Documentary**

2 **Portrait**

3 **Street**

4 **Landscape**

5 **Photojournalism**

6 **Fine Art & Abstract**

7 **Other**

06

How to Register

Participation is done solely and exclusively through the official website:
www.pimpampum.fr/what-it-is-to-be-woman

1 Go to the official page and click on "Submit your photo".

2 Fill in the form: name, email, country, category (Student / Amateur / Professional) and photography style.

3 Upload your photograph in the required format (JPG or PNG, minimum 2,480 x 3,508 px, maximum 8 MB).

4 Read and accept these official rules and the image use consent form.

5 Make the payment by bank card through the secure Stripe platform.

6 You will immediately receive a confirmation email with your participant number and the unique link to your photograph.

07

Prizes and mentions — overview

What It Is To Be A Woman? offers a three-level recognition system:

LEVEL 1

The 100 Laureates

The 100 best photographs of the contest receive the official distinction of Laureates.

All participate in the Book and in the Exhibition PARIS · 100 Photos · Global Photography Exhibition | What It Is To Be A Woman?

LEVEL 2

Grand Prix What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026

One photograph selected by the jury from among the 100 Laureates.
The highest distinction award of the contest.

LEVEL 3

7 People's Choice

One winning photograph for each of the 7 photographic styles,
chosen by public vote from among the 100 Laureates.

The prizes for Levels 2 and 3 are in addition to what all 100 Laureates receive.

The contest operates in two selection phases:

Phase 1 — Selection of the 100 Laureates (May–June):

50 photographs selected by the NGO's professional jury (based on technical and artistic quality, without access to public votes).

50 photographs selected by public vote (the most voted during the open gallery period, from May 22 to June 15).

If a photograph is selected by both, the list is completed with the next one in each ranking.

The 100 Laureates are always 50 from the jury + 50 from the public.

Phase 2 — Selection of the 8 Additional Prize Winners (July):

The Grand Prix is chosen by the jury from among the 100 Laureates.

The 7 People's Choice awardees are chosen by public vote on Instagram (@ong_pimpampum) from among the 100 Laureates.

Votes from Phase 1 do not carry over — Phase 2 is a completely independent round.

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The Gallery and Public Vote — Phase 1

From May 22 to June 15, registered photographs progressively appear in the public gallery on the official website, as soon as they are approved by the team (usually less than 24 hours). The gallery is filterable by style and by photographer category.

Each participant receives a unique link to their photograph to share with their network and accumulate votes. The public can freely vote for the photographs that impact them the most. These votes determine which are the 50 most-voted photographs that will become part of the 100 Laureates.

The votes from this phase are independent from the official People's Choice vote (Phase 2). They are two distinct systems with distinct objectives.

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The 100 Laureates — selection and recognitions

Jury criteria

The internal jury of the NGO Pim Pam Pum evaluates all photographs independently from the public vote, scoring from 1 to 5 on each of the following criteria:

- 1 Coherence with the question "What It Is To Be A Woman?" — Does the photograph answer the question in an authentic and personal way?
- 2 Emotional and narrative impact — Does it convey a story, an emotion, or a powerful gaze?
- 3 Technical quality — focus, exposure, composition, and mastery of the photographic medium
- 4 Originality and point of view — Does it offer a unique perspective or a new viewpoint?
- 5 Exhibition potential — Can it make an impact in an exhibition hall or on the cover of a book?

What all 100 Laureates receive

- Publication in the Book What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026 — "100 Photos of What It Is To Be A Woman?" (printed edition)
- Opening mention of their section in the Book
- Official Laureate Certificate What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026 — institutional document in PDF
- Digital badge "WITBW Laureate 2026" for social media and portfolios
- Participation in the group exhibition PARIS · 100 Photos · Global Photography Exhibition | What It Is To Be A Woman? — Labo 6, 76 rue de Rennes, 75006 Paris, starting September 15, 2026, for 10 days, free public admission
- Option to purchase the Book at the special Laureate price: 35€ (public price: 55€). Shipping not included. Free pickup at the exhibition.

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Grand Prix What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026

The Grand Prix is selected exclusively by the jury from among the 100 Laureates, based on photographic quality and thematic coherence. Public votes do not influence this decision under any circumstances. This is the standard of international contests such as Sony World Photography Awards and World Press Photo.

The winning photograph of the Grand Prix receives, in addition to all recognitions of the 100 Laureates:

- Cover of the Book What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026
- Individual physical exhibition in Paris: 10–15 photographs printed in A3, opaline paper with mat, mounted at Labo 6 (6 rue de Rennes, 75006 Paris), for 10 days, in the period October–December 2026 — the exact date is confirmed between the winner and the Labo 6 gallery. Free admission. Funded by the NGO (estimated value: ~1,500–2,000€).
- Editorial feature on the official NGO website (the winner may submit a personal video for inclusion)
- Invitation as jury member of the VISIBLES Project 2026 + invitation to the VISIBLES Project 2026 roundtable
- Monthly bulletin of international photography opportunities — January, February, and March 2027
- Official certificate "Grand Prix — What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026"
- Free copy of the Book What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026 (shipping not included; free pickup at the exhibition)

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The 7 People's Choice

One prize for each of the 7 photographic styles, chosen by public vote on Instagram (@ong_pimpampum) from among the 100 Laureates. The photograph with the most ❤️ in each style at the close of the voting period (July 20) receives the prize.

How the People's Choice vote works

From July 1 to 20, the official account @ong_pimpampum switches to private mode. During these 20 days, the 100 Laureate photographs are published progressively – 5 photographs daily – with the photographer's name and style.

To vote, it is necessary to follow the account @ong_pimpampum. Those who already follow it can vote directly. New followers request to follow and are accepted. This system eliminates the use of bots, since voting requires a real human action with a verified Instagram account. The public is invited to vote by style with ❤️.

At the close of the period (July 20), the team captures the ranking of likes by style and determines the 7 People's Choice winners. After the vote, the account @ong_pimpampum returns to public.

Each winning photograph of a People's Choice receives, in addition to all recognitions of the 100 Laureates:

- Editorial feature on the official website: interview + biography + gallery of their work
- Official certificate "People's Choice – What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026 – [Style]"
- Digital badge "People's Choice WITBW 2026" for social media and portfolio
- Monthly bulletin of international photography opportunities – January, February, and March 2027
- Free copy of the Book What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026 (shipping not included; free pickup at the exhibition)

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The Book What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026

Title: 100 Photos of What It Is To Be A Woman?

Content: The 100 Laureate photographs. The cover corresponds to the Grand Prix.

Edition: Printed

Special Laureate price: 35€

General public price: 55€

Shipping: Not included in any case – depends on destination and distribution platform

Pickup at the exhibition: Free, no shipping cost

Book printed and available: August 15, 2026

Distribution: From August 20, 2026

13 Calendar

May 15, 2026 Contest opening — registrations open

May 15–21 Gallery technical setup period — registrations active

May 22, 2026 Opening of the public gallery with photos received up to that point · new photos appear in real time · opening of the public vote for the top 50 (Phase 1)

June 15, 2026 Closing of registrations and Phase 1 public vote

June 16–30 The jury selects their 50 (without access to votes) · the system confirms the 50 most voted

July 1, 2026 Announcement of the 100 Laureates · @ong_pimpampum switches to private · start of publication of the 100 photos (5 daily) · opening of the People's Choice vote by style (❤️)

July 1–20 People's Choice vote on @ong_pimpampum (private account) · 5 photos published per day

July 21, 2026 Voting closes · announcement of the 8 Winners (Grand Prix + 7 People's Choice) · @ong_pimpampum returns to public

July 25, 2026 Book sent to print (cover confirmed with the Grand Prix)

August 15, 2026 Book printed and available

August 20, 2026 Start of book distribution

Sept. 15, 2026 PARIS · 100 Photos · Global Photography Exhibition | What It Is To Be A Woman? — Labo 6, 6 rue de Rennes, 75006 Paris · 10 days · free admission

Oct–Dec 2026 Individual physical exhibition of the Grand Prix — date to be confirmed between the Organization based on the winner's availability and the Labo 6 Gallery during the established period.

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Rules

Copyright and image use

- The participant declares and guarantees being the original author of all photographs submitted.
- Participation does not transfer copyright to the NGO Pim Pam Pum. The participant retains intellectual property of their work.
- By registering, the participant grants the NGO a non-exclusive license to use the photographs for communication, dissemination, and promotion of the contest and the NGO, always crediting the author.
- Laureate photographs may be printed, physically exhibited, and published in the official contest book.
- If the photograph contains identifiable persons, the participant guarantees having the necessary image rights for the described uses.

Conditions of participation

- Participation implies full acceptance of these official rules.
- Participation is done solely and exclusively through the official website:
www.pimpampum.fr/what-it-is-to-be-woman
- The same photograph cannot be submitted more than once by the same participant.
- Photographs that have won other contests, awards, or distinctions are accepted, provided the participant indicates this in the comments at the time of registration and they are not subject to active exclusivity clauses.
- Photographs subject to active exclusivity clauses with other contests or publications are not accepted.
- Registrations are non-refundable once payment has been processed.
- The NGO reserves the right to exclude photographs that do not meet technical requirements, that contain offensive, discriminatory, or violent content contrary to the organization's values, or that infringe third-party rights.
- Photographs not selected as Laureates will be deleted from the NGO's servers after the end of the exhibition period (October 2026). Only the 100 Laureate photographs are retained for the uses described in these rules.

The selection process

- The jury evaluates all photographs independently from the public vote, without access to vote counters.
- Public votes from Phase 1 (May 22 – June 15) are used exclusively to determine the 50 most-voted photographs that will form part of the 100 Laureates.
- The People's Choice vote (Phase 2, July 1–20) is a completely independent system. It takes place on Instagram through the official account @ong_pimpampum, which switches to private mode during that period to guarantee vote authenticity and prevent the use of bots. Phase 1 votes do not accumulate or influence this result.
- The Grand Prix is selected exclusively by the jury from among the 100 Laureates. Public votes do not influence this decision under any circumstances.
- The jury's decisions are final and cannot be appealed.

The book and prizes

- The Book What It Is To Be A Woman? 2026 includes the 100 Laureate photographs. Its publication is subject to production viability based on the final number of registrations received.
- Book prices are: 35€ for Laureates · 55€ for the general public. Prices do not include shipping.
- The 8 prize winners (1 Grand Prix + 7 People's Choice) receive a free copy of the book. Shipping not included. Pickup available at the September 2026 exhibition.
- Prizes are personal and non-transferable.
- Winners not residing in France are responsible for travel costs to attend the exhibition, should they wish to do so.
- The NGO reserves the right to modify exhibition dates due to force majeure, notifying Laureates with as much advance notice as possible.

Data protection

- Personal data collected during the registration process (name, email, country) will be used exclusively for contest management, communication of results, sending the opportunities bulletin to winners, and communications from the Organization Pim Pam Pum.
- Participants may request deletion of their data at any time by writing to wtbwcontest@pimpampum.fr.
- Data will not be shared with third parties.

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Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in the contest What It Is To Be A Woman? implies total and unconditional acceptance of these official rules. In case of doubt or conflict, the NGO Pim Pam Pum is the final interpretive authority.

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