



Word of Thanks by Ghida Fakhry, moderator of the ceremony on the occasion of the 2019 Prince Claus Awards at the Royal Palace in Amsterdam on 4 December 2019

What a beautiful note / two beautiful voices / to end this ceremony.

Many people and organisations join together to support the Prince Claus Fund, it's work and this evening's celebrations in particular, so we'd like to end this celebration on a note of thanks.

On behalf of the Prince Claus Fund:

First of all, thanks, to the Royal Family and the Palace for hosting us

Heartfelt thanks to the Dutch Foreign Ministry and the Dutch Postcode Lottery for their unwavering, long-term support.

Thanks to the Fund's Torchbearers, corporate sponsors, international and domestic partners and institutional collaborators for both the financial and moral support that makes so much more possible.

Thanks to Amsterdam's Luxury Hotels and KLM for bringing international partners here safely and making them feel welcome in Amsterdam. Your warm reception makes a deep impression!

The team of Richard Messina Productions deserves a big thank you for setting the stage and producing this ceremony

Thanks always to Irma Boom for her unflagging help in design.

This evening wouldn't be possible without the dedication of the Awards Committee; the contributions of all the nominators and advisors, the hard work of the researchers. They all do their part in the difficult process of making choices. And of course thanks to Awards programme coordinator Fariba Derakhshani and her hard working staff who have been busy for months, making sure all aspects of these Awards and this ceremony go smoothly. Thanks to the Fund's Board and to Ila Kasem, who has taken on the role of Board Chair with warmth and enthusiasm.

Lastly, of course, thanks to all of YOU for coming and supporting the Fund, along with all the partners, people and organisations working around the world who can't be here, but share the Fund's belief in the positive role of culture.

I hope you will all stay for the reception. But when you finally leave the Palace, Prince Claus Fund staff will be handing out handmade bags, beautifully embroidered by Palestinian woman, with designs based on village patterns, created and inspired by designers and artisans from Palestine and the Gaza Camp in Jerash, Jordan.



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Please allow the Royal Family, laureates and members of the Press to exit first. Then please move to the back of the hall for a few minutes so we can remove the chairs to give room for the reception to start.

Now, please stand for the Royal Family.