

The Theodor-Heuss-Prize for the year 2006

is awarded to

James D. Wolfensohn

for his extraordinary personal commitment to the cause of the Roma in Europe.

From his youth he has focussed his personal and professional attention on the question of poverty at many different levels, from global to local, and he has applied his knowledge and his skills to the manifold problem fields that are linked with and created by it. To become President of the Worldbank, therefore, was the fulfilment of a long standing ambition. During his presidency he never abandoned his aim to change the Worldbank into an instrument for the worldwide struggle against poverty and especially for developing strategies to achieve a lasting reduction of poverty .In this spirit he has been leading in initiating and launching the “Decade of Roma Inclusion; 2005-2015”, a major and unprecedented project against the indispicable poverty and open discrimination faced by the Roma people wherever they live or attempt to settle in the societies of the now united Eastern and Western Europe. After centuries of discrimination this minority still today experiences the actual denial of basic rights to them by society. In Germany their situation is hardly acknowledged. This is not only unacceptable for the Roma themselves, especially in view of the life perspectives for their children; it also involves the potential for increasing economic, social and cultural conflicts in the process of growing together in Europe and thereby great dangers for its democratic development.

The Theodor-Heuss-Prize 2006 goes to an honest mediator in the global balance of interests who is particularly committed to minorities and who, by showing ways into the future, encourages in an exemplary way the young generation. For this we owe him deep respect and gratitude.

Stuttgart, April 28, 2006

Ludwig Theodor Heuss
Chairman

Jutta Limbach
Chairman of the Board of Honours