



THE PRIME MINISTER



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Autumn traditionally brings with it dark nights, but these are lit up every year, not only by the magic of Diwali, but also by Ahimsa Day. For me, when I think of Jainism, I think of the care and compassion it offers for every living thing and this award is the embodiment of what every Jain stands for.

We often hear news about fear, threat and uncertainty in this world, but the wonderful spirit that Jainism has brought to this country can fill us all with hope for a better future. It embodies British values of understanding, cooperation and equality, which have forged ties with others from outside their own community.

Let me also pay tribute to the Institute of Jainology on their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. They have played an instrumental role in driving forward initiatives to promote Jainism, through education, culture, or awards such as this one.

Following in the distinguished footsteps of Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama, let me congratulate this year's winner, Ann Cotton of CAMFED; I hope that we can all learn something from her endeavours.

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