

Oration for Shabir Randeree
To be held at 11am on Tuesday 16 July 2019
by Professor Simon Swain

Vice-Chancellor

Our honorary graduand this morning is the banker, entrepreneur and philanthropist SHABIR RANDEREE. It is a great pleasure to introduce him to this Congregation.

We are also delighted that Shabir's family has been able to join us on this special occasion, and we warmly welcome them to Warwick.

Shabir Randeree was born in South Africa and came to England at the age of 15. He obtained his BA in Accounting and Finance at Kingston University, and his MBA at Schiller International University, London, subsequently attending executive training at London Business School (LBS) and Harvard University. Shabir has more than 25 years' experience in real estate, venture capital, finance and community banking. He is Chairman of the DCD Group; Deputy Chairman of Al Baraka Bank South Africa, ex-Chairman of the European Islamic Investment Bank plc and a founding director of Bankislami and the Islamic Bank of Britain plc. A highly respected business leader, he has worked to encourage entrepreneurship and enterprise through involvement in business education and in policy-making at the national level. He was co-chair and

mentor for the YPO-LBS programme ‘Growing Your Business’ at LBS, and sits on the board of Sussex Place Ventures, LBS’s early-stage venture capital company. At the national level, he has served on the Ethnic Minority Business Task Force, 2007-2009, and the Asia Task Force, 2011- 2014 and was a key member of the Islamic Finance Task Force, launching the first government Sukuk (the Islamic equivalent of a bond) in July 2014.

Shabir’s philanthropic engagement has been motivated by three principles: increasing opportunity; promoting inclusivity, and encouraging inter-faith understanding. He has long been involved with MOSAIC, a charity founded in 2007 by the Prince of Wales to create mentoring programmes and opportunities for young people from deprived communities. He was appointed to the MOASIC Board in 2009 and established the Mosaic Associates Scheme bringing in very senior individuals to support the charity’s cause. Shabir is now MOSAIC’S Chairman and since 2016, has been a council member and trustee of The Prince’s Trust. Shabir continues to emphasise the value of education in transforming lives, creating opportunities and promoting inclusivity. He is Chair of Governors of Westminster Academy in West London, a non-selective secondary school with a major scholarship scheme to send low-income students to UK universities. He is also Chancellor of the University of East London. In his inauguration address in 2016, he quoted his fellow South African countryman (and, after this ceremony, his fellow honorary graduate of this

University), Nelson Mandela, who described education as ‘the most powerful tool we can use to change our world’. Shabir’s work to increase inter-faith understanding follows naturally from his endorsement of Mandela’s statement. He is a trustee of the Woolf Institute which engages in the academic study of relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims, and a Champion of the Three Faiths Forum, which supports good intercultural relations. Here at Warwick, Shabir’s charity, the Randeree Charitable Trust, supports Islamic education at our Centre for Education Studies.

In 2013, Shabir was awarded a CBE in recognition of his services to business and education as well as his philanthropic support of charitable causes. In 2014, he received the Excellence in Enterprise Award, presented by the Prime Minister at the Muslim News Awards UK. We at Warwick are delighted to honour him to day, recognising a businessman, educationalist and philanthropist whose values strongly echo those of this University.

Vice-Chancellor, in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, SHABIR RANDEREE.

591 words