

Mouna Elias Haraoui

Doctor of Humane Letters

June 2, 2017

Mr. President, AUB Trustees, Alumni and Faculty...

I am very touched and grateful for this honorable degree and thank you for including me in the great company of three Arab luminaries.

Hoda Akil, Ahdaf Soueif and Simon Chahine, I wish continuous vigour to what you greatly contribute to our World.

President Khuri,

Thank you for acknowledging my contributions to society and believing in the value of my work. The years of strife that we lived in Lebanon, brought the best out of me. It would not have happened without my husband, President Elias Hraoui empowering me; it would not have happened without the Lebanese people inspiring me.

My public involvement facilitated addressing the urgent humanitarian issues during and post civil war. My commitment emanated from my heart. I believe in human rights and that all people are equal in the eyes of God. This is why I was determined to help the less privileged; they have the right to live decently in our society. In parallel to supporting children with chronic diseases, Type 1 Diabetes and Thalassemia, I focused on improving the state of Lebanese women and safeguarding our national heritage. I did it with the invaluable help of many great persons.

Today, on June 2, 2017, I would like to dedicate this Honorable Degree to my late husband Elias, my family and my team at the Chronic Care Center.

Dear Graduates,

I would like to salute the parents and families who facilitated the means for you to attain higher education from a prestigious university, AUB.

I would also like to express my strong admiration for those among you who managed to attain this goal through priceless sacrifices and countless efforts.

You are the future of your country. I do hope that part of your skills will be invested in improving the state of humanity. My congratulations to you and to your proud families.

As to me, this Honorable Degree **empowers me even more** to persevere in my contributions to Lebanon's well-being. I will continue walking through that path for as long as my health permits it.

Thank you