



**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

5 March, 2015

## Grassroot Diplomat Announces Diplomatic and Political Award Winners

**London, UK – March 5, 2015** – Diplomatic consultancy Grassroot Diplomat today hosted a star-studded event to announce the political and diplomatic winners for the 3rd Annual Grassroot Diplomat Initiative Awards at The May Fair Hotel.

Amongst the winners were **Councillor Karen Ballamy** of Waltham Forest for her inspiring work on poverty action, Ambassador of Kuwait **HE Khaled Al-Duwaisan** who is the longest serving diplomat working to combat religious extremism, Director of *Bridget Jones 2* **Baroness Beeban Kidron OBE** on her campaign on FilmClub and the internet iRights project, Palestinian Representative **Professor Manuel Hassassian** for his outstanding contribution on raising Palestinian issues, Minister of Business, Innovation and Skills **George Freeman MP** for his rural entrepreneur leadership with The Norfolk Way, and the Ambassador of Tunisia **HE Nabil Ammar** on his efforts to re-connect businesses and civil society past the Arab Spring revolution.

The Grassroot Diplomat Initiative Awards recognises the achievements of UK-based diplomats and politicians who are representing civilian interests at the highest level. Winners were chosen out of 60 shortlisted nominees including **Dame Tessa Jowell MP**, **Harriet Harman MP**, and Permanent Under Secretary **Julian Brazier MP** in the mix.

Grassroot Diplomat also provided the title of ‘Honouree’ to Romanian consul **Dr Razvan Constantinescu**, Gibraltar Representative **Albert Poggio OBE**, **Baroness Finlay of Llandaff** for her important work on changing medical legislations, the Mayor of Lambeth **Councillor Adedamola Aminu**, **Frank Field MP** on his dynamic work on climate change, and the Ambassador of Bahrain **HE Alice Thomas Samaan**.

Talyn Rahman-Figueroa, the founder and Executive Director of Grassroot Diplomat notes: “The Grassroot Diplomat Initiative Award is an amazing collection of government representatives who have proven themselves to be the voice of businesses and civil society, everywhere. I hope to create a culture of positive role models and bring trust back into our politics through our winners and outstanding nominees.”

This year the 29-year-old Director wore a jewel-encrusted Moroccan dress by Maxim as part of her diplomatic representation of the world.

### **About Grassroot Diplomat**

Grassroot Diplomat is a non-profit diplomatic consultancy that aims to bridge the gap between civil society and political leaders. As an independent agency, Grassroot Diplomat shows no allegiance to a solitary government but will act in the interest of the people, no matter where they are or what state their country is in. We provide assistance in strengthening policy-related projects and matchmaking with relevant government officials and institutional bodies that can make a difference.

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*Ambassador of Kuwait HE Khaled Al-Duwaisan with Grassroot Diplomat Director Talyn Rahman-Figueroa*



*Waltham Forest Councillor Karen Bellamy with Grassroot Diplomat Director Talyn Rahman-Figueroa*

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*Baroness Beeban Kidron OBE*



*Palestinian diplomat Manuel Hassassian*



*Tunisian Ambassador HE Nabil Ammar*



*BIS Minister George Freeman MP*

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*(HONOUREES L-R) Albert Poggio OBE, rep for Bahrain, Dr Razvan Constantinescu, Talyn Rahman-Figueroa, Baroness Finlay, Councillor Adedamola Aminu, Frank Field MP*

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