

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Khadija Bakhtiar Receives International Award**

January 06, 2025: Islamabad— Teach For Pakistan Founder and CEO Khadija S Bakhtiar credits Pakistan, particularly its youth, for inspiring the sense of possibility and a can-do attitude that recently led to the conferment of the **2024 Elise and Walter A. Haas International Award** on her. The University of California, Berkeley annually confers the award on one alumnus from outside the US for distinguished service to their country. Khadija brought this honor to Pakistan after a 50-year hiatus; Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was the first Pakistani to receive this award in 1973.

In his citation remarks at the Winter Commencement at UC Berkeley, Chancellor Rich Lyons said, “Khadija’s efforts and accomplishments have helped catalyze a shift in the national conversation around education in Pakistan, a new emphasis on equality, and the need to increase government investment in teacher leadership models. Her work has influenced policy changes at both federal and provincial levels, impacting teacher recruitment and training nationwide.”

Reflecting on her journey while speaking at the award ceremony, Khadija said she was humbled to think that what began as a gleam in a fresh graduate’s eye 15 years back became a national movement; “this would not have been possible without the encouragement and support of the current leadership at the Ministry of Federal Education and Professional Training, their predecessors and countless other partners and well-wishers all over the country.”

Over 500 Teach For Pakistan Fellows have taught more than 30,000 students across 132 public schools in underserved rural and peri-urban communities in Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad, with the number of indirect beneficiaries running into hundreds of thousands across Pakistan. Seventy percent of Teach For Pakistan Fellows continue to work in education after completing their two-year teaching Fellowship. Those who branch out into other professions become flagbearers for equity, enhancing the pipeline of human talent that Pakistan needs to bring about systemic change across sectors.

"Building a movement is generational work. Many people will make important contributions to the mission before they move on. But at least some people must stay the course over the long haul. They must anchor the movement until the next generation of anchors is ready. Pakistan and our connection to this land inspire faith in the possibility of a better tomorrow," **Khadija** said in her acceptance speech.

Her other alma mater, Lahore University of Management Sciences, had earlier recognized Khadija's services in the education sector with the 2019 Vice Chancellor's Alumni Achievement Award.

For more information, visit our website: www.iteachforpakistan.org