

Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes

Chairman, International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO)

Welcome speech, presenting the awardees of the 'Juvenile Justice Without Borders' International Award on its 5th Edition, 2018

Dear professionals, colleagues, friends and followers of the activities of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory,

As Chairman of the IJJO, I would like to express the great honour that it is for our organisation to celebrate the 5th edition of the 'Juvenile Justice Without Borders' International Award.

The awardees of this edition exemplify the values that this recognition aims to promote, with a vast and remarkable body of work that contributes to the advancement of juvenile justice systems and the protection of the rights of children and young people around the world.

Their effective research, reporting, intervention, education, advocacy, among others, have improved the situation of children in many countries. They have also influenced policies, practices and programmes and brought awareness to the challenges faced by children at risk of social exclusion and in conflict with the law.

These are also the objectives of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory, which was founded 16 years ago with the firm commitment to protect the rights of children and youth, especially those immersed in cycles of violence and crime. In this sense, our purpose is that international juvenile justice systems, policies, programmes and models are adapted to meet the needs of children and guarantee their rights, and that is why we seek to contribute to make them more effective and inclusive through research and the dissemination of knowledge, innovation and technical assistance.

This work addresses issues that affect millions of children at risk of or in social exclusion around the world. The tools we use to achieve a better present and future for children and young people are prevention, the implementation of international laws and standards, or the promotion of children's rights.

We are not alone in this mission. Therefore, we believe it is necessary to highlight the work of all those people and institutions that strive every day to face these issues and propose effective solutions to continue advancing. This is the reason that has driven us to recognise these people and institutions with these awards and, without a doubt, the recipients of this edition are a clear example of this hard work. To all of them, my most heartfelt congratulations.

At the Observatory we hope that the recognition of these honourees will not only be a reward for their career, but a source of inspiration for the international community, professionals and future generations.

It is a pleasure for me to present them:

The **Centre for Legal Studies (Spain)** has been awarded for its work in expanding training and updating the knowledge of legal professionals at national and international levels. Their work helps to modernise the justice system and promotes a juvenile justice system that respects international standards and focuses on the prevention of juvenile delinquency, the protection of the rights of children and adolescents in contact with the justice system, and the reintegration of young people in conflict with the law.

Barry Goldson (United Kingdom), Professor and holder of the Charles Booth Chair of Social Science at the University of Liverpool, and Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences, has been awarded for his extensive career as a researcher in the field of juvenile justice, analyzing its development and implementation in different countries in the context of international human rights standards the child-centered approach promoted by the Council of Europe; as well as for his work as an expert advisor in juvenile justice systems for the United Nations and different parliamentary committees and non-profit entities.

The NGO **Human Rights Watch** has been awarded for its commitment to protecting the rights of children around the world, especially those in contact with the law; denouncing violations of their rights; reporting on the shortcomings of justice systems to incorporate international standards; raising awareness among stakeholders on the need to reform laws, policies and programs, always focusing on the best interests of the child; and giving voice to those who defend the most vulnerable members of society.

The NGO **Salesian Missions** has been awarded for its work in more than 130 countries to remove children from situations of exclusion, poverty, violence and abuse, and to promote education, employment and healthy lifestyle habits. Its work to prevent juvenile delinquency and the social reintegration of child soldiers is particularly recognised, with projects focused on offering children an education and dignified living conditions that help them reach full integration in society, separating them from marginality and crime.

Terrie Moffitt (United States), clinical psychologist, researcher and Professor at Duke University, has been awarded for her distinguished academic career dedicated to the comprehensive analysis of human development, including antisocial and criminal behaviour, her research having contributed to the development of more effective evidence-based juvenile justice policies and practices in various countries. The IJJO also highlights her work in different longitudinal psychological studies whose findings help to improve the understanding of various aspects of human behaviour.

Alessandro Padovani (Italy), psychologist and director of the Social and Educational Area of the Istituto Don Calabria, has been awarded for his long career dedicated to the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the rehabilitation of young people in conflict with the law. He is recognised in particular as an expert of Italian juvenile courts, where he has promoted an approach focused on the specific needs of children, and for his training and research work in this field at the Istituto Don Calabria.

I would like to congratulate these recipients once again for inspiring us with their work and commitment to the rights of children and youth around the world. On behalf of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory and myself, it is a privilege to honour you with this award.

Thank you and congratulations.

Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes

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