

31 August 2016

Dear Ms. Hausmann,

It is with deep appreciation that I have received your letter honouring me as a recipient of the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award 2016. This appreciation is tempered by humility and a passion for ensuring that the hard-won rights of women and girls are maintained, mainstreamed and upheld at all levels of society in order that gender equality is achieved in our lifetimes.

Mrs. Roosevelt set a high standard in her life and in her work to promote and achieve a goal of common humanity and dignity for all people of the world. As one of the six drafters, Mrs. Roosevelt's efforts are truly immortalized in the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights – the fundamental human rights to be fully protected, for and by all peoples and nations.

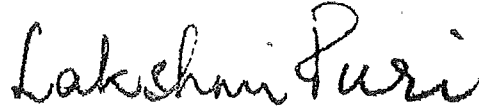
Gender equality remains one aspect of human rights which still requires our attention and efforts to make a lived reality for the peoples of the world. UN Women's core mandate of gender equality and women's empowerment is driven by an enduring belief in women as agents of change. I have been pleased to focus the latter portion of my international career on the establishment, promotion and achievement of the normative gender equality standards by which the international community and individual nations are guided. Your recognition of my work in this area as well as my previous international relations and peacebuilding work is a humbling tribute.

Ms. Bettina Hausmann
President & Executive Director
UNA-USA San Diego/ UN Foundation
San Diego

Given the calibre of previous recipients of this award from the United Nations Association of the United States of America, San Diego Chapter, I am truly honoured to accept and be counted among their ranks.

I hope to provide details of my availability to participate on 22 October at a later date.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lakshmi Puri". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L' and a distinct 'P'.

Lakshmi Puri
Assistant Secretary-General
Deputy Executive Director