

GEORGE MITCHELL ALUMNI



Photo: Leyla Hussein

Leyla Hussein elected as new Rector of The University of St Andrews

[October 16, 2020 Natalie Pereira Leyla Hussein, rector, The University of St Andrews](#)

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After running alongside fellow nominees Dr Fiona Hill and Mr Ken Cochran, Dr Hussein was revealed to have attained most votes in an email sent by the Student's Association Director of Wellbeing, Emma Walsh.

Voter turnout reached 40% of the student body.

Dr Hussein is a British psychotherapist and social activist. Having found the Dahlia project, she aims to support women and girls

who are survivors of female genital mutilation (FGM).

Dr Hussein also serves as the Chief Executive of Hawa's Haven and as the global ambassador for The Girl Generation. Furthermore, she founded Safe Spaces for Black Women, a global network which builds wellbeing communities.

In her manifesto, Dr Hussein noted that her three core aims are access, action, and accountability. Over her term length, Dr Hussein strives to create safe and accessible spaces, increase affordable accommodation, and improve mental health support in the community.

Furthermore, Dr Hussein intends to increase transparency between the student body and the University.

Regarding her initiative to increased accountability, Dr Hussein cited key events such as COVID-19 and St Andrews Survivors, a social media platform which anonymously posts allegations of sexual misconduct at the University. She aims to achieve justice for survivors of sexual misconduct as well as holding to account COVID-19 guidance.

Speaking of the election results, Dr Hussein's Core Campaign team said, "We are positive that she will take on this role with the same dedication, compassion, and ambition to drive change she applies to all of her work."

"Together, we can make history."

