



Press Release

by the Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace (<http://llpp.kr>)

Sponsored by: the Eunpyeong-gu District Office (Seoul, the Republic of Korea)



The 4th Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace announces:

- **Arundhati Roy** has been selected as the Grand Laureate of this year
- The actual award ceremony has been postponed to next year, due to the COVID-19 related circumstances. Also the honorarium for the prize (50 million KRW) will be awarded to the Grand Laureate, following the ceremony next year
- The online press conference with Arundhati Roy was held on 10 Nov. 2020 via a Zoom meeting in Korea Press Center (Seoul).

- The Selection Committee of the Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace (the LLPP) and the Eunpyeong-gu District Office have selected Arundhati Roy as the Grand Laureate of this year.
- The LLPP is an international literary award which takes place in the Republic of Korea annually in order to recognize to promote peace. There are two awards: the main Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace, and a Special Award which is given to a young and upcoming Korean writer. The main prize winner receives a monetary sum of 50 million won, while the Special Award winner receives 20 million won.

The Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace was established in 2017 by the Eunpyeong-gu District Office of Seoul, South Korea, in honor of the author Lee Ho-chul. Lee Ho-chul is a symbolic figure whose literary works reflect a deep longing for peace and the harmony of two Korean people.

- The Grand Laureate of this year, Arundhati Roy, won the Booker Award for her first novel, *The God of Small Things*, and made a brilliant start in 1997. She has since focused on civil movements and nonfiction writing to resist religious and class conflict and discrimination, and the tyranny of capital and power around the world. In her second novel, *the Ministry of Utmost Happiness*, published 20 years after the debut, Roy criticized the discrimination and

oppression against Muslim minorities.

□ The Selection Committee of the LLPP explained the reason for the selection, saying, "Roy's literary spirit has been in line with that of the writer Lee Hochul in that she has relentlessly sought peace in the history of India with fierce problem consciousness."

□ Eunpyeong-gu (Gu Mayor Kim Mi-kyung) held an online press conference with Arundhati Roy on the 19th floor of the Korea Press Center's press conference at 14:00 on Tuesday, November 10, 2020. The actual award ceremony has been postponed to next year, due to the COVID-19 related circumstances. Also the honorarium for the prize (50 million KRW) will be awarded to the Grand Laureate, following the ceremony next year

□ In the online interview, Roy, who met with Korean reporters via Zoom, said "the artist's role is to write about the world in which one lives." She pointed out, "the Western liberal discourse in the past has separated art and politics in a very artificial way; so there has been sort of suspicion that art and literature should be separated from politics, and that is a way of maintaining the status quo." At the same time, she made it clear that she was opposed to using novels as a means of delivering political messages. According to her, a novel is to see and write the complexity that exists in the world as it is, whether it is politics or gender, and expressed her belief in novels by saying, "Fiction (fiction) is truth."

She also said that the honorarium for the prize (50 million KRW) will go towards helping people out once she is award next year.

□ **The Online Press Interview with Arundhati Roy (covered by Korean Press)**

<https://www.news1.kr/photos/view/?4472970>

<http://www.womennews.co.kr/news/articleView.html?idxno=204008>

https://newsis.com/view/?id=NISX20201110_0001228753&cID=10701&pID=10700

<http://www.upinews.kr/newsView/upi202011100105>

https://www.chosun.com/national/people/2020/11/11/7Y2ANIM4WNDJZBXQPKZTE7KSSI/?utm_source=naver&utm_medium=original&utm_campaign=news

<http://www.hani.co.kr/arti/culture/book/969387.html>

<https://www.edaily.co.kr/news/read?newsId=03798246625964408&mediaCodeNo=257&OutLnkChk=Y>

<https://www.yna.co.kr/view/AKR20201110134900005?input=1195m>

http://news.khan.co.kr/kh_news/khan_art_view.html?artid=202011102149065&code=100100

□ For more information about the award, you can contact

Venus Chae

Secretary of the Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace

venusatdawn@naver.com

mobile) 821030130999 (Korea)

About the Lee Ho-chul Literary Prize for Peace

The Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace is an international literary award which takes place in South Korea annually. It is an international literary prize in South Korea that recognizes the power of literature to promote peace. The prize consists of two sections – the Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace and the Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace Special Award. Nominees for the Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace have been selected internationally, regardless of their languages and citizenship, as long as he or she, as a living author, has relentlessly endeavored to overcome the worldwide problems, such as injustice, discrimination, violence, war, etc. with one's literary practice and spirit. The Grand Prize Laureate, the main prize winner, receives a plaque and prize money of 50 million won. The winner of Special Award – which is given to a Korean writer – receives a plaque and 20 million won.

The Lee Hochul Literary Prize for Peace was established in 2017 by Eunpyeong-gu District Office of Seoul, South Korea, to commemorate the literary works and spirit of the late Korean author Lee Ho-chul. Lee Ho-chul is a symbolic figure whose literary works reflect a deep longing for peace and the harmony of two Korean people. He had resided in Eunpyeong-gu more than 50 years before he died in 2016.

The Past Grand Prize Laureate

Year	Name	Nationality
2019	Nuruddin Farah	Somalia/The Republic of South Africa
2018	Sahar Khalifeh	Palestine
2017	Kim Suck-bum	Korea/Japan