

Remarks by Dr Sev Ozdowski for the opening of new Scientology Headquarters in Sydney 3 May 2014, OAM

I'm honoured to be here with you on this special day! I know you have all worked very hard to make this happen. So welcome to everyone, and my best congratulations on the opening of your Headquarters here in the heart of Sydney!

Having worked in the area of human rights for decades, I can tell you the most important aspect of rights awareness is *education*. Human rights require a constant alertness to maintain them. But they also require an understanding of what it is you are maintaining. Because, it's a raw simple truth that you have to understand something before you can *do* it. And only with that in place, can we then make human rights *real* to people.

And that is after all what we are committed to and why you have dedicated yourselves to this field for the past 60 years. The education of youth is factually what will improve this world. For they are the catalyst for change and the guarantors of a future free of injustice. That is why I chose to champion your program such as speaking at your Youth for Human Rights forum at the New South Wales State Parliament.

Indeed, this initiative is effective and far-reaching in a time when we need to be.

- Because whether it's the message of human rights unfurled on our central George Street...
- Curriculum materials provided to our schools throughout the nation...
- Or hundreds of radio broadcasts to aboriginal communities across the interior of Australia...

You *are* bringing human rights to life by making them integral part of your mission.. And thereby educating our coming generations to safeguard the rights and freedoms of *all* Australians.

Then again, you don't only take responsibility for what happens within our borders. You ask how can Australia remain secure when human rights are at risk in our neighbourhood? Thus in Timor-Leste, Youth for Human Rights partnered with the UN Peacekeeping Mission. They activated students as human rights emissaries, translated education literature into the local dialect, and even provided a platform for gang leaders turned peacekeepers. Here was a powder keg ready to explode any moment—a nation on the brink—but this campaign advanced stability. It empowered the country's young people, and did so through human rights education *of* and *by* youth.

Furthermore, not only did it provide vital help to the UN, assisting them to complete their humanitarian mission, but in so doing it reached 20% of the entire population. And that is simply outstanding!

Thank you very much and congratulations on your beautiful new building! May this be a marvellous base for your vital humanitarian work across all of Australasia.