



## CLARENCE HOUSE

It gives me the greatest pleasure to send my warmest good wishes for The Sikh Forum International Annual Dinner.

Our Sikh community has a long tradition of demonstrating courage in the face of adversity, and in defence of shared values. My wife and I were deeply moved when we were joined by our Sikh friends at the Neuve-Chappelle Memorial in Northern France, in July, to honour the memory of the many soldiers of South Asian origin who fought with such bravery and tenacity during the First World War. These are ties that help to bind us together and we were delighted to see how strong the military relationship remains when we visited the 18th Sikh Regiment while we were in India last month.

Your "stewardship of the soil" is also something in which I have taken a deep and sustained interest. Some of you may, perhaps, have heard a little about a book I have written, called "Harmony", which tries to highlight the importance of restoring balance in our lives and the vital connection with Nature which modern society seems intent on destroying. During my visits to the Punjab, most recently last month, I cannot tell you how heartened I have been by the determination of local people to embrace this concept of seeing Mankind as a part of Nature rather than apart from Her.

I also wanted to pay tribute to the incredible generosity and selflessness for which our Sikh community is so well known. I am particularly grateful for the support that The Sikh Forum International has provided to my Prince's Trust, bringing opportunity to young people from our most disadvantaged and vulnerable communities and enabling them to fulfil their talent and potential.

I wish you all a most enjoyable and successful evening.