

## **Ms Jane Louise Sloan**

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present to you an outstanding candidate for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*): Ms Jane Louise Sloan.

Jane has dedicated much of her life to uplifting the community. With over 30 years' experience in international development, and 20 years in leadership roles advancing gender equality, social inclusion, and the rights of women and girls. Jane's grassroots approach to supporting communities through empowering individuals and organisations to make real change has bettered the lives of many across Asia and the Pacific, and serves as an example for others to follow.

Jane's commitment to social inclusion and advocacy has been evident throughout her life. While a student at the University of Adelaide in the early 1980s, Jane was actively involved as a contributor to student magazine *On Dit*, student radio 5UV, and Adelaide-based broadsheet disability and social issues newspaper *LINK*.

She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) majoring in history and politics in 1984 and began work with the Ministry of Youth Affairs, moving to the Department of Local Government and then the South Australian Tourism Commission. In 2000, Jane received valuable guidance from Nelson Mandela, who advised her that if she really wanted to make a positive difference in the world, she should focus on conflict resolution and citizen-led change.

When advice was given to you by Nelson Mandela, it would be sensible to have considered it carefully. Indeed, Jane obtained a Masters in Peace and Conflict Studies with merit from the University of Sydney in 2002. She was also the founding CEO of the Social Entrepreneurs Network at the time. At the London School of Economics and Political Science, Jane undertook the Atlantic Fellows Program with the Inequalities Institute focusing on developing understandings of inequalities and working to find real-world solutions.

Jane's long commitment to making a difference in the social sector is evidenced by her track record in leadership positions in organisations such as World Vision, the Global Fund for Women, and the International Women's Development Agency. As Vice President of Development with Women's World Banking in New York, Jane supported a global network of financial institutions to provide women with micro-finance loans which they then could invest in education, health care, and entrepreneurial activities for themselves and their families to help them break the poverty cycle and realise their potential.

While Executive Director at the International Women's Development Agency, Jane created new environmental, water, and sanitation programs with women's groups across Asia and the Pacific, and drove a regional program to elevate Pacific women's representation in local government and national parliaments.

One of her notable accomplishments involved catalysing the Asia Pacific Breakthrough: The Women, Faith, and Development Summit to End Global Poverty. This extraordinary summit convened women's organizations, faith communities, and the international development sector. Its impact was substantial, resulting in the procurement of a remarkable \$1.2 billion in fresh funding to support programs benefiting women and girls.

During her time with Marie Stopes International, Jane led the development and implementation of an expanded clinical operation in Fiji and outreach work to rural communities in Pacific countries to support women's access to health services.

In her role at the Global Fund for Women, Jane helped fund frontline women's movements working to end civil wars, lead action on climate change, document human rights abuses, end child marriage, and get more women into political office.

Currently, Jane is the Senior Director of the Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality Program at The Asia Foundation. In this role, she leads efforts to end gender-based violence and trafficking, amplify women's voice and leadership, expand girls access to education, and increase women's economic security and opportunities.

Jane has received numerous accolades and honours in recognition of her outstanding contributions. Notably, these include a Woman of Distinction Award from the Asia Pacific Women's Business Council, a Churchill Fellowship, an Australian Government Endeavour Award, an Advance Award and a Human Rights Medal presented by the Vietnam Women's Union. She was also granted a Future Summit Scholarship by the Australian Davos Connection to the World Economic Forum and earned recognition as a Vincent Fairfax Ethics in Leadership Fellow.

Today we extend that recognition, in awarding the highest honour the University can bestow. Chancellor, I am delighted to present Ms Jane Louise Sloan, Bachelor of Arts Honours, Master of Peace and Conflict Studies, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).

Chancellor, it is with great pleasure I present to you, Jane Sloan, for admission to the Honorary Degree of Doctor of the University (*honoris causa*).