

PROGRAM DATE: 2016-09-22

PROGRAM NAME: WOMANITY WOMEN IN UNITY

GUEST NAME: HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CANADA – SANDRA McCARDELL

| SPEAKER | TRANSCRIPTION |
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| DR. MALKA | Hello, I'm Doctor Amaleya Goneos-Malka. Welcome to Womanity – Woman in Unity. The show that celebrates prominent and ordinary African women's mile stones achievements in their struggles for liberation, self-emancipation, human rights, democracy, racism, socia economic class division and gender based violence. Joining us in the studio today in Pretoria is High Commissioner of Canada to South Africa, Sandra McCardell. The High Commissioners careers in foreign affairs has included assignments in Egypt 1994, Bosnia in Herzegovina 1998 to 2000, Lebanon from 2002 to 2003 and she served as the Canadian Ambassador to Libya in 2009 to 2011 both before and after the Libyan revolution. That must have been exciting. We'll definitely touch into that in more detail later. Welcome to the show. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Thank you. It's a great pleasure to be here this morning. |
| DR. MALKA | Now High Commissioner you are the High Commissioner of Canada to the Republic of South Africa. Can you share with us some of the work that you do in this area and the responsibilities associated with the position. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Sure. I think I might began by explaining that a high commissioner is the same as an ambassador many people, including my own mother, aren't aware of that and it does have to do with us, both Canada and South Africa being part of the Common Wealth and that's the difference in title. Here as High Commissioner to South Africa I cover this country but also Namibia, Lesotho, Mauritius and Madagascar so a little bit of a swath of Southern Africa. And I focus on building strong political relationships with those countries. Developing commercial relationships in way we hope will result in our shared prosperity. We manage a modest development programme here in South Africa, focused on Governance. We also have responsibilities towards our citizens in the consulate programme, visas and regional departments of our government are based here like national defence and our national police which cover a broader range. And so it's a very exciting portfolio. I had asked to come here. It was my first choice, when I got to pick my assignment, a year ago. And so I am delighted to be here. |
| DR. MALKA | And what's your greatest challenge in the role. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | I think right now the greatest challenge is going to be in meeting the expectations of my own government which came into power last fall and has sort of an exciting new direction from the engagement in Africa. That's a great opportunity but it does put pressure now to see that happen and I'm very much hoping that South Africa with its leadership role in this part of the, of the continent is a partner we can use to develop that. So certainly that's, meeting those expectations is a particular challenge in my own mind and I guess as well when I came in I really meant to develop the commercial relationship and I think you know challenges on commodities prices in both of our countries has made it that more difficult than I had anticipated. Those are some of the challenges but I think we'll find some good opportunities. |
| DR. MALKA | You mentioned that South Africa was your priority, why is that? |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | , I had wanted to come here, if you look back, you just mentioned a few of the places I had worked before I guess you could say I like interesting |

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| | <p>work. And so it wasn't on purpose but my career ended up being in a lot of sort exciting countries, great conflicts. I managed to hit one of them at a war period and although I have now promised my kids no more revolutions I did still want to come to a country I thought would have really exciting, interesting, engaging politics and South Africa has certainly delivered.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>It most definitely does.</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>, but at the same I wanted a chance to explore a continent I hadn't seen before, I hadn't been in sub-Saharan Africa and I think , you know for the family there was a desire for a great quality of life. So we've managed , on all of those.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>Now being a High Commissioner or Ambassador in Africa sometimes touches on sensitive points such as culture, religion and tradition. In your experience do you think female Ambassadors or High Commissioners face difference challenges to their male counter parts?</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>I think that woman are always judged differently and I would say woman in leadership positions are always judged differently. I would say specific to the career that I have taken there is diplomacy is certainly developed in an era when family structures were more traditional I think that the job and the requirement move frequently put pressures on the family and those are greater when it's the women whose the ambassador and not the man the support systems for spouse aren't the same when that spouse is a man. societies expectations of what a man should provide for family in terms of his own salary are much more challenging when you moving around and I'm the one that's moves us around. So I think that's it certainly isn't easy to do that these days when you are the women ambassador. In terms of the sort of professional part of things, I think you are judged differently. I think but may be not differently than women in leadership are elsewhere. You certainly judged in terms of you and your family. So if you have a greater professional, life but not so much of a family life you judged as being you know too ambitious or unbalanced. if you do have a family as is in my case I do you tend to be judged for you know whether you've been the mother you should have been. You might even judge yourself as to whether you've been the mother you should have been. So I think that's the kind of pressure men don't face in the same way. And I think as well I think because this was a job traditionally for men and even older men I was named my first ambassadorial post when I was thirty nine so I was even younger than the average at that point. I think there is a sense that if you don't succeed you haven't succeeded because you're a women or you're young, where as if a man didn't achieve the same objective it's because the circumstances were different.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>It moves from being a personal attack to, well it was some else's fault.</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>Ja. Ja, And I think so, I think women are judged on the fact that if they couldn't shame, you know they were a women and it wasn't really a women's job where as men are judged based on the circumstances around them. In fact I had one of the ambassadors I worked for earlier in my career made it very clear that he didn't think that this was a career for women and it certainly wasn't career for women in the middle east.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>Gosh challenges. But, I think the other thing that's coming through is that even the choices that we make as individuals are one thing but it's the societal pressures that are another thing, so as much as we as individuals make certain decisions and we have our family support and that is the decision you want to make as a family, you still have to contend with what the rest of the</p> |

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| | environment is dictating the norms of how men and women should be behaving. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | You know, absolutely and as challenging as that is for me, it's also challenging for the other members of the family. |
| DR MALKA | Now going back towards the roles of your work specifically on the Canadian foreign ministry side, we are increasingly functioning in a globally connected society, does Africa as a continent feature in the Canadian ministries strategic plans. You mentioned earlier that there was a re-engagement in Africa and if you can expand on some of the projects or collaborations that you are doing? |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Well actually it turned out to be a very exciting time for me to arrive as an ambassador in Africa. We are certainly under Prime Minister Trudeau who was elected in the fall of 2015. Looking at engaging in Africa in a way we haven't probably for most of the last decade. In the last few weeks alone we have had two ministerial visits, we had our Minister of National Defence go through East Africa and the DRC, our Minister of International Development and Francophone, go through West Africa, so certainly a degree of high level visits that we haven't seen a while. I think there was a parliamentary secretary visit as well. and so it began very quickly after their election at the COP21 in Paris we announced a series of new funding mechanisms to support environment and climate change. One of those was specifically a fund of a 150 million dollars for renewable energy specifically in Africa which was very exciting because when I arrived in my post here I think one of the first things that I was told by South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I was reminded that Canada had withdrawn from Kyoto at the COP 17 meeting hosted by South Africa and so I was delighted to be able to go back and say we've changed direction on that. |
| DR. MALKA | I thought for a moment you were going to say, and you went into load shedding. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | I, that's another issue, so we excited about renewable energy particularly here in South Africa, that Minister of National Defence visit was about us being more active on peace and security in the continent and so we have announced that we will be participating with several hundred peacekeepers in a mission in Africa, but they haven't announced which one. As well as there is an investment in African youth. We were talking a bit about your interest in, in digital but it's particularly about creating jobs for young people and focusing on jobs in digital industries. So that's kind of been across Africa. So there's a lot of things going on. |
| DR. MALKA | I think those are all fantastic initiatives, especially trying to empower and employ our youth. If I get my stats right it's something from eighteen to thirty five years olds accounts for sixty percent of the continent's demography. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | And I think probably if you looked at unemployment within that same age group the results would, you know sixty percent unemployment would probably be a low estimate, so it's really, it's really concerning and certainly you know we talked a little bit earlier about my experience in Libya, but you know certainly one of the things that the, the Arab Spring I think has taught us is that youth without opportunities isn't just lost potential for the future but it is potentially destabilising as well. So it's really politically and economically essential for the development of the continent that youth have a future they believe in. |
| DR. MALKA | You mentioned your time in Libya and that was both before the revolution and afterwards you were first hand witness to what could be described as history in |

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| | <p>the making. Can you share with us some of the events that stayed with you during that period. What was the atmosphere like, how did it feel?</p> |
| <p>SANDRA McCARDELL</p> | <p>There was, I have a lot of very, it was, certainly the most demanding, most exciting, arguably most difficult, most painful I guess moment of my career. I guess first off I would say that the element of surprises, you talk about the atmosphere, that's sort of what crosses my mind. You know I think and I mentioned youth without opportunity a few minutes ago but I remember back in the 1990's the UN put out an Arab development report which had highlighted you know demography and em, and economy going in the wrong direction, youth going up, economy you know going down and I think everyone understood that was going to hit a crunch point at, some point but I don't think anyone saw 2011 as that year and I really don't think anyone saw Tunisia as a place where it would begin. Tunisia's not normally sort of a particular influencer in the Arab world, you know may be Egypt, may be Syria you know those came later but Tunisia was the start. So I guess it was a surprise that it was unfolding, that it unfolded so quickly. The atmosphere was very tense but I think what's shocking when you're in it, was how fast events roll. I remember on a Saturday sitting on a beach having you know, pizza with my kids and my husband is Bosnian and he had spent the Bosnian war in <i>Sarajevo</i> under siege and we were talking about, sort of the tension in the air and he was explaining to me how before the war began in his country that he'd been out with some friends one night having sort of coffee and glasses of wine and only one of his friends was concerned enough to talk about leaving the city and when he woke up the next morning they were surrounded and it was that fast. And it was the sort of eerie parallel, we had that conversation on a sunny beach and the shooting starting in Tripoli that night and then we were stuck. My kids never went back school, they never saw their school mates again and after that things started to roll, flights get cancelled, people started to flood to airports, the borders trying get out. The resources you thought you had, you don't and talk about sort of dual roles. I mean my youngest was three years old so I mean I had three kids and at the same time I was the ambassador and I had citizens in the country that were looking for someone to help them get a way out.</p> |
| <p>DR. MALKA</p> | <p>It must have been an incredible period, one of the most demanding in your life both from a personal point of view and also in terms of, of the role that you were playing.</p> |
| <p>SANDRA McCARDELL</p> | <p>It was very tough and I think that's where the kind of support comes in so I owe a great deal to my husband for that, that he and the kids, we were days trying to get them out. They ended up getting loaded up on an American evacuation ship but the weather was bad and so they spent three days in port, by that time we were starting evacuate from the airport but I couldn't get them off the ship to get them to the airport so they could leave the country so that was very painful. Certainly there was thousands of people around the airport; foreign workers were trying to get out. There was no water, it was freezing, it was raining, it was winter, there was no toilets, there was no food. People died of exposure and you know whatever people say about the Libyan authorities at the time, there were thousands of desperate people outside that airport and thousands inside for that matter and you know and managing that crowd was incredibly difficult and strange. So that was certainly a demanding experience but as it unfolded one of the things I always, when people ask, did you see it coming, did you see it was going to go the way it has now, I think it's very difficult for people to understand that when you in those</p> |

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| | <p>circumstances there is no crystal ball, you don't get to see the future, so you're making decisions based on very imperfect, partial snippets of information you have about what's going on in an entire country and that's very challenging and the role of the media is very difficult as well in that they're under pressure to report on a story where they may not be present or may not know what's going on very well either. All of us are struggling with explaining the complexity to an outside world and at the same time you're very sort of vulnerable to, to information you're being given at either side may use to their advantage. It's just to say when they talk about the fog of war, it's very foggy and so you make the best decision you can at the time and Libya was a very particular case because it was the first to come up to the UN and as well I think that Gadhafi in particular was very much without allies in a way that few others would be. He was a particular character and certainly hadn't developed good friendships, shall we say with other countries that may have helped him out at that point. Anyway, best decisions are made, it's not in hind-sight I think you know you might choose a different path, if you don't have the benefit of hind-sight</p> |
| DR. MALKA | Shoo, but hind-sight you obviously you got 20/20 vision and you can see all the facts behind you, so... |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Ja, Ja. |
| DR. MALKA | Making the best of what you have. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Absolutely. |
| DR. MALKA | Today we are talking to the High Commissioner of Canada to South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Madagascar – Ms Sandra McCardell. |
| AD BREAK | |
| DR. MALKA | Today we are talking to the High Commissioner for Canada to South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Madagascar, Ms Sandra McCardell. We would love to receive your comments on twitter at Womanity Talk. In the previous segment the High Commissioner relayed some of her experiences, particularly touching on the volatility of the, of the Libyan revolution. She also spoke about the re-engagement with Africa, some of the initiatives coming through from an environment and climate perspective, renewable energy, peace and security and looking at how to address the employability of youth. Ambassador our show Womanity is all about gender equality, woman's empowerment and we spoke a little earlier about female leadership, how I think it's one of the critical factors and the future woman, whether that's in Africa or for that matter across the rest of the world. How do you see female leadership? |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>Yes, first of all I see woman leadership as completely natural. You know when I've, I've spent most of my career in the Middle East and in conflict areas which were very male dominated and I guess the thing that always struck me was that even in those very sort of masculine environments woman leadership is, is inherent every, first of all in every woman, but it, ever, it responds in the subconscious of everyone. Everyone listens to their mother and I think there's something deep in us that responds to female expression of authority not only because as children we are taught to listen first and foremost to the mother but also because there is a sense that women's authority comes with a sense of, of, of caring and team and collegiality. So I would say that I think that it's something that we need to recognise is absolutely fundamental in all of our societies. when I was in recently at the Aids Conference in, in Durban and there was the grandmothers advocating that once they had looked after their orphaned</p> |

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| | <p>grandchildren and I was struck about fundamental this expression of feminine leadership is. It's within the family, it's within society it works together, it sees a need and fills a need and so I think it's something that we should be very proud of. Now I think one of the other challenges in some cultures and societies, well let's maybe say it's all, is now to get that, what is inherent in our structure as human society and get that expressed, you know outside the home and outside the family. And I think that's where the challenge lies is that we sometimes fail to recognise women's roles outside of that family unit. So I see women's leadership as something that is incredibly powerful and has the real advantages of being based in the most first and fundamental relationship that young children have with any, any adult and because it brings together the group in the way that traditional male leadership does not.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>In many of the conversations I had with women about leadership, one of I suppose the common factors has been the perspective of inclusivity and consultation and hearing everybody's points of view. And sometimes I don't know if it's because they've made a point of acknowledging a person that their voice has been heard, that what they're saying will be taken into consideration when the overall decision is made.</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>I think that's a big part of it. I think as well that women are used to, to being part of a broader support network in the way that men are just expected to be strong independently. I know that within my own foreign ministry from the time that I was a junior officer we just sort of, we decided we'd have sort of a informal networking of lunches and coffees and sharing of experiences, so I think we were now used to that. I very, I personally very much subscribe to Madeline Albright's view, I think she was the one that said there was a special circle of hell for women that don't help other women, so I think that there is a natural support system of women helping each other succeed. I think as well that and the diverse roles that women are expected play mean that women are much more attuned to the needs of the entire group, and the group, not only being a peer, or the manager but in the sort of, the work environment, the employees as well. I think they are much better able to access their employees for who they are, in their entirety, what their strengths and weakness are as a person and to draw the best out of them I think that works very well and absolutely the willingness to listen and to, and to have the success be the success of the group, rather than the success of the individual.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>Now there are a few, sort of, enablers that have helped women succeed and apart from having a positive mind set, looking at how to develop themselves, there's also factors that come through from the point of view on, on legislation. Having people respect women's rights, those rights have always been there but there hasn't necessarily been respected. So taking into consideration the challenges that women have had to date, what areas do you think still need attention with regards to women?</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>So many. Ok you talked about women's legal rights and I think you touched on the most important point, I think most countries in the world have quite reasonably good legal frameworks for the rights of women. There are gaps but, but where the real challenges is seeing those rights implemented and, and respected and some of the areas that are most difficult to work on are those that require not the sort of traditional civil, political rights where it is you know just stay out of the way and things go well but much more an interventionist role by the government and so I would say education is the key women need to be well educated so that they can play their role fully in society so that they can understand what their rights are, so that they can demand those rights. , I</p> |

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| | <p>certainly in my own family I was brought up to make sure that I was always financially independent. I was sort of taught at a young age that that was key to, to me being able to live the life I wanted or treated the way I wanted to be treated partner, was my ability to make sure I was financially independent. Obviously very difficult unless you have education. All studies show that women who earn a dollar you know put almost all of it back into the family in contrast to men, so education which serves the economic independence of women also benefits the family longer term. So I think I'm not too original when I say education is key. I would also think that women's legal rights, this is a bit delicate and you referred earlier to culture. A lot of the, of the mistreatment or lack of opportunity to women comes out of the dynamic within the family. That's much more sensitive for the state to get involved in. Even in, in my own country for example we may have laws about violence against women but once you get into the family it becomes more complex, there's relationship of family and love there's under reporting, there's fear for you know what, what the rest of society will say, who will care for the children and so I think there needs to be much more support within the family so not legal rights in as much but those rights being translated down into sort of the family unit and expectations of how women should be treated.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>I had a colleague who she was writing a paper and she called it, I think it was "purse-strapped" and I said this is interesting what are you talking about and she said she was doing a study on Indian communities and she said you would have Indian women who would go out into the professional space, they were acknowledged for all of their achievements, regarded as equals but yet when they went into the family environment all of that changed. So we consistently have to deal with, it's a contradiction of what happens in one environment and what happens in another environment and playing these multiple roles.</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>Absolutely and you know many places that the, the stability and the success of the family unit is sort of the core of the maintaining the success of the community and so you know any disturbances to the traditional structures are, are very much threatening. but that's fundamentally where these changes need to happen the governments can establish laws, then it needs to make sure those laws are implemented but the cultural changes which are fundamental to women being able to express themselves and to be safe within their own homes, that a much longer fight that we're all working on.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>And keeping along the lines of legislation and governments and parliament, one of the things that have always struck me is parliamentary representation women in so called third world countries is significantly higher in some environments than some of the first world countries. So the inter-parliamentary union indicated the USA 96th position, UK 48th, France 60th, Canada 62nd and Africa, Rwanda, Senegal hold 1st and 6th positions respectively and South Africa is ranked 7th in the world. It almost feels as though female discrimination in society goes beyond wealth or poverty. So if you've got first world countries ranking up on the economic scale and third world on, at the bottom end but yet you've got this dichotomy.</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>Ja.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | <p>What's your opinion on this.</p> |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | <p>Well first of all, hats off to those African countries that have achieved, come much closer to achieving equality and representations in the parliamentary structures, I mean I think success should be acknowledged for what they are and, and where they are. In terms of how, I think there is a gap though in how that parliamentary representation translates into</p> |

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| | <p>what we were talking about which is the legal rights, the implementation of rights and the cultural shift. And I think may be some of the difference is that those parliamentary bodies ha, may have parity representation but how able are those institutions, how strong are they in the democratic process to be able to affect change to the condition of women. If there are women in those positions first of all are those institutions affective and then within those institution are women able to advance subject matter that encourages and empowers women from their positions or not. I mean certainly in some countries I think you see the women who are in positions of political power are there not so much because they're women but because they represent a powerful family or are closely affiliated to a male relative that once held power and so there position may be much more in line with a socia-economic group than their gender. and so that can I think may be mean in countries where you have higher representation in parliament, you not seeing the legislation translated through, but I think you're touching on an important issue and it's something I've seen a lot in my career is that women's equality in urban areas , amongst certain socia-economic groups and with a certain education level can be pretty good and then when you go into the rural areas and you get out of those education levels and out of those socia-economic groups it's literally another world and I think that's something that we need to really bridge. women aren't equal until all women are equal. And so I think that sometimes may be those countries with, with big differences between urban centres and rural areas you may have some conditions that are good and positive in a small sector of society but they're just not stretching it across the rest. In my own country we have made progress for the first time ever, we now have 50/50 representation at least in our cabinet which was a priority of Prime Minister Trudeau and in fact , he's the first prime minister I recall describing himself as a feminist so that's exciting, but , but it is not translated into equal representation in parliament and there are a number of studies about why and how women can be encouraged and a lot of them come down to barriers on the hours that are required to be a member of parliament and the physical separation from family between where, because in our country you represent a ??? where you live and so you are by definition a large part of the year away in our capital city, so again it comes back to women's responsibility to the family and in the professional space and how they balance them and many find that, that too much.</p> |
| DR. MALKA | Definitely a challenge and I do hope that we will, we will get to the point of 50/50 representation globally. |
| AD BREAK | |
| DR. MALKA | <p>You are listening to Womanity – Women in Unity on Channel Africa. The voice of the African renaissance, on frequency on 9625 kilo hertz on the 31 meter band. Also available on DSTV channel 802. Today we're talk to the High Commissioner of Canada to South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Madagascar, Sandra McCardell. We would love to receive your comments on twitter at Womanity Talk. In the previous segment we spoke about women's leadership particularly recognising women's leadership in the home as a nucleus and the sense of authority that children perceive from women in their households and house this can possibly ripple over beyond the family nucleus into the community and into the professional space. We also touched briefly on legal rights with regards to women and within the parliamentary space on how to achieve greater representation of women in these environments. High Commissioner we are coming to the latter part of show. One of the questions I ask my guests is about the factors that contributed to their success, some speak</p> |

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| | about hard work, others speak about the influence of individuals on their lives. Can you please share with us what have been the key drives to your success. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Ok, drivers for my success I would say two. One is I would probably describe as early struggle and the second would be family support. So the early struggle I would just describe, probably like many of your listeners my child hood was not a particularly easy one, my parents divorced when I was very young, my mother raised me on her own and I have a disabled brother and so I guess in that sense it sort of anchors you in terms of what women can do because there wasn't another man in the household that was going to do anything so if something had to be done a women's got to do it and so it imprints on your mind quite young, that women can do anything. |
| DR. MALKA | I guess that was her intent as well but for you getting your economic independence. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Absolutely. It was, it was, believe me it was closely linked. If anyone knows single mums, you'll know that financial independence is a big consideration, it's never easy. So that was part of it and I think as well you know within my family there were, we struggled like many families do, with alcoholism and that sort of thing and so I think those early years were tough and like many if you can push through it, it does give you a strength for the future, it gives you a perspective on what something, what's tough and what's probably not too tough and even if it's tough you can get through it. And so I think that was helpful for me in, I guess one recognising as a women I didn't have limits to what I could do because I'd just never seen limits and secondly that that I had quite a bit of strength to push through probably just about anything. So that I think was a good foundation. The other point though would really go to the support and we've talked little bit already this morning about women's networking and women helping each other which is absolutely a model in Africa but I benefit a lot from support from my mother from my grandmother, I guess many do in terms of believing in me and believing what I could do, also in helping me out you know with my kids when I needed that kind of support and those were sort of early drivers again hats off to, to my husband whose followed me in this career and it hasn't been easy on him and he's never done anything but support what I've wanted to do and that's actually remarkably important it's really tough if those closest to you don't agree with or don't believe in what you're doing it's really hard to maintain, your vision of what, of who you want to be and who you can be if, even if you protest that is you know, that's your goal if you keep having nagging doubts that are, that those around you feed by their, their, their lack of trust in you or they sense that you're on the wrong path it's tough. |
| DR MALKA | Sometimes I think, to that point I think it's their lack of belief in themselves because they're hearing what you want to do and they can't imagine achieving it themselves and I often think that, that's where its a mirror image where they reflecting that onto you. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | And in the worst cases as well it can be is that insecurity can become jealousy and ah that is incredibly unhelpful or, or some sort of a threat to their position, particularly if they've come out of a very different way of life, they're, they're threatened, they're insecure with what you've chosen to do. So just to say that really the, that sort of those formative years which builds an inner fortitude and, and then the support I had of those closest to me were, were a big part of it. |

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| DR. MALKA | Lastly in closing our conversation today, could you please share a few words of inspiration or wisdom that you would like to pass on to women that are listening to us on the continent. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Yeah. I would like to. I would say, look I think what is most fundamental for women is that they believe in their own value I think what I find most frustrating, we are more than fifty percent of the population we are, as I mentioned before the first image of adult and authority to our children is through, is through their mother. Women are incredibly strong across this continent, they are performing miracles on a daily basis, managing family and earning income and holding communities together and yet somehow we allow that to be taken away from ourselves, we allowed ourselves to be devalued, mistreated, told we're not good enough, told we're not successful and that is just wrong. And so I guess what I would like is for women to truly believe in their value as human beings as individuals and to their societies and to carry that strength forward and to demand what they should have in their daily lives, how they should be treated by those around them and what they should aspire to because they deserve it. |
| DR. MALKA | Thank you for those words of encouragement. It's been a great pleasure to have you on the show today. |
| SANDRA McCARDELL | Thank you. It's been a great pleasure to be here. |
| DR. MALKA | You've been listening to Womanity, Woman in Unity on Channel Africa. The voice of the African renaissance and we have been talking to the High Commissioner of Canada to South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Madagascar, Ms Sandra McCardell. |
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