

Letter from President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. of the United States of America on the occasion of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's 57th Annual Awards Dinner, which honoured Prime Minister Mario Draghi with the 2022 World Statesman Award

19 September 2022

I send my warmest greetings to everyone gathered for the Appeal of Conscience Foundation's 57th Annual Awards Dinner. And I congratulate my friend Prime Minister Mario Draghi on earning the 2022 World Statesman Award for his work to advance human rights around the globe. Prime Minister Draghi has been a powerful voice in promoting tolerance and justice, and I thank him for his leadership.

All of us are united in a common purpose: to love one another, care for each other, and leave [no] one behind. Even during the most difficult times, when the clamor of hatred and division is constant, our faith leaders and communities urge us to heed our better angels. They remind us that, despite our differences, we are all our brothers' and sisters' keepers and every person deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.

Since 1965, the Appeal of Conscience Foundation has fought for the religious freedoms and human rights of people everywhere. Under the leadership of Rabbi Arthur Schneier and his principle of "live and let live", you have united people of all faiths and backgrounds. You have led by the power of your example, brought the value of mutual understanding to the world [stage] and prepared the next generation to act with courage, character, and conviction.

I am honoured to have the Appeal of Conscience Foundation as a partner and clarion moral [voice] as we work to protect the freedoms of people of all faiths. May you continue advancing freedom, peace, and human rights around the world for many years to come.