

My Lord and Chancellor,

Kate Kinninmont MBE is the Chief Executive of Women in Film & Television in the UK. She began her career in education, working with both children and adults. Kate organised adult literacy classes and outreach programmes for those who had missed out on a formal education. Early on she realised that there were opportunities for disadvantaged women to enter the workplace and even took it upon herself to arrange childcare for a group of stay-at-home mums, so that she could coach them through their GCSE English and help get them back into work.

Her advocacy work led to her being featured on radio so often that she was eventually offered a job by the BBC. Kate worked first in radio, then in television; researching, producing and directing consumer affairs, education and religious programmes, documentaries, children's dramas and even a popular Sunday evening animal programme, The Animals Roadshow.

Born in Glasgow, Kate was the first of her family to attend university and she believes that her modest upbringing instilled in her both great determination and a keen appreciation of the opportunities that education has given her. She also believes that education and career development are lifelong activities and she has sought every opportunity to develop her own knowledge and skillbase.

Television has enabled Kate to travel all over the world. She has interviewed IRA members from their prison cells in Belfast, spent time in the Malaysian rainforest living and filming with an aboriginal tribe, and travelled around the Pacific Rim with the Chinese chef Ken Hom. Kate has filmed with Omar Sharif, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Armistead Maupin, John Cleese, Tom Conti, Charlotte Rampling, June Whitfield and Emily Watson among others. She has even enjoyed a personal poetry recital and house tour by the famous Russian poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, during which Kate recalls Yevgeny being badly hung over.

For the past ten years, Kate has been a tireless advocate for women in the media. Less than 10% of television drama is directed by women, only 4% of film composers are women. and senior roles, and consequent pay, still go disproportionately to men. She has endeavoured to highlight widespread injustices with patience and good humour and, above all, to celebrate women and their successes. Kate's work was recognised in 2014 with an MBE for services to women in the film and television industry. Along with Ralph Fiennes and the American Director, Richard Linklater, she was recently made an Honorary Associate of the London Film School and she is a Visiting Professor at the University of Hertfordshire.

My Lord and Chancellor, I have the honour to present Kate Kinninmont MBE, and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Arts, *honoris causa*.