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The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York, Inc.

PRESS RELEASE

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The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York Celebrates International Women's Day 2025

New York, March 19, 2025 –The Society of Foreign Consuls in New York (SoFC) proudly hosted its annual International Women's Day Celebration at the Consulate General of India in New York, honoring 14 exceptional women from its member consulates for their significant contributions in various fields, including business, government, academia, and community service. The honored countries include **Barbados, Bulgaria, Georgia, India, Kazakhstan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, The Philippines, Serbia, Thailand, and Türkiye**. The honorees were presented with certificates of recognition and bouquets, with their achievements displayed on-screen as they received their awards. Each honoree's biography is provided in [Annex 1](#) for further reference.

The event, which brought together the diplomatic corps, New York City officials, and international women leaders, underscored the importance of empowering women and recognizing their invaluable role in shaping society. In line with SoFC's ongoing mission to foster cultural exchange and diplomatic cooperation, this year's celebration also coincided with the 100th anniversary of the Society, further emphasizing a century of commitment to unity and progress.

H.E. Amir Farid Abu Hasan, President of SoFC and Consul General of Malaysia in New York, delivered opening remarks, highlighting the significance of celebrating women's achievements and reinforcing SoFC's dedication to recognizing female leadership within diplomatic and international communities.

H.E. Binaya Srikanta Pradhan, Consul General of India in New York, also delivered remarks, welcoming guests and emphasizing the importance of international collaboration in fostering gender equality. He highlighted India's commitment to empowering women across various sectors and expressed his gratitude for hosting this prestigious event.

H.E. Rauan Tleulin, Consul General of Kazakhstan in New York, provided closing remarks, reflecting on the achievements celebrated during the evening. He underscored the importance of continued diplomatic efforts to support women's leadership and acknowledged the role of SoFC in uniting consulates to promote meaningful initiatives such as this.

“This celebration is not only about recognizing the remarkable accomplishments of these women but also about reaffirming our collective commitment to supporting and uplifting future generations of female leaders,” said **SoFC’s President, Amir Farid Abu Hasan**. “As we mark 100 years of SoFC, we remain steadfast in promoting inclusion, empowerment, and cross-cultural collaboration.”

The evening also featured cultural performances representing the diverse traditions of SoFC member countries, with spectacular showcases from **India, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Georgia, and Mexico**.

In attendance were esteemed guests, including Commissioner **Edward Mermelstein of the NYC Mayor’s Office for International Affairs** who expressed their support for women empowerment initiatives and the vital role that international diplomacy plays in fostering gender equality.

The event concluded with a reception featuring a diverse selection of international cuisine, generously contributed by various participating consulates, including **Barbados, Bulgaria, Georgia, Guyana, Kosovo, India, Malaysia, Mexico, The Philippines, Serbia, Thailand, Türkiye**.

The **SoFC International Women’s Day Celebration** remains a cornerstone event in the organization’s annual calendar, reinforcing its mission to strengthen diplomatic ties while celebrating cultural diversity and women’s empowerment on a global scale.

For more information about the event or to inquire about future initiatives, please contact the Society of Foreign Consuls at:

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