

Laudation

Honorary Doctorate

Doctor of Philosophy (*honoris causa*)

Oluwafunmilayo **Olonisakin**

'Funmi Olonisakin, vice-principal of King's College, London, was the first black African woman to be appointed as a full professor at King's, based on an illustrious career as a top researcher in the field of Peace and Security Studies. Her publications underline her deep commitment to knowledge-building in her discipline and the mentorship of young scholars in nurturing a new generation of African scholars through the establishment of the African Leadership Centre.

Her distinctive contributions to research lie in her clear identification of the issues underlining the changing nature of peace and security in Africa, especially in peacekeeping, security sector reform and governance, women, peace and security, and youth/children affected by armed conflict. She has advanced theoretical and conceptual debate and reshaped the contours of the critical literature in her field.

Her research provided early thinking about operational environments in which UN peacekeepers co-deploy with peacekeepers under the authority of regional organisations. It was the first to draw lessons for UN co-deployment in such conflict settings, and her research on UN peacekeeping in Sierra Leone produced the first inside story of a United Nations peace operation, subsequently used as a textbook for UN peacekeepers training for deployment.

In 2015 she was appointed by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon as a member of the Advisory Group of Experts for the Review of UN Peacebuilding Architecture, and she currently serves on the Advisory Group of Experts for the UN Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. Apart from these prestigious appointments which recognise her outstanding academic and practitioner qualities and experience, she still serves on a wide range of international advisory boards.

'Funmi Olonisakin is an exceptional and internationally renowned African scholar, university administrator and practitioner, a woman with a deep and abiding commitment to and impact on international efforts to promote peace and security, an innovative leader in her field and in the global higher education domain, an accomplished mentor, a creative thinker and one of the great intellectuals from our continent, dedicated to improving the human condition and demonstrating African agency in global affairs.