

**Jón Atli Benediktsson, Rector of the University of Iceland, – Opening address –**

**Cynthia Enloe**

**Feb. 4, 2020 – Hátíðarsalur**

Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, former President of Iceland, Prof. Cynthia Enloe, Dear Guests.

We have gathered here today to honour Prof. Cynthia Enloe, who is globally known for her academic work and activism and who is especially close to us at the University of Iceland through the Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme.

The GEST Programme has developed since its inception in 2009 from an experimental academic programme to an institution with international recognition and strong ties with other institutions of higher learning, as well as international development partners and various transnational government actors and civil society organizations. Hosted by the University of Iceland as a part of Iceland's contribution to development cooperation efforts, it was affiliated with the United Nations University for a number of years but as of first of January this year, it, together with other three former UNU training Programmes in Iceland, became part of GRÓ: The International Centre for Capacity Development – Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Societal Change in Iceland under the auspices of UNESCO. While hosted at the School of Humanities at the University of Iceland, Department of Languages and Culture, GEST is an interdisciplinary programme – a site of educational experience, where diverse academic and cultural perspectives meet.

Prof. Enloe has been closely associated with the University of Iceland for over a decade, not just through the GEST programme, but also because of her interest and participation in the university's conferences, seminars, public lectures, and discussion forums. She has been with the GEST programme almost from the beginning. Her impact on the global visibility and

reputation of the programme and the university has been incalculable, while her influence on individual students, fellows, faculty, and staff has been deeply felt and appreciated. Her works have been a staple of University of Iceland syllabi in several disciplines, including political science, history, cultural studies, and geography. She has also participated in seminars in the department of history.

Prof. Enloe is Research Professor at the Department of International Development, Community, and Environment, affiliated with Political Science and with Women's and Gender Studies, all at Clark University in Worcester, Massachusetts. Her career has included guest professorships in Japan, Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, Fulbright-funded stays in Malaysia and Guyana, as well as lectures in dozens of countries. Her writings have been translated into many languages.

Professor Enloe's fifteen books include *Bananas, Beaches and Bases* and *Maneuvers: The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives*. Dr. Enloe's latest book, published in 2017, is *The Big Push: Exposing and Challenging Persistent Patriarchy*.

Prof. Enloe has been awarded Honorary Doctorates by Union College, the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies, Connecticut College, the University of Lund, and Clark University. At Clark, she has, among other things, served as Chair of Political Science and the Director of Women's Studies. Dr. Enloe has been awarded Clark University's Outstanding Teacher Award three times. She is the recipient of a number of other awards including the Susan B. Northcutt Award; the Peace and Justice Studies Association's Howard Zinn Lifetime Achievement Award, the American Council of Learned Societies Charles Haskins Award and the McCoy Award. Cynthia is also an Honoree named on the Gender Justice Legacy Wall, installed in the International Crimes Court building in The Hague.

Professor Enloe's feminist teaching and research have explored the interplay of gendered politics in both the national and international arenas, with a special focus on how women's labor is made cheap in globalized factories and how women's emotional and physical labor has been used to support many governments' war-waging policies – and how diverse women have tried to resist these efforts. Racial, class, ethnic and national, identity dynamics, as well as ideas about femininities and masculinities, are common threads in her published work.

The University of Iceland is proud and honoured to present Prof. Cynthia Enloe with an honorary doctoral degree in recognition of her outstanding work on feminist theory, practice, and activism around the world and of her invaluable contribution to the GEST Programme and the University of Iceland.