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Speech by Manuel Rivero, Chair of the Prince Claus Awards Committee, on the occasion of the 2019 Prince Claus Awards at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam on 4 December 2019

Your Majesties, Royal Highnesses, Excellences and friends of the Prince Claus Awards,

It is an honour to be standing here in front of you as the chair of the Awards Committee.

Together with my other 4 colleagues we present you this year's Laureates.

Unfortunately our friend and jury member Teju... left us just before coming to Amsterdam to meet those amazing persons we had selected to honour today.

Teju, we want to honour your sharp and informed judgements, always beautifully argued with that kind and clear voice which will endure among us.

This year's selection of Laureates, from among more than 100 nominations, is very unique.

Empowered with ingenuity and persistence, they have invented their own ways to challenge preconceptions and positively impact their communities.

But after carefully reviewing each of their work, we realized that the strongest candidates shared another common feature...they all were powerful women, succeeding in environments usually dominated by men.

After having the privileged position of reviewing the state of culture through such a long list of nominations, from incredibly diverse regions and disciplines, it is very interesting to observe that it is not that unequal conditions for women are worse than ever; it is in fact that, more than ever before, there are brave and innovative female voices that resist and enrich our world with different perspectives that have usually been underrepresented.

I hope you will also see it so, evident, yourselves.

So here we are proud to present you these outstanding 2019 Prince Claus laureates, who all happen to be women.