

MEDIA ADVISORY

Judge Navi Pillay to deliver keynote address on the 51st Anniversary Celebration of International Women's Day at Unisa

Approved for public release.

Date: Thursday, 05 March 2026

This year marks exactly 51 years since the United Nations declared International Women's Day (IWD) in 1975. To celebrate this milestone, the University of South Africa (Unisa) in partnership with Unisa Women's Forum (UWF) and the South African Women in Dialogue (SAWID), will host the International Women's Day Celebration on Monday, 9 March 2026, at the Unisa Muckleneuk Campus in Pretoria.

International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated annually as a focal point in the women's rights movement, bringing attention to gender equality and focus on issues such as social justice for women to have equal access to education, reproductive rights, economic growth and to eliminate violence and abuse against women.

This year's keynote address will be delivered by a prominent jurist and human rights advocate **Judge Navanethem (Navi) Pillay**, under the theme **"Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls."**

Judge Pillay is the first Black woman Judge of the High Court. She made significant contributions to human rights while serving as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, a judge on the International Criminal Court and the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. Her career includes defending anti-apartheid activists and contributing to the establishment of key rights for political prisoners on Robben Island.

She has been recognized for her work with honours from various institutions, including honorary degrees from Durham University, City University of New York, the London School of Economics, and Harvard Law School.

From fighting apartheid in South Africa and leading the International Justice Mission, these contributions make Judge Pillay a powerful amplifier of women's voices.

The event will take place as follows:

Date: Monday, 09 March 2026

Time: 09:00

Venue: Function Hall, 4th Floor Kgorong Building, Unisa Muckleneuk, Pretoria

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event or join via the following link:

https://youtube.com/live/n2Fr3_jQGBw?feature=share



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For RSVPs and interview request, please contact Senior Media Officers: Media Relations Tommy Huma on 072 218 6197 / 012 429 3981/ humatm@unisa.ac.za OR Edgar Rathelele on 063 731 5456 / 012 429 6712/ ratheme@unisa.ac.za

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