



SHORTLISTED 1

JENNY RASCHE

FOUNDER AND CHAIRWOMAN OF THE ASSOCIATION "KINDERHILFE FÜR SIEBENBÜRGEN E.V."

Jenny Rasche actively opposes the exclusion and stigmatisation of Roma. Through her work as Founder and Chairwoman of the association "Kinderhilfe für Siebenbürgen e.V.". Ms. Rasche organises and supports the integration of Roma family children in Europe. The activities include organising mother-child homes, outpatient care and afternoon care for children as well as aid transports. Since 2003, Ms. Rasche has been involved in helping Roma children in Transylvania, and consequently founded her aid organisation in 2005. In 2008, she and her whole family moved from Germany to Schellenberg, Transylvania, Romania. Through its extensive educational programmes, as well as counselling and family social work, Kinderhilfe für Siebenbürgen e.V. has served over 300 students in its after-school programs, some of whom have been able to successfully complete education thanks to its support. Ms. Rasche and her association try to cover all areas in one: accommodation, education and care. Jenny Rasche's work has a great impact on these people: her work restores their dignity and creates prospects. In doing so, she embodies and lives the European idea. The motto of the EU is: "United in diversity." However, unity shows fractures. About two million Roma are stigmatised and excluded, pushed to the margins of society. Where state and society have failed, Ms. Rasche and her aid organisation come in. Through their extensive education and aid programs, many children have learned to read and write, houses have been renovated and water pipes built.

MINORITIES; SOCIAL WORK; YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

SHORTLISTED 2

INETA ZIEMELE

JUDGE AT THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Ineta Ziemele is a judge at the Court of Justice of the European Union. She also served at the European Court of Human Rights and the Court of the Republic of Latvia. She founded the Institute of Human Rights at the University of Latvia, engaging in the protection of human rights and showing outstanding commitment to European values and promotion of the rule of law. Professor Ziemele contributed to the modernisation of the Constitutional Court of Latvia, highlighting the importance of respecting and developing dialogue with the public. Her influence goes beyond Europe and the European Economic Area to the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership countries and other members of the Council of Europe. Prof. Ziemele has devoted her time and efforts to opening the European courts to the public and developing the dialogue between themselves. Her contribution by organising international exchanges between judges, national annual Conferences on Current Human Rights Issues engaging lawyers, civil servants, non-governmental organisations and members of the community has led to increased understanding, application and acceptance of evolving human rights. Her work has been dedicated to presenting and explaining to the wide public the decisions of the court leading to modernisation and opening of courts and raising the prestige of the courts.

HIGHLIGHTS: HUMAN RIGHTS; RULE OF LAW; VALUES

SHORTLISTED 3

GINA MILLER

ACTIVIST AND ANTI-BREXIT CAMPAIGNER

Gina Miller was one of the most influential actors during the Brexit campaign and transition period, having held the government accountable on several occasions, and mounting several legal challenges that forced the British government to respect the will of the British Parliament, while defending the values of the European Union despite the impending British exit from the European Union. Having run several political campaigns based on successful tactical voting strategies, Gina successfully supported pro-European candidates and parties, and successfully limited the success of Eurosceptic, pro-Brexit parties and candidates whose victories would have forced a hard-Brexit, all in the face of regular threats to the lives and safety of her and her family. Gina Miller's key achievement was launching the constitutional law case 'R (Miller) v Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union', where she successfully pursued a legal case stating that the British government could not initiate the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union without the consent of the United Kingdom Parliament. This set a precedent throughout the Brexit process that the British Parliament, composed of a significant portion of pro-European MPs, had to be consulted on the processes and decisions being taken with regard to Brexit itself, and prevented the United Kingdom governments under Theresa May and Boris Johnson from ignoring the voices from the parliament.

HIGHLIGHTS: ANTI-BREXIT; CAMPAIGN; ACTIVISM