**PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

**Launch of the ‘*London Voices’* journalism competition gives opportunities for aspiring professional and citizen journalists**

The 2018 *London Voices* Citizen Journalism competition is now open, and is calling on all Londoners to have a go at journalism - whether this is written, video, audio or photography. *London Voices* is all about developing and inspiring the next generation of professional and citizen journalists.

London is the most diverse and distinctive city in the world, and it needs more stories and reporters that reflect this. There are so many communities and issues that never get heard, and this competition encourages and promotes those hidden voices, and challenges the ways that Londoners think about their communities.

Anyone over the age of 14 who lives, works or studies in London can enter. No experience is required, just an enthusiasm for telling a story!

The competition is also a great way to learn about journalism. With support from a range of universities, media organisations and news websites, there are some great prizes on offer alongside a range of workshops and resources to help develop skills around finding and presenting a story.

Last year's overall winner Louisa said, "I wanted to develop my skills and tell a story that really mattered. It opened a lot of doors for me, and it really helps to have my name out there now. Winning the competition looks really good on my CV, which is important as the industry is very competitive".

Runner-up Seren said, “I've been interested in journalism for years, but this competition was a great way to challenge myself and see if I was alright at this journalism business! My experience with the competition encouraged me to apply for a print designer role, as I now I feel more confident in my designing abilities.”

Stephen Jeffery, CEO of key sponsor London Learning Consortium said, “This is a real opportunity for anyone who lives or works in London to get involved in citizen journalism.  The more we can encourage local people to take part, the better chance we have of reporting events and issues in a fair and balanced way.”

Competition manager Amanda Pavon-Lopez said, “It’s really important for all Londoners to feel they can both comment on and create the news stories of the future. This competition will help inspire those who’ve perhaps not contributed before to get involved and get their voice heard.”

Entries to the competition can be in a variety of formats including print, video, radio, blog or other online format, or telling a story through photo journalism. The deadline is 21st May.

Details of the competition can be found at <http://www.londonlc.org.uk/london-voices/>

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**Notes for Editors**

Competition Website: http://www.londonlc.org.uk/london-voices/

Twitter: @LondonVoices18

Key sponsor London Learning Consortium is a training provider based in Croydon but operating across London and the UK. <http://www.londonlc.org.uk/>

**Other sponsors include:**

London South Bank University Department of Journalism <http://www.lsbu.ac.uk/>

# YNUKtv – a community news broadcaster <http://ynuk.tv/>

# Journo Resources – a journalism resource website <http://www.journoresources.org.uk/>

# Update News – an online news organisation for young people <https://www.updatenews.co.uk/>