

Dr. Francisco Legaz Cervantes, Chairman, International Juvenile Justice Observatory
(IJJO)

Welcome speech and presentation of the awardees of the 6th Edition of the
'Juvenile Justice Without Borders' International Award, 2020

Dear friends of the International Juvenile Justice Observatory. As Chairman of the IJJO, I want to begin by saying what a great honour it is for our organisation and for myself to celebrate the 6th Edition of the 'Juvenile Justice Without Borders' International Award.

This award, which celebrates its tenth anniversary today, was created by the Observatory with the aim of recognising and raising awareness about the great work, professionalism, and firm commitment of people and organisations who, from different fields, promote the rights of children and young people who come into contact with justice systems.

Through this recognition, the IJJO seeks to raise awareness within society as a whole, about the reality of these children and young people, as well as the great achievements and advances in the most relevant issues of Juvenile Justice.

Working to protect the rights and development of children and young people, especially those who come into contact with the law, is at the heart of our mission and *raison d'être*. It is a task which we undertake daily with enthusiasm, optimism and hope, searching for new paths and ways of advancing and facing the multitude of challenges that arise, such as the current COVID-19 crisis. Fortunately, there are many people and entities with whom we share this goal and who can serve as reference points and clear models of willpower and commitment to do everything possible to protect the rights and futures of children.

The awardees of this edition are an example of the values that the Observatory wishes to promote with this award. Their broad and distinguished professional work contributes to the advancement of juvenile justice systems and the protection of the rights of children and young people all over the world. To that end, they work in many domains which range from direct intervention with children, to the promotion of rights and the implementation of public policies, and to specialised training and development of awareness-raising programmes.

Equally, it is worth highlighting their dedication to the development of collaborative networks, the promotion of participation, and the generation and exchange of knowledge and good practices. These are principles which the Observatory considers fundamental to achieve truly efficient advances in the field of Juvenile Justice.

In the Observatory, we hope that the awarding of these recipients does not only represent a recognition for their work thus far, but also a source of inspiration for the international community, professionals, and young people.

My most sincere congratulations to all the awardees of the 2020 edition, whom I will now introduce:

African Child Policy Forum

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory wishes to recognise the African Child Policy Forum for its coordinated work in the field of juvenile justice, including research, training, advocacy, legal assistance and dissemination, with the aim of achieving the implementation and enhancement of child-friendly justice and sustainable child protection structures in African justice systems, in line with the United Nations' international standards.

Moreover, the IJJO wishes to highlight the Forum's extensive online database and resource centre on the state of justice for children and young people in Africa, with useful information for the promotion, investigation, implementation, and monitoring of laws, policies and standards which serve to adapt justice systems to be suitable for children and protect children's rights.

Danila Dilba Health Service (Australia)

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory wishes to recognise Danila Dilba for its continuous work using a holistic approach to attend to the needs of young people in conflict with the law and at risk of social exclusion, and in particular Indigenous young people, who are over-represented in Australia's juvenile justice system. The IJJO wishes to highlight Danila Dilba's work in providing support to these young people, both in the area of health and well-being and in matters of the law.

Equally, the IJJO underscores the work performed by Danila Dilba in their advocacy for the rights of these young people before responsible institutions and within the Australian media, expressing their needs and requests and condemning the lack of necessary services for them.

The Education for Justice Initiative, part of the Doha Declaration Global Programme at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory wishes to recognise the Education for Justice Initiative, part of the Doha Declaration Global Programme at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for its work in providing a wide range of effective educational materials on justice and justice systems, adapted for young people in primary, secondary, and tertiary education and available in various languages. These materials, both educational and recreational, present concepts which are essential for the development of young people in society, encouraging a culture of knowledge of and respect for the law, human rights, and fundamental liberties.

The IJJO wishes to underscore the value of these materials in teaching young people the essential role that crime prevention and criminal justice institutions play in the rule of law and promotion of peace.

Inter-American Children's Institute

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory wishes to recognise the Inter-American Children's Institute for its involvement in the development of juvenile justice systems in Latin America, through its work in the generation of content, procedures, and tools for the implementation and monitoring of policies, strategies and actions to guarantee the rights of children and young people in these systems, at both a national and regional level.

In this way, this award recognises the IIN's work as a technical-political reference point at a regional level in matters concerning children and young people's rights in the field of juvenile justice within the Inter-American Human Rights System and in accordance with the United Nations' international standards.

Judicial School of the General Council of the Judiciary of Spain

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory wishes to recognise the Judicial School of the General Council of the Judiciary for its excellence in its initial and continued training of members of the Spanish judiciary, facilitating the acquisition of the knowledge and skills needed to provide citizens with high-quality justice. In particular, the IJJO would like to express its gratitude for the efforts made in respect to the specialisation and regular updating of training for juvenile justice judges.

The IJJO also highlights the Judicial School's work in the establishment of cooperation and exchange opportunities with other training centres for judges within the European Union and Ibero-America.

Juvenile Law Center (United States)

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory wishes to recognise the Juvenile Law Center for its extensive work as a non-profit, public interest law firm in contributing to the development and reform of laws and policies which support young peoples' rights in the United States justice and welfare systems, from an approach informed by research, consistent with children's developmental needs, and reflective of human rights values.

Equally, the IJJO wishes to highlight the wide variety of ways in which the Juvenile Law Center has effectively fought for the rights of young people who have come into contact with the justice and welfare systems, including litigation, appellate advocacy, submission of amicus briefs, policy reform,

professional education and training, consulting, youth advocacy, and strategic communications.

The Monument Trust (United Kingdom)

The International Juvenile Justice Observatory wishes to recognise The Monument Trust for its extensive philanthropic work carried out from 1965 to 2018, and which is currently being brought to completion by another of the Sainsbury Family Charitable Trusts. Its grants have benefitted a wide range of projects across the UK and in other countries and, in particular, projects which support children and young people in conflict with the law and at risk of social exclusion.

The IJJO commends the Monument Trust for contributing through these grants to the strengthening of crime prevention and the enhancement and promotion of diversion, restorative justice, innovative approaches for care, education and training during custody, and strategies for supporting social reintegration, among other aspects of juvenile justice.

Our gratitude to all.