

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great honour for me to welcome you to this ceremony for the 'Juvenile Justice without Borders' International Award. Tonight, we celebrate the Second Edition of this International Award and I am delighted that it is taking place here in London.

The aim of the 'Juvenile Justice without Borders' International Award is to recognise the work of those institutions and personalities that have contributed to the outstanding progress and achievements made in the protection of children's rights, in the legal and psychosocial field, as well as in the area of research and direct intervention with children and youth in conflict with the law.

I would like to thank all of you for being here, and I would like to especially thank tonight the main protagonists: the awardees, who have travelled from many different parts of the world (the USA, Thailand, Ethiopia, Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, France and England) to receive the award, and to share their impressive experiences with us and their respective diplomatic representatives present here today.

Once again I give my sincere congratulations to the awardees, as well as to their families, who have encouraged them to continue being an example of commitment to the improvement of juvenile justice around the world.

Many thanks.