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## **UCT to host VC's Open Lecture by renowned feminist Chimamanda Adichie**

**READ:** [Full communication by UCT Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng.](#)

**SOUND BITE:** [Listen to an audio version by UCT spokesperson, Elijah Moholola.](#)

The University of Cape Town will host internationally acclaimed author and renowned feminist, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who will deliver the Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture virtually on Wednesday, 28 July 2021.

UCT Vice-Chancellor Professor Mamokgethi Phakeng announced on Friday that Adichie is scheduled to address the next VC's Open Lecture.

"We are excited to have Adichie as the next speaker for the VC's Open Lecture, which will be our second for this year.

"We are looking forward to this this exciting lecture where Adichie's eloquence and perspective as a writer and public speaker will inspire all of us to look beyond stereotypes and social norms to recognise our common humanity," said Phakeng.

The Vice-Chancellor's Open Lecture series was established to enable anyone in the community, whether they are connected to the university or not, to have the benefit of hearing first-hand from academics, researchers and innovators who have distinguished themselves in their areas of expertise.

The topic for her lecture is in the process of being finalised and will be communicated in due course.

In 2003, Adichie released her first novel, *Purple Hibiscus*, which won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. Her other award-winning books include *Half of a Yellow Sun*, which won the Orange Prize; and *Americanah*, a 2013 National Book Critics Circle Award winner. Her book, *Dear Ijeawele, or A Feminist Manifesto in Fifteen*

*Suggestions*, was published in March 2017, and her book *Notes on Grief* was published earlier this year.

A compelling storyteller and influential cultural critic, Adichie has delivered two landmark TED talks, with the first being "The Danger of a Single Story" in 2009. Her 2012 TEDxEuston talk, "We Should All Be Feminists," started a worldwide conversation about feminism and was published as a book in 2014.

She graduated summa cum laude from Eastern Connecticut State University with a degree in Communication and Political Science. She holds a Master's in Creative Writing from Johns Hopkins University and a Master of Arts in African History from Yale University. She was awarded a Hodder Fellowship at Princeton University between 2005 and 2006 and a fellowship at the Radcliffe Institute of Harvard University between 2011 and 2012.

Adichie has honorary doctorates from Eastern Connecticut State University, Johns Hopkins University, Haverford College, Williams College, the University of Edinburgh, Duke University, Amherst College, Bowdoin College, SOAS University of London, American University, Georgetown University, Yale University, Rhode Island School of Design, and Northwestern University.

She is a member of both the American Academy of Arts and Letters and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Adichie is also the co-founder of Farafina Trust, a Nigerian non-profit organisation that promotes reading, writing, social introspection and engagement with society through the literary arts.

***ENDS***

***Issued by: UCT Communication and Marketing Department***

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