

My name is Cathy Silberman. I am honored to deliver this message from Rochelle Sobel, president and founder of ASIRT and a proud member of the board of the Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety.

Dear Friends

Perhaps the moment of silence that we are about to observe in memory of our loved ones who perished in road crashes, will not be a moment of silence at all.

Perhaps in this moment, we will allow ourselves to hear the echo of the voices of beloved family members, friends, and colleagues,

whose voices we have ached to hear - many of us, for long and painful years.

Perhaps they will urge us to raise our voices , to become even more impatient,

To continue to protest, advocate, petition, convene, measure, enact, and enforce,

Until that promise that we all carry in our hearts, is fulfilled...

the promise that someday, beautiful lives will **no longer end abruptly and senselessly**, on the roads of the world.

Perhaps they will encourage us, if we feel that our gains seem too small, advances too slow, and our work too fraught with challenges.

Perhaps they will assure us that important progress has been made by the world road safety community; and that **this progress has been remarkable**. And that the momentum is growing, palpable and inspiring.

Perhaps they will congratulate us on the efforts and vision of our magnificent Global NGO Alliance, one-hundred and forty seven strong, which has become a **passionate and powerful collective force for road safety**.

Perhaps they will applaud this, the second Global Ministerial Conference for Road Safety - where government officials, NGOs, international organizations, victims and their families - have gathered together to **assess, take stock and reaffirm our commitment to forge new and innovative strategies to improve world road safety**.

They will surely remind us of the preciousness of each moment,

the unique, irreplaceable beauty of each individual,

the fragility and tenuousness of life,

the devastation that a split second can bring,

the unforgivable crime of inaction,

and our sacred responsibility to make this a road safe world for all.

We honor the memory of those who died in road crashes.

They shatter our hearts, strengthen our resolve and compel us to action. Let us listen to and honor their resounding and determined voices as we stand in silence.

Please rise.