

## **The Gavin MacFadyen Award 2019**

Press Release.

From Eileen Chubb, *Compassion in Care & The Whistler*  
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I am proud to announce that the courageous Journalist and publisher Julian Assange is the winner of this year's Gavin MacFadyen award; this is the only award given solely by whistle-blowers.

As a whistle-blower who has seen widespread abuse and torture inflicted on vulnerable people, it was the media that helped us to protect those with no voice.

Having campaigned and supported over 7000 whistle-blowers from all sectors, I know that when you are standing alone against the might of multi nationals or governments, that the only champion you need is someone with the courage to publish the truth.

The most common thread that ran through the reasons for nominating this year's winner can be summarised in one sentence: "What will happen when the next abuse, corruption, crime or misconduct needs exposing, will other media be too afraid to publish the truth?" This is not a question that should ever be asked in any civilised country.

As a journalist, I am ashamed of the silence that has prevailed whilst this persecution of a courageous truth teller is taking place.

For the past months I have continually seen UK people waving placards with the word "Democracy". If Democracy does not champion free speech and a free press, then it is a reprehensible imitation. It is the duty of every genuine journalist to stand up and expose the immoral punishment of Julian Assange.

We are giving this year's award to a man who has the courage to publish the truth and has sacrificed so much as a result.

We, as whistle-blowers, by virtue of our experience, have a very long list of villains but a very scant list of champions and you have been voted number one champion of truth.

Thank you Julian Assange for everything you have done to expose the facts, no greater service can be given to the public and we are sorry your sacrifice has yet to be recognised by the public whose interest you serve.