

Ms Anita K Bhalla OBE
Hon DLitt (3pm)

Anita Bhalla is renowned for her extensive and varied media career. She has spent more than 25 years with the BBC, in roles ranging from Community Affairs news correspondent across radio and TV to setting up the BBC Asian Network in the West Midlands, which is now a national digital service. Anita has been a documentary maker, Managing Editor of a BBC local radio station and has presented Channel 4's *Eastern Eye* as well as several other national programmes.

She was the BBC's Head of Political and Community Affairs for England, and as Head of Public Space Broadcasting, led the Big Screen project. She was also President of Circom, a European-wide group of public service broadcasters.

Anita is currently Chair of Performances Birmingham Ltd (Town Hall and Symphony Hall); Chair of the Creative City Partnership; Director of the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP; and a recent past Chair of mac (Midlands Arts Centre).

She has also worked as a Community Relations Officer in Leicester, and a community worker in Handsworth, Birmingham, where she set up and ran one of the first hostels for Asian women, also dealing with wider issues around welfare and social care. She is a qualified teacher, and taught language and employment skills to industrial workers, alongside training their managers in effective communications.

Anita has served as a member of Birmingham's Social Inclusion Commission and as a trustee of the Children's University. In 2012, she was the High Sheriff for the West Midlands.

She has won awards including the Commission for Racial Equality's Race in the Media National Television News Award, and the Windrush Broadcaster of the Year. In 2009, she was awarded an OBE for her services to broadcasting and communities.

285wds

Orator: **Professor Lawrence Young**
Pro-Vice-Chancellor