

MNU ART FOR MENTAL HEALTH 2026

EXPRESS. LISTEN. CONNECT. CREATE CHANGE.

Student Art Competition

Theme: REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE
Lived experiences heard.



What does it mean to truly listen? How can listening, understanding and connection create positive change? The Maldives National University invites all currently enrolled students to express their ideas through art and be part of our **World Mental Health Day 2026** initiative.

“If someone could see what I cannot say, what would they see?”

Your artwork could explore **hope, connection, support, understanding, belonging, listening, lived experiences or positive change.**

WHO CAN ENTER?

The competition is **open to all currently enrolled MNU students.**

WHAT CAN YOU CREATE?

Submit **one original artwork** inspired by the theme.

You may create:

- Drawing
- Painting

Your artwork may be created on **paper, canvas or another suitable surface.**

Artwork size: A2

You do **not** have to share a personal mental health experience to participate. You can interpret the theme through your own ideas, a community perspective, something you have observed, or your vision of a more supportive and understanding world.

YOUR ARTIST STATEMENT

Give your artwork a meaningful title and include a short **Artist Statement of 100–150 words**.

Tell us:

- What does your artwork mean?
- How does it connect to “**REAL VOICES, REAL CHANGE**”?
- What would you like people to think, feel or understand when they see it?

Don't worry about perfect English. We want to understand your idea, not judge your language skills.

HOW WILL THE ARTWORK BE JUDGED?

Our judges will consider:

Criteria	Weight
Interpretation of the Theme	25%
Creativity & Originality	20%
Emotional Impact & Meaning	20%
Visual Communication	15%
Connection to MNU/Community	10%
Technical Execution	5%
Artist Statement	5%
TOTAL	100%

The Artist Statement will be judged on **how clearly it explains your idea and connection to the theme — not on language proficiency.**

PRIZES



1st Place

1000 mvr - Little FINO voucher



2nd Place

750 mvr - Little FINO voucher



3rd Place

500 mvr - Little FINO voucher

HOW TO ENTER

- 1. Create your original artwork.**
- 2. Give your artwork a meaningful title.**
- 3. Prepare your Artist Statement (50–150 words).**
- 4. Include your:**
 - Full Name
 - Student ID
 - Faculty/School/Centre
 - Programme/Course

Submit your artwork by: 20 OCTOBER 2026

Male' campuses to Student Support Services @ MNU Central.

Campuses to the Campus administration

For more queries email studentsupport@mnu.edu.mv