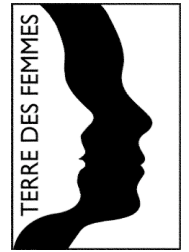


**Berlin, 19.04.2012**



**Dankesrede von Christa Stolle,  
Bundesgeschäftsführerin von TERRE DES FEMMES, anlässlich ihrer  
Nominierung für den International Women of Courage Award 2011 von der  
amerikanischen Botschaft Berlin**

Dear Ambassador, dear friends and colleagues, dear members of my family, dear ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you very much for your remarkable and wonderful words about my work and organisation which are deeply appreciated. Thank you also to your staff for organising this reception, and for inviting some of my companions and colleagues, who have supported me over the years in the everyday struggle for a better world for girls and women. I am so grateful that all of you have joined me here today for this special occasion.

I am very honored and proud to be nominated for the international Women of Courage Award, and of course, I would not be nominated without my long association with TERRE DES FEMMES.

TERRE DES FEMMES and I belong to each other day and night. It was the best decision I made 28 years ago to work for the goals of this organisation and to question every day how female genital mutilation, trafficking of women, forced prostitution, honor crimes or domestic violence can be reconciled with Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights „All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights“.

This obvious lack of gender equality all over the world drives me „crazy“ and makes me work even harder for the rights and equality of women.

When I started at TERRE DES FEMMES right after my university studies, as the first paid staff member, I took the opportunity of developing the organisation in a professional way, which included new methods of fundraising, which I have to say, is a constant issue and problem for the organisation.

I also wanted to increase public awareness of the issues concerning TDF, in particular violence and discrimination against women and girls.

These changes proved highly successful, and TDF is a well-known and influential non governmental organisation within Germany. We have brought about some favorable changes in legislation and we have personally supported hundreds of women and girls who have been violated or abused.

It is a great honor for me and my companions to have been invited this afternoon, and I would like to give you my heartfelt thanks for your recognition and appreciation of TDF. You are helping enormously to strengthen our purpose and mission. I think we have found some very good friends in the American embassy.