SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY
FALL CONVOCATION
October 6, 2021

Convocation Address
By Dr. Nurjehan Mawani

The degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa, was conferred on Dr. Nurjehan Mawani during the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences ceremony on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. The following is Dr. Mawani's Convocation address:

Elder Syexwalya, Chancellor Vrooman, President Johnson, SFU Senators, honoured guests and above all, the graduands and your families:

I m honoured to have the opportunity to speak to you from SFU Burnaby, located on the traditional unceded territories of the Sḵwx̱wú7mesh, sḵwx̱wú7mesh, sə̓lílwətaʔ, x̌ʷməθkʷəy̓əm and kʷikʷəƛ̓əm nations. I m also honour _1 1 Te(d)0.27 (2.3 (ot h)-5 (ob)9-5 (e)]TJ 0 _1 1 Te(Td (c eruptions on the societal landscape both in Canada and globally. Eruptions that have highlighted the tremendous inequities and injustices thar run deep in our societies.

The trauma of uncovering the unmarked graves of Indigenous school children, the targeting and deaths of racialized people, particularly black and Indigenous peoples, and the overall increase in hate crimes and hate motivated activities. Covid and

by the education and experience you have gained at FSU which is founded on the

One, practice intellectual humility. Be willing to listen actively to diverse narratives so that you can more meaningfully respond to the challenges that you will need to deal with.

Two, don t turn away from injustice; don t be silent   you are not powerless. You can find creative ways to use your agency. At times, this in itself may not be enough, and you will require to create and mobilize networks. It is crucial that your networks are not transactional but that they are based on trust and integrity. I can assure you that this will make all the difference.

Three, step outside your comfort zone; be bold; take risks; embrace discomfort to be a disrupter for positive change.

You graduates are at a threshold moment and I am so excited to see how you use your
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