



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF WOMEN FORWARD INTERNATIONAL



We have seen the power of academic research to transform those who listen to what could be heard as the call of the New Humanity.

This call comes from those many young graduate students of international relations – the next generation of leaders – who thirst to go beyond leadership based on traditional hierarchy, and instead, to live leadership to bring about a new time and place in which all are free

and equal. In this time and place, all are able to make their best contributions to their communities and nations.

The academy is changing. To the delight of many faculty and students, this change is part of a worldwide trend in which all institutions are beginning to rediscover their reason for existence.

At its origins, the university was and can be a haven for human progress – one that allows us to positively transform the world.

No longer will it be possible for faculty, students, and administrators to carry on their work inside the academy while so many live in abject poverty and so many are not free, outside.

Inside the academy, we will no longer live by the standards of outmoded norms — with members of our community ignored or underrepresented, such as so few tenured women faculty – so few African American tenured faculty and students – to name just a few.

We will not continue to watch the same conflicts recur time and again because their root causes have gone unaddressed.

The study of sexism opens the door to the understanding of all power relationships – you end one ism, you end all of them. They are interrelated. Gender equality has been proven a better indicator of a state's peacefulness than other factors like democracy, religion, or GDP.

We can no longer omit the study of that which deconstructs, creates, and transforms social relations and power – that which is at the heart of all conflict – and what is truly required to meet the missions of our leading international relations graduate institutions globally.



Women Forward International, despite its name – is not about women – it is about Human Unity.

It is an action-oriented study program for international relations graduate students – women and men – who want to bring about progress towards human unity in every field, from security, to technology, to business, to the arts.

Bridging the arts with the study of international relations will enhance and make student research more relevant and can generate human empathy through direct experience and collaborative working relationships. The shared discovery will facilitate the process of change.

Women Forward International enables students to participate in organizations by partnering them with non-profits, corporations, governments, and multilateral institutions on cutting edge research that advances women. This collaboration has a powerful ripple effect on all fronts: the institutional culture of the partner organization, the university, and the communities and countries in which they operate. It also contributes to making the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals a living reality, achieving a better and more sustainable future for all.

Faculty at the leading graduate schools consider **Women Forward International** a long-awaited transformation of an outdated template for the teaching of international relations and the practice of diplomacy.

It is time to achieve positive outcomes. The world needs real solutions to real problems and leadership based on service.

You have an opportunity to support **Women Forward International's** mission. We joyously look forward to the opportunity to work with you to bring about human unity.

Thank you for joining us at this turning point in history.

Kent Davis-Packard, Ph.D.

President & Executive Director

Women Forward International

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(202) 379-4878