

Introduction Rosemary Kabaki – Honorary Doctorate:

Ddirprwy Ganghellor, Ddirprwy Is-Ganghellor, graddedigion, gyfeillion. Pleser o'r mwyaf yw cyflwyno Rosemary Kabaki i dderbyn gradd Doethur er Anrhydedd, Prifysgol Aberystwyth.

Pro Chancellor, Pro Vice-Chancellor, graduates and supporters. It is an honour and a privilege to present Rosemary Kabaki with an Honorary Doctorate of Aberystwyth University.

Our University's mission is to “change lives for the better”, and we do so by growing knowledge—that means, by “nurturing and sharing ideas”—and also by building community, by “bringing people together to learn from one another and provide mutual support.”

For me, Rosemary Kabaki is an embodiment of this mission. She has made an outstanding contribution to the protection of tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of civilians living in the midst of armed conflict in East Africa, Southeast Asia, and Europe.

Rosemary works with Nonviolent Peaceforce, an organisation that uses unarmed strategies to protect civilians from violence, which can include activities like providing protective presence for people under threat or helping to build community early warning systems.

Currently, she is the Head of Mission of Nonviolent Peaceforce South Sudan and has previously led the mission in Myanmar. Prior to that, she also worked as a Human Rights and Civilian Protection Expert in the South Caucasus, with NGOs and the civil service in her native Kenya, and as a Psychology lecturer at Kenya Medical Training College.

In these roles, Rosemary has embraced research as a strategy to grow knowledge and build community – among others, by collaborating with university researchers, including here at Aberystwyth.

The Department of International Politics has worked with Rosemary since 2016. She is a member of one of our major international collaborations, the “Creating Safer Space Research Network”, which has explored how people keep themselves safe in 11 countries across the world.

We have also collaborated on projects developing creative methods for community engagement, and on Participatory Action Research, in which community members are trained to become researchers of their own contexts.

And we are about to start a new exciting project together in September, which will develop the worldwide first dataset to quantitatively *measure* the effectiveness of unarmed civilian protection in reducing violence levels.

This honorary doctorate is a unique opportunity to honour an individual who has built research into her work and has made a real difference to protecting people from physical harm and forced displacement, thereby definitely changing lives for the better.

Ddirprwy Ganghellor, mae’n bleser gen i gyflwyno Rosemary Kabaki i dderbyn gradd Doethur er Anrhydedd, Prifysgol Aberystwyth.

Pro Chancellor, it is my absolute pleasure to present Rosemary Kabaki with an Honorary Doctorate of Aberystwyth University.