



*honoris causa,*

Madam Chancellor, it is my privilege to present Nurjehan Mawani, a trailblazer and champion of justice, gender equity, and inclusive development who has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of immigrants and refugees in Canada, and to advance rights and educational opportunities for women and girls internationally.

Born in Kenya, Ms. Mawani is a lawyer by training and served as Solicitor of the Supreme Court in England and Wales before being called to the British Columbia Bar in 1985 and joining the Canadian Public Service in 1986. During her long and distinguished career in government, she served as Chair of the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada where she issued the groundbreaking guidelines on Women Refugee Claimants Fearing Gender-Related Persecution, an international first recognizing the ways in which women experience violence and conflict. In her role as Commissioner of the Public Service Commission of Canada and Senior Advisor on Diversity to the Clerk of the Privy Council she was a strong advocate for a merit-based, non-partisan and representative public service.

Her career has been one of innovative leadership to protect human rights and strengthen critical human and institutional capacity. Following her 19 years in government, Ms. Mawani served as Diplomatic Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network to the Kyrgyz Republic and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan where her work straddled diplomacy, negotiation, policy and operations. As Ambassador, she partnered with multiple stakeholders to improve quality of life, ensuring that women's voices were included