

Thank you all. Madame Chancellor, President Petter, honoured guests, faculty and staff, ladies and gentlemen, it is my great pleasure and honour to be at Simon Fraser University and speak to you. I am so moved and thrilled to have this honour, but it's important for me to dedicate this honour to the ones who are not with us today. To my beloved daughters, my parents, those who are dying in silence in this world, those who have no voices. Let me start by congratulating you and your families as you begin your professional life. Today you own, as the graduates, you celebrate, the translation of your dreams into reality. With your commitment and determination, it's a promising gathering and day for you, with the strong belief in the presence of hope.

Today reminds me of the first day at the medical school in Cairo. I wanted to succeed. I wanted to be a medical doctor. I wish I will be in your place to celebrate my commencement, but I wasn't able. I wanted to finish my degree to go back home, where my parents and my people are waiting for me to help them. I want to share with you my life experience and life story because stories have a meaning and lessons to learn and there are serious challenges facing us as individuals and the world which we live. My life as a Palestinian refugee was war. I was fighting just to survive on daily basis in a time we see in this world many who are living to fight. I faced many challenges. As I said my life was war but as life increased, my aches, my pain and suffering at the same time life amplified my maturity, awareness, strengths, and didn't allow all the difficulties to kill my dreams. I found myself in a life as challenging as the raging and wild ocean. I realized that the suffering in this world is man-

this is where hope can begin. Because it's man made, what can we do to challenge this man-made

hatred or despair and instead vowed to fight for all regardless of religious or political beliefs, and in particular to fight for reconciliation and peace and justice for all in the world. I fully believe words are stronger than bullets. Even if words cannot stop bullets, they can deflect the poisonous hatred from the

universe. Your education is about creating a world of justice and hope and eradicating injustice. Academic education must have a social and human impact in our world because I fully believe establishing a safe secure, just and peaceful world is the function of women's education and role. Daughters for Life walks the talk and transcends borders and ethnicity and religion and I appeal to the Chancellor and President, to the staff of Simon Fraser University to join this foundation, to help these young women to be graduates from among you and to give scholarships to these girls from the Middle East who are succeeding from hardship. Hardship must never be a challenge to these young