

# H.R.H. Prince Carl Philip's speech, 13 June 2015

*(The spoken version shall take precedence)*

**Your Majesties, Your Royal Highnesses, Excellences, ladies and gentlemen,  
dear family and friends, and last but not least, my dear wife Sofia.**

Sometimes you have to make a key decision; a decision that will determine your entire future and represents who you are and who you want to be.

And that often takes courage. Courage to not take the easy route just because it is easy, but courage in taking the difficult road because it is the right one.

Sofia, we never chose the difficult road – it chose us. Each time we tried to turn away from it, love brought us together again.

Every time we tried to be apart from each other, my heart was empty. And eventually, finally, Sofia, we made the right choice – a decision that makes me the world's happiest man. Sofia, you fill my life with love and happiness.

Today we have proven that love conquers all.

Everyone who has got to know you, knows that the only thing greater than your outer beauty is your inner beauty.

My friends, you all know that Sofia's strength and courage is not just about our love. It is more than that.

When you established Project Playground, it was so much more than a project, thousands of miles away in South Africa. It was hundreds of children and young people who could dare to hope for a better future. It was a hope for a better world. A world built on empathy, commitment and love.

You stand up for strong values with passion and courage.

The most important of them all is perhaps: to dare to be yourself, to dare to stand up for yourself. And most of all, that love knows no boundaries, regardless of religion, gender or background.

Sofia, everyone here who knows you, knows that you are a hard-working woman with a strong sense of duty and loyalty to the things you do. I am absolutely sure that you will take to your new role with a great sense of responsibility and hard work.

To my father, mother, dear sisters and brothers-in-law:

I don't have the words to describe how happy I am that you have welcomed Sofia with open arms. Your support has meant a lot to us, through the good times and bad. I know I speak for all of us when I say that you have enriched our family, Sofia.

And I also want to thank your family, Sofia, who have welcomed me with equally open arms. I have been blessed with a second, wonderful family – a family with so much warmth, love and consideration.

I would also like to thank the Swedish people for the support we have been shown for our love. The happiness we have seen has really warmed our hearts.

Dear friends – I would like to take you on a little journey which began on 24 June 2014. One of the most important journeys of my life. I drove 670 kilometres, there and back in 9 hours, or in 32,400 seconds.

My destination was the employment agency in Mora – and no, I wasn't looking for a new job! I was on the way to meet my future father-in-law to ask him for Sofia's hand in marriage. Never has a journey been as significant to me as that journey.

Dearest Sofia, today is the beginning of a new chapter in my life. In your life. In our lives. I don't know what we will face in the future, but I know that with your love, I can take on any challenge.

Your intellect, commitment and courage are inspiring. I am proud to say that you are my role model. Sofia, I am excited by the thought of doing so much alongside you.

I have got a lot left to learn in life, and a lot left to do. It is a long road, and I am immensely looking forward to travelling it with you.

But I've already learnt the most important thing I need to know, and that is: love conquers all.

Sofia, you are the best. I love you.

Dear Friends!

Please join me in the most important toast – a toast for a love that conquers all. A toast to my beloved and beautiful wife Sofia.