

RIGHT LIVELIHOOD AWARD ACCEPTANCE SPEECH  
BY CARRIE DANN  
STOCKHOLM, DECEMBER 9, 1993

Distinguished guests, Honorable Members of Parliament, ladies and gentlemen.

I am grateful and honored to be here in your country.

First I want to thank the Right Livelihood Award committee and all the people that worked hard to have a traditional indigenous person as one of your recipients of this award. I am just one of the many indigenous persons that work on the right to live on our land in our traditional ways. The right to practise our religious belief as our Creator instructed us

I am from the indigenous nation of the Western Shoshone People, the heart land of the Great Basin, also known as Nevada. I was born and raised there in our traditional ways. I am a hard working person raising livestock on the Western Shoshone land. I have spent most of my life around livestock and crops, don't know too much about anything else.

We, the human children of this Earth, all have our own cultures and traditions, languages, and we all like to keep them, as they identify us as one of the many kinds of peoples of the earth.

The indigenous people believed that this earth (land) is our Mother, as Sweden, a small part of Europe, is your Mother. Our Mother, the land (Earth) gives us all the necessities of life. It feeds us, gives us clothes, shelter, and cradles us.

Our indigenous situation now, today, is such that there is no way to forget or ignore the past. To do so would be to ignore the current situation. Knowing that it is maybe just about half who still live on the land where our ancestors lived thousands and thousands of years ago. Many of these nations still maintain our traditions that have survived numerous atrocities, and teachings still go on today.