



alice salomon award

Presentation of the Alice Salomon Award
on 13 January 2018 during the New Year Reception of the
Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin

Dear Sir or Madam,

On 13 January 2018, the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin will present the Alice Salomon Award to Urmila Chaudhary during its New Year Reception.

We cordially invite you to this occasion at the Berlinische Galerie.

With the Alice Salomon Award, ASH Berlin honours people who have made outstanding contributions to the emancipation of women and the development of social work, and who – in a figurative sense – continue the work of Alice Salomon in today's world. Previous award-winners include Rugiatu Neneh Turay, Barbara Lochbihler, Fadéla Amara, Alice Shalvi, Marisela Ortiz and Norma Andrade.

We look forward to seeing you.



Prof. Uwe Bettig, President of ASH Berlin

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Urmila Chaudhary

Urmila Chaudhary is a member of the Tharu people, grew up in South-West Nepal, and was only five or six years old when her family's financial hardship caused her brother to sell her as a "kamlari" in Kathmandu.

"Kamlari" means "hard-working woman" in English. Girls between the ages of six and 16 are sold or leased to wealthy families by their parents. The parents thereby receive a small income of 40 to 50 US dollars per annum. The girls are serfs, without any rights at all. 16-hour working days, most frequently in the home but also as agricultural labourers, are the norm. They are not allowed to attend school.

Urmila Chaudhary was also denied any schooling. She taught herself to read during the time of her imprisonment. She obtained her freedom at the age of 17. For the first time in her life, she was now able to attend a school.

In 2010, she co-founded a charitable association, the "Freed Kamlari Development Forum" (FKDF), of which she later became the president. The girls give theatre workshops on trauma, plan empowerment campaigns, organise demonstrations and, through to their educational work, have managed to free more than 13,000 girls from Nepalese households.

In order to focus on her own education, Urmila Chaudhary gave up the presidency of the FKDF, but remains involved in the association's activities. Her great dream is to study law, become a lawyer and fight on behalf of young Nepalese girls and their future prospects.

For her services and as a representative of the "Freed Kamlari Development Forum", this women's advocate is now being presented with the Alice Salomon Award. Current president of FKDF is Sunita Kumari Chaudhary who will also take part in the awards ceremony.

New Year Reception of the ASH Berlin and formal presentation ceremony for the Alice Salomon Award 2018 Saturday 13 January 2018 at 8 pm

Welcome address: Prof. Dr. Uwe Bettig, President of the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin

Excerpt from the documentary film "URMILA – For Freedom" by Susan Gluth

Jury rationale & honorific speech: Prof. Dr. Sabine Toppe, Professor of the History of Social Work at ASH Berlin

Presentation of the Alice Salomon Award 2018 to Urmila Chaudhary by Prof. Dr. Bettina Völter, Vice President of ASH Berlin

Presentation of the organisation "Freed Kamlari Development Forum" by Urmila Chaudhary and Sunita Kumari Chaudhary

Musical contribution: Hagay Sofer (handpans instruments)

As part of its New Year Reception, the university will then invite its guests to talk amongst themselves over a buffet dinner.

The awards ceremony will be hosted by Sandra Teuffel, Director of the University Communications Department at ASH Berlin.



photos © susan gluth

"I have always wanted to see change in my country. But what can I do to help bring this about?"

(Urmila Chaudhary)

All guests of the awards ceremony have the opportunity to view the Berlinische Galerie for free between 6 pm and 8 pm. Among other things, the venue is currently exhibiting a highly critically acclaimed retrospective with works by the Berlin artist Jeanne Mammen.

We ask that you please register via e-mail to award@ash-berlin.eu by 8 January.

Event venue: Berlinische Galerie

Landesmuseum für Moderne Kunst, Fotografie und Architektur
Alte Jakobstraße 124–128
D-10969 Berlin

Transport connections

U1 Hallesches Tor, U6 Kochstraße/Hallesches Tor, U8 Moritzplatz,
By bus: M29 Waldeckpark, 248 Jüdisches Museum

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