



For young people who **inspire** the lives of others

**News release: 15 January 2009**

**Prime Minister  
honours inspirational young role models at No 10  
to launch 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of Diana Award**

Today (15 January 2009) twenty young Diana Award Holders, from across the UK, will be honoured by the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street for their compassion and extraordinary success at bringing about stronger communities and changing the lives of those they touch. The Diana Award is a unique lifetime honour that publicly recognises and develops positive young role models for society.

The reception will officially launch the Diana Award's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year and demonstrate how this community of young people continue to grow and play a crucial role in building cohesive communities that will change our society to the mutual benefit of us all.

The compassion and commitment of Diana Award Holders lives on from generation to generation. To mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, twenty young people, who have received the Diana Award over the past ten years, will be attending the event. They include;

- A young carer who cares for both her parents and nine siblings as well as giving a huge amount to her community. She has a passion for politics and is one of the youngest members of the National Youth Parliament.
- A teenager who was diagnosed with Spina Bifida from birth and is part of the British Swimming Squad and takes part in Tessa 2012 academy for Elite Athletes. He has since become an inspiration himself, both to other wheelchair users and young people in his community.
- One of the first people to receive the Diana Award for her community work, in particular a film made to tackle the issue of sexual harassment. Over the past ten years this young person has continued to contribute to her community and now works for a charity with young people at risk of offending.

The Diana Award was created in 1999 as a memorial to Diana, Princess of Wales, by the UK Government Memorial Committee, chaired by Gordon Brown, who continues to give his active support.

**The Rt Hon Gordon Brown MP, says:**

"Over the past ten years the Diana Award has celebrated the life-changing work carried out by young people in their local communities, a fitting tribute to Princess Diana's own service to the people of Britain.

"The awards have become a national institution and it gives me great pleasure to welcome award winners from the past decade to Downing Street.

"These young people are true heroes and this is a special opportunity to recognise their courage and achievements. They are truly building the good society in which we all want to live."

**Maggie Turner, Director of the Diana Award, says:**

"We are delighted to be launching our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary year at 10 Downing Street. We believe that this award should be embedded as part of our Nation's heritage for future generations. The impact of the Diana Award is immense and we know that young people carry this lifetime honour with pride and a sense of duty as active citizens for the rest of their lives."

For more information on the Diana Award or to make a nomination please visit [www.diana-award.org.uk](http://www.diana-award.org.uk).

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**For more information:**

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**Notes to Editors**

The Diana Award was set up by the Government's Memorial Committee in 1999. It was one of the official memorials set up by the Government's Memorial Committee, chaired by Gordon Brown, to commemorate Diana's memory. In February 2007 it became a newly launched independent charity.