



Stiftung gegen
Rassismus und
Antisemitismus

Fondation contre le racisme et l'antisémitisme
Fondazione contro il razzismo e l'antisemitismo
Foundation against racism and antisemitism



GMS GESELLSCHAFT MINDERHEITEN IN DER SCHWEIZ
SOCIETE POUR LES MINORITES EN SUISSE
SOCIETA PER LE MINORANZE IN SVIZZERA
SOCIETAD MINORITADS EN SVIZRA

Press release (not to be published before 25 October 2011, 5:30 p.m.)

Fischhof Prize 2011 awarded to Dr Claudia Kaufmann and Swiss Council of States Member Dick Marty

Zurich, 25 October 2011 – Today upon the occasion of awarding this year's Fischhof Prize in the Zunfthaus zur Meisen in Zurich, the GRA Foundation against racism and antisemitism and the GMS Society of minorities in Switzerland have once again honoured two individuals who have committed themselves intensively to human rights for many years in various roles and who have rendered outstanding services working for the rights of minority groups as well as against racism, discrimination and suppression.

On 25 October 2011, the GRA Foundation against racism and antisemitism and the GMS Society of minorities in Switzerland awarded this year's Fischhof Prize, with prize money totalling CHF 50'000, to Dr Claudia Kaufmann, Ombudswoman of the City of Zurich, and to Dr Dick F. Marty, FDP Swiss Council of States member for Ticino and member of the Council of Europe. Once again, this year has seen two individuals honoured who have rendered outstanding services for the rights of minorities, respect and enlightenment as well as in the battle against exclusion and racism of any kind through both their attitude and deeds. Nanny Fischhof-Barth from Zurich founded the prize, which is awarded every two years in memory of her sister, who lost her Swiss passport through marriage to a Belgian, was no longer admitted into her homeland and was thus murdered by the Nazis as a Jew. She was also grateful that an Austrian Jew was welcomed into Switzerland in the war and thus later became her husband.

Claudia Kaufmann was awarded the Fischhof Prize 2011 in recognition of her pioneering work for the equality of women in Switzerland, in acknowledgement of her services for the rights of travelling people in Switzerland, in particular for strengthening the trust between the authorities and Yeniche, Sinti and Roma people, for whom she performed exemplary work, and as thanks for her courageous actions to help every person to gain the rights they are entitled to, irrespective of origin, gender, skin colour, culture or religion. All in all, she has proven herself to be a reliable advocate of human and personal rights in our country.

Dick Marty is receiving the Fischhof Prize 2011 as thanks for decades of unerring work as a lawyer and politician for the rule of law and human rights in Switzerland and abroad, in acknowledgement of his courage when investigating secret prisoner transportation and camps in Europe, as well as in recognition of his courageous enquiries into war crimes on prisoners during the war in Kosovo. All in all, he has taken a prominent stance to promote law and justice with no regard for himself.

At an impressive celebration with many guests, Cécile Bühlmann, former member of the National Council, spoke in praise of Claudia Kaufmann. Prof. Daniel Thürer, Professor of International Law at the University of Zurich, presented a speech about Dick Marty.

For additional information:

Dr Ronnie Bernheim
GRA President
T +41 (0)79 662 66 50

Cécile Bühlmann
GMS Vice President
T +41 (0)79 469 90 02