Last year’s Life Advocate Awards received a wonderful response from students across Ireland. The annual essay writing competition was set up to encourage research and critical thinking on right-to-life issues. Each year we ask students to discuss the words of a well-known human rights advocate. For the 2022 theme we have taken inspiration from Karen Gaffney, Disability Advocate and Special Olympic Gold Medalist. She is the first woman with Down Syndrome to swim the English Channel. She said “Every life has value. Every life matters. Regardless of the amount of chromosomes that you have”. Students are asked to submit a 600-750 word essay discussing these words in relation to the right to life.

The competition is open to students from Transition Year to 6th Year (Republic of Ireland) and Year 12 to 14 (Northern Ireland). 1st Prize: €300/£260 2nd: €150/£125 3rd: €75/£65 Runner up: €50/£45. Please see our website for further information on www.lifeworks.ie. Please submit entries by email to info@life-works.ie. Closing date: Friday 29th April 2022.

Clockwise from below: Zoya Dabir, First place winner receives her award; Second place winner Conor McCann; Third place winner Ava McGinn.
2020 WINNERS
First: Orlaith McAuley, St. Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt
Second: Fergal Burns, Rathmore Grammar School, Belfast
Third: Lauren McQuillan, St. Louis Grammar School, Ballymena

2019 WINNERS
First: Julian Jimenez Ospina, Clongowes Wood College, Co. Kildare
Second: Alannah Carr, Rathmore Grammar School, Belfast
Third: Wiktoria Murzyn, Coláiste Nano Nagle, Limerick

2018 WINNERS
First: Mollie Graffin, St. Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt
Second: Molly McCoy, St. Vincent’s Secondary School, Cork City
Joint Third: Jamie Butler, Tallaght Community School, Dublin
Joint Third: Niamh Walls, St. Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt