



## SOLIDAR Silver Rose Awards 2008

SOLIDAR's Silver Rose Awards were launched in 2000 to help raise the profile of individuals and organisations whose outstanding work is fuelled by vision and tireless commitment and whose achievements have contributed greatly to the struggle for a just and civil society.

Winners are sometimes well-known; others are simply ordinary people leading extraordinary lives, reaching out to the most vulnerable groups in their societies, advocating their rights, campaigning for their needs, and providing essential services such as soup kitchens, housing, children's holidays and literacy classes. As SOLIDAR's member organisations work on numerous projects with local partners both in Europe and around the world, examples of worthy recipients are not difficult to identify.

The winners are always powerful advocates of change, united by their passion, commitment and vision for bringing about a fairer and more just society. The Awards are presented each year at a prestigious awards ceremony held at the European Parliament in Brussels and this year will be hosted by Harlem Désir MEP on the 15 October 2008.



*"The Silver Rose honours fellow citizens of the world who through their imagination, courage and dedication fight to make ours a better world. They lift our spirits, reminding us that there is nothing nobler than the struggle for justice, democracy and freedom"*

- Margot Wallström



For more information contact the Silver Rose Team ([silverrose@solidar.org](mailto:silverrose@solidar.org))

Since 1948

60  
solidar

International Workers Aid  
Entraide Ouvrière Internationale  
Internationales Arbeiterhilfswerk

*This year SOLIDAR celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. SOLIDAR was established in 1948 to encourage international cooperation between organisations working together for social justice in Europe and worldwide. Today, SOLIDAR is an international alliance of 47 members working with trade unions, organisations of the labour movement and civil society for an equitable and sustainable world.*

### The Awards Ceremony

The awards dinner is an important event in the Brussels political calendar. It provides a rare opportunity for people to come together to celebrate the work of civil society and is attended by leading figures in the fight for social justice.

The Silver Rose winners take **centre stage** at the awards dinner to present their work and address the assembled audience. The ceremony also provides an opportunity for participants to learn more about the work of SOLIDAR and to network with people from other sectors who nevertheless share their commitment to the values the awards represent.

Over 450 people attended the 2007 ceremony, including SOLIDAR's member organisations, EU decision-makers, government representatives, corporate supporters, civil society partners and the media. Keynote speakers included Life-time Achievement Award winner **Heidmarie Wiecek-Zeul**, German Federal Minister for Cooperation and Development and **Poul Nyrup Rasmussen**, President of the Party of European Socialists. Silver Rose Jury chair **Harlem Désir** MEP also addressed participants and several members of the Silver Rose Jury participated in the ceremony including **Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez** MEP and Vice-President of the European Parliament.



## The Nominations

Every year SOLIDAR receives nominations from organisations and individuals from around the world whose outstanding work is fuelled by vision and tireless commitment and whose achievements have contributed greatly to the struggle for a just and civil society

The winners are selected by a jury comprising MEPs, EU policy makers and other stakeholders who share a long history of involvement with SOLIDAR's work and identify with its values. The jury is chaired again this year by **Harlem Désir MEP** and meets in person twice to debate the nominations for three categories: International, European and Life time Achievement.

SOLIDAR organises a **full programme of visits in Brussels** for each award winner to give them the opportunity to meet key European decision makers, journalists and relevant NGOs and further their cause.



**Present at the Silver Rose Awards 2007 (from left to right) Mr. Miguel Angel Martinez Martinez MEP, Ms. Zita Gurmai MEP, Ms. Heide Marie Weizcorek-Zeul (Winner of Life Time Achievement Award 2007) and Mr. Harlem Désir MEP (Chairman of the Silver Rose Jury).**

*"It is a great honour for RESF to receive the Silver Rose award. It's also international recognition of the importance of our fight for the rights of children to go to school, of all families to a life of dignity, and against the narrowness of xenophobia and racism."*

- Réseau Education Sans Frontières



**Members of the Réseau Education Sans Frontières winners of the Silver Rose Award 2007**



*"As a Saharawi human rights activist, receiving the Silver Rose award is recognition of the just nature of the cause for which we are fighting, and of the crucial work accomplished by those who defend the rights of the Saharawi people regardless of the risks they face. The award also helps support the legitimate struggle of the Saharawi people for their freedom and dignity."*

- Aminattou Haidar



*"Receiving the Silver Rose Award means a lot to me as I have fought all my political life for social justice, both in Europe and internationally. It is SOLIDAR's aim to promote this very goal and I am glad to have such a strong and determined ally. I hope together we will succeed in achieving a fair globalisation that benefits people not capital."*

- Heidemarie Wiezcorek-Zeul



**Morgan Tsvangirai receiving his Silver Rose Award in 2002**

For more information contact the Silver Rose Team ([silverrose@solidar.org](mailto:silverrose@solidar.org))

## Previous Silver Rose Winners

2007

- *Heidemarie Wiezcorek-Zeul, German Federal Minister for Cooperation and Development*
- *Plataforma de Mujeres Artistas contra la violencia de Género*
- *Réseau Education Sans Frontières (RESF), France*
- *Aminatou Haidar, Human rights Activist, Western Sahara*
- *Parents Circle - Families Forum*

2006

- *Tarja Halonen (President of the Republic of Finland)*
- *Sudan Organisation Against Torture (Sudan)*
- *Kav La O'ved (Israel)*
- *Denise Fuchs*
- *Francisca Sauquillo Pérez Del Arco (Spain)*
- *Filo D'Argento (Italy)*



**SOAT is rewarded for their courageous campaign against human rights' abuses in Sudan, and for their work for the rehabilitation of Sudanese survivors of torture.**

2005

- *Chapitô (Portugal)*
- *Lietuvos Samarieciu Bendrija (Lithuania)*
- *The Global Call to Action against Poverty*
- *Juan Somovia (Director of International Labour Organization)*
- *Frank Brassel and Cruz Emilia Rangel Ferreira – The Flower Label Program*

2004

- *Tom Benetollo (Italy)*
- *Narodna Dopomoha (People's Aid Ukraine)*
- *Graça Machel (Mozambique)*
- *National League for Democracy of Burma*

2003

- *Nicolás Gutiérrez (Basque Country, Spain)*
- *The Self-Employed Women's Association (India)*
- *Zackie Achmat (South Africa)*



**Z. Achmat from South Africa's Treatment Action Campaign has persistently called on the government and pharmaceutical companies to improve access to treatment for people with HIV**

2002

- *Belaruski Chas Newspaper (Belarus)*
- *Jean-Michel Folon (Belgium)*
- *Sima Samar (Afghanistan)*
- *Promotion et Appui aux Initiatives Feminines (PAIF) (Democratic Republic of Congo)*

2001

- *Morgan Tsvangirai (Zimbabwe)*
- *Rudolf Sarkozi (Austria)*
- *The Barka Foundation for Mutual Help (Poland)*

2000

- *Doreen and Neville Lawrence (UK)*
- *Media for Democracy (Former Yugoslavia)*
- *Centre for Trade Union and Workers' Services, Egypt*



**The Lawrence couple receive one of the first awards for their determination to pursue justice for their son who was murdered in a racist attack in the UK.**

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