

I would like to thank Her Majesty for this great Honour and Lord Falconer for presenting the award and kind words. **I would also like to thank Sandy Bishop for being here on behalf of the Department for Transport, which I understand approved the award, and Herr Kischlat, the Deputy German Ambassador for his kind attendance.** Many thanks also to Andrew Miller and Julie Spencer for organising this beautiful venue for the occasion and to Hameeda, my daughter for her support , not only for today but at all times.

I am delighted that so many of my friends and colleagues are able to be here, also patrons and supporters of RoadPeace, including from local and central government.

It was very good of my colleagues and RoadPeace patrons to take the trouble of applying for the award and writing letters in support of the application.

In contrast to 12 years ago when I started, RoadPeace represents a huge team now and all have a part in this award. A card I received after our London Group meeting on 12 March illustrates this, also that the kind of support we offer is very important to victims

Dear Brigitte, It was so lovely to meet you last night and have a hug. What a bond we have – mothers in a kind of parallel distress! Enclosed a cheque as a small token of our heartfelt thanks for all the love and help we have received from RoadPeace. We can never thank you all enough. Best wishes, Marion Heithus.

I would like to mention my son today, something I do rarely, but I see today's award also as a tribute to him and all the other promising and unique lives that are lost or blighted by injury – in this type of war. **Last Monday, on St Patrick's Day, was his birthday, the 13th without him. The years don't mean that we - his sister, I and other family members don't miss or think about him all the time. He also continues to be remembered by his long-time friend Gavin Bowden. They were both scholarship holders at City of London School and remained close until Mansoor's death.** After his death, Gavin and another friend, Eddy, had to give statements about him, which I later got to see.

Eddy said of him: **Mansoor was one of the most dynamic people I ever met - he was a leader, self-confident, hardworking, intelligent, almost a manic achiever. On a personal level he was a very close friend – he took profound interest in his friend's lives, he wanted his friends to succeed and would support them in every way including financially...he was killed at a time when he was happy and fulfilled and when he was on the verge of his ambitions coming to fruition.**

And Gavin said at the time:

Mansoor was a very precise person, very forthright and spoke his mind, he didn't like vagueness and dilly-dallying...he was incredibly determined, very tenacious about achieving anything he wanted, he also had a very practical and disciplined sense of how he would go about doing something; he never switched horses, he didn't take any steps backwards...he had an enormous amount of energy...he never had a holiday or spent money going out for nice meals – he put all his money and energy into his work. The tragedy – just got it all together....

Gavin is now a film director and lives in LA with his wife and 4-year old daughter. In his letter to us this month he wrote: **It was Mansoor who introduced me to Camus and Sartre. It's almost impossible for me to think about my life and its questions and not be reminded of Mansoor.**

RoadPeace is doing important work in highlighting the devastation, senselessness and loss resulting from road death and injury, and the impact on the affected families and on society, everyone in society. It would therefore seem that supporting RoadPeace should benefit everyone and make really good sense. Road Peace and Peace are greatly needed. **Many thanks to everyone present for past and future support and for being here today.**