

# 2026 INCLUSIVE LENS AWARDS

A PIONEERING CELEBRATION DEDICATED TO HONOURING AND ELEVATING THE VOICES THAT ENRICH OUR SCREENS AND OUR LIVES THROUGH DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION, THE INCLUSIVE LENS AWARDS RECOGNISE THE CREATORS, STORYTELLERS, AND INNOVATORS WHO ARE BREAKING TRADITIONAL BOUNDARIES AND SHOWCASING THE BREADTH OF HUMAN EXPERIENCE.

In the dynamic landscape of film and television, the power of representation plays a crucial role in shaping perceptions, inspiring change, and fostering a more inclusive society. The Inclusive Lens Awards are designed to spotlight and reward exceptional efforts in the portrayal and inclusion of diverse narratives and characters, with a special focus on LGBTQ+ representation, disability awareness, and the depiction of diversity in children's content.

## THE INCLUSIVE LENS AWARDS WILL PLACE A SPOTLIGHT ON:

### BEST LGBTQ+ REPRESENTATION

Celebrating films and television shows that authentically and positively represent LGBTQ+ lives, contributing to a deeper understanding and acceptance of the LGBTQ+ community through compelling storytelling and character development.

- FILM – scripted
- FILM – unscripted
- SERIES – scripted
- SERIES – unscripted

### BEST DISABILITY REPRESENTATION

Honouring productions that accurately and respectfully depict individuals with disabilities, these awards highlight the importance of visibility and accessibility, promoting narratives that reflect the challenges and triumphs of people with disabilities.

- FILM – scripted
- FILM – unscripted
- SERIES – scripted
- SERIES – unscripted

### BEST DEI REPRESENTATION IN KIDS PROGRAMMING

This category applauds programmes that introduce young audiences to the concept of diversity and inclusion, offering stories that are as diverse as the world's children themselves. By presenting a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, these programs help cultivate empathy, understanding, and respect from an early age.

- Pre-school
- Older-school

### UNSEEN IMPACT AWARD

This award recognises individuals, teams, or organisations working behind the scenes to advance diversity and inclusion within the industry. Nominations should highlight initiatives, leadership, and actions that promote D&I, including challenges overcome. Submissions must also demonstrate measurable outcomes and the lasting impact these efforts have had on creating more inclusive, equitable environments.



## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for the Inclusive Lens Awards at FAME Week Africa, programmes must:

1. Provide a fair, authentic, and balanced representation of, LGBTQ+, and Disabled communities within the context of Africa's diverse cultures.
2. Demonstrate a positive impact on audiences and society, promoting inclusivity and understanding.
3. Exhibit originality and excellence in storytelling, casting, and production values.
4. Challenge stereotypes and encourage a more inclusive perspective.
5. Have aired on a broadcast or streaming platform or screened at a film festival

## SUBMISSION PROCESS

1. Entries must include a brief description of the programme, highlighting how it meets the criteria outlined above.
2. Submissions should provide specific examples of how the programme/film challenges stereotypes and promotes diversity and inclusion
3. Provide the link to a trailer of up to 2 minutes subtitled/dubbed in English (for non-English speaking content) with the online Entry Form
4. Provide the link to a full episode or film subtitled/dubbed in English (for non-English speaking content) with the online Entry Form
5. Provide a short synopsis of the programme/film
6. Provide a paragraph of why the programme/film should win in the category, what impact do you think it can have on viewers
7. Hold exclusive copyright ownership on the material properties submitted
8. For the Behind the Scenes Impact Award, nominations should detail the efforts and actions taken to promote D&I principles, including any challenges overcome and the outcomes achieved.

## JUDGING CRITERIA

1. Entries will be judged on their innovation, impact, and how effectively they promote diversity and inclusion.
2. The ability to inspire change and foster a greater understanding among viewers will be a key consideration.

## DEADLINE AND SUBMISSION

1. All submissions must be received by Friday, 13 July 2026 with winners announced at the Inclusive Lens Awards ceremony at MIP Africa on Thursday, 29 October 2026.
2. Entries should be submitted through the MIP Africa official submission portal

These criteria aim to highlight and reward the efforts of those within the film and television industry in Africa who are actively working towards a more inclusive, diverse, and representative media landscape.

## FAQS

1. **Who will attend the Inclusive Lens Awards?** The Awards Ceremony is open to all FAME Week Africa participants. All people attending have to be registered for FAME Week Africa.
2. **What will I get if I am a finalist?** Each shortlisted programme will be offered one (1) registration free of charge for FAME Week Africa 2026. However, any other person participating in the Event must pay for a FAME Week Africa registration to attend the Awards. The shortlisted programmes will be featured during the Awards Ceremony. The shortlisted programmes will be promoted in all communication tools related to the Inclusive Lens Awards. The winners in each sub-category will receive an Inclusive Lens Award trophy and will benefit from press coverage.
3. **When the finalists will be announced?** The finalists will be announced by end of August 2026.
4. **Who do I contact if I have questions related to the Inclusive Lens Awards?** Please send an email to Martin Hiller on [martin.hiller@rxglobal.com](mailto:martin.hiller@rxglobal.com)