

Good afternoon.

Your Majesties, Princess Beatrix, Your Excellency Mr Rutte, Mr. Polman, Ambassador vanden Heuvel, Roosevelt Board of Directors, members of the American delegation and distinguished guests, and our esteemed Laureates,

Thank you, once again, for a deeply moving and important Four Freedoms Awards. It is a privilege for the Roosevelt family to join you on each occasion of the International Four Freedoms Awards to celebrate and to honor those who spend their lives leading us toward a more meaningful global democracy.

Our family is as diverse as the laureates and the audience here today. We love and respect one another, but we often understand issues from different perspectives and we might propose differing solutions.

We all agree, however, that our grandparents are an inspiration to us. And so I offer, in closing, these words of theirs:

*Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people. A nation does not have to be cruel to be tough.*

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*

And

*In the final analysis, a democratic government represents the sum total of the courage and the integrity of its individuals. It cannot be better than they are.*

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

Their words challenge us afresh – each of us, across generations, across borders, in both our public and our personal lives. Our laureates give us the courage to take that challenge seriously: each one of us, every day. Thank you for uniting in this commitment to the Four Freedoms.