



MOTHER TERESA  
MEMORIAL AWARDS  
FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE  
2018

<b>Dr. Abraham Mathai</b> Former Vice Chairman, Minorities Commission Chairman	<b>P.C. Thomas</b> Former Union Minister Patron	<b>Mahesh Bhatt</b> Noted Film Maker Patron	<b>Tushar Gandhi</b> Great Grandson of Mahatma Gandhi Patron	<b>Adv. Rizwan Merchant</b> Eminent Lawyer Legal Advisor
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Press Release

17<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Harmony Foundation congratulates Mother Teresa Awards Laureate, Arunachalam Muruganantham on the adaptation of his life story on the silver screen

**Mumbai:** We congratulate India's "Menstrual Man" on the forthcoming film 'Pad Man' which is an onscreen adaptation of his life story. What a befitting way to commemorate as well as expand the ambit of awareness, influence and impact of this social innovator! Harmony Foundation extends its heartiest congratulations to the team of 'Pad Man' for making such a socially relevant film. This cinematic adaptation spearheaded by the remarkable trio- Akshay Kumar, R. Balki and Twinkle Khanna will kick-start a revolution of awareness, acceptance and social change.

**Harmony Foundation is proud to have awarded Arunachalam Muruganantham the prestigious Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice in the year 2013 which led to him being conferred thereafter with Padma Shri in 2014.** The Harmony Foundation hosts the Mother Teresa Memorial Awards for Social Justice annually was started in the memory of Mother Teresa, a noble and virtuous soul, to honour those who have excelled in various humanitarian endeavours. The Award was first instituted in the year 2005.

A social entrepreneur par excellence, Arunachalam Muruganantham has dedicated his life to addressing one of the taboo subjects: menstruation. He is credited for restoring dignity to women in rural India as well as provide employment to them through his invention of a low-cost sanitary pad-making

machine. He has brought about awareness to the traditional unhygienic practices around menstruation in rural India.

Harmony Foundation's Mother Teresa Memorial Award for Social Justice is given to individuals or organisation for exceptional service to humanity; past recipients of which include global leaders and icons such as Nobel laureates **Ms. Malala Yousafzai, H.H. Dalai Lama, UNHCR- UN Refugee Agency**; current Ghanaian President **Nana Akufo-Addo**; former Prime Minister of Malaysia **Dr. Mahathir Mohamad**; former Deputy Speaker of the United Kingdom's House of Lords **Baroness Caroline Cox** and Aid Groups like **Medecines Sans Frontieres**, the largest volunteer medical organization worldwide, and **White Helmets**, which is currently providing aid to war-ravaged Syria; **Mercy Corps**, global humanitarian agency; famous Hollywood personality & UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador **Priyanka Chopra**.

Harmony Foundation has positioned itself as *an authority on identifying and commemorating key international and national figures* who have changed their countries and communities through their *humanitarian and social justice work* along with highlighting the work of emerging leaders based on the theme finalized for the year. Last year our theme was 'Compassion Beyond Borders' with a special focus on children who are refugees. **The Foundation has finalized the theme for 2018 as "Empowerment of the Girl Child" which complements the Government of India's initiative: 'Beti Bachao; Beti Padhao Yojana'.**

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