

International Bridges to Justice “Unlocking Grace” at the World Economic Forum’s 2019 Annual Meeting

Davos, Switzerland (January 25, 2019) – On the closing day of the World Economic Forum’s 2019 Annual Meeting, the pioneering legal rights NGO, International Bridges to Justice (IBJ),



The historic Gross-Stube

welcomed guests to a private dawn vigil at the beautiful “Gross-Stube” located within the Davos Town Hall for a Musical Dawn Vigil for Justice. The 500-year-old historic room was the ideal setting for a morning of “Unlocking Grace” – the theme of this year’s event – where reflections, poetry and music were shared to light the flame for justice. Blessings and prayers were made for IBJ’s lawyers who strive to uphold human rights standards in criminal justice systems globally, and for all persons arbitrarily detained across the world.

Guests were welcomed by a violin solo from former member of the Zurich Tonhalle Orchestra, AnMing Karrer-Bien, followed by a greeting from IBJ Founder and CEO, Karen Tse. The Honorable Mayor of Davos, Tarzius Caviezel delivered his annual welcome address, capturing the spirit of the morning with a quote from Plato: “Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, a charm to sadness and life to everything.”

Between musical interludes from Andrea Amanti and Fabiola Tagny accompanying AnMing Karrer-Bien, speakers shared their thought-provoking poems and prayers.

Hilde Schwab, Chairperson and co-Founder of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, spoke about the importance of “creating a world where our children and grandchildren would like to live, through shaping a new narrative for society, moving from materialistic fixations to a more humanistic focus.” The esteemed interfaith advocate, Ayatollah Ahmad Iravani, shared a prayer for all those suffering from torture, reminding guests that all religious leaders strive to help people escape their own personal prisons.



AnMing Karrer-Bien performs



Ayatollah Irvani addresses the room

Other honored guests who shared poems and reflections throughout the morning included local pastor, Martin Grüsser, and Kim Samuel, Founder of The Samuel Centre for Social Connectedness, who read John O’Donohue’s “Blessing.”

IBJ’s Tse spoke on what it means to “unlock grace” -- which already exists within each of us -- encouraging guests to contemplate what they could do in order to make a difference in the world. The attendees were then invited to metaphorically “unlock grace” using keys to open individual locks from a wall of lockers containing a symbolic crystal. These vintage lockers were sourced by the geniuses at the event production company Volition.

The Vigil was closed by IBJ’s newest Swiss Council member, Biljana Braithwaite, who thanked all of IBJ’s honored guests and extended special thanks to Michael Straub and the Mayor of Davos for their tireless efforts providing logistical support for the Vigil for Justice and to the community of Davos who host IBJ year after year.



IBJ's Karen Tse reflects on what it means to unlock grace

International Bridges to Justice (IBJ) is dedicated to protecting the basic legal rights of individuals in developing countries. Specifically, IBJ works to guarantee all citizens the right to competent legal representation, the right to be protected from cruel and unusual punishment and the right to a fair trial. Learn more & donate [here](#).

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