International House at University of California, Berkeley to Recognize Notable Alumna Baroness Oona King at 31st Annual Celebration and Awards Gala

BERKELEY, Calif. (April 18, 2019) – International House (I-House) at UC Berkeley will hold its 31st Annual Celebration and Awards Gala on Thursday, May 9, 2019. Each year, I-House proudly celebrates and honors distinguished individuals who embody the purpose of I-House to promote a world of greater understanding and peace. I-House Board Chair, UC Berkeley Chancellor Carol Christ, will present Baroness Oona King (IH 1989-90), with the I-House Alumna of the Year Award in recognition of her visionary leadership as the Director of Diversity Strategy at Google, as a member of the British Parliament, and as an advocate for human rights. Oona is a member of the House of Lords (a life-time appointment as Baroness King of Bow in January 2011), and former Senior Policy Advisor to the Prime Minister. Baroness King became a member of the House of Commons at the age of 29 – the second woman of color, and 200th woman elected to the British Parliament. Read her bio at ihouse.berkeley.edu/gala.

Now in its 31st year, the annual event raises funds to benefit the community of nearly 600 scholars from 77 different countries residing at I-House, while honoring alumni who exemplify the I-House mission of fostering intercultural respect and understanding, lifelong friendships, and leadership skills to promote a more peaceful world. “We are thrilled to recognize Baroness Oona King as a champion of International House principles,” says Dr. Hans Giesecke, Executive Director of I-House. “The Gala continues to serve as the signature event of I-House that alumni, students, and friends look forward to year after year.”

Proceeds from the Gala benefit The Fund for I-House. Bill Howley, Director of Philanthropy at I-House, points to this Fund as an important resource, providing for room and board scholarships and financial aid, mission-centered programming, and preservation of the historic 88-year-old building. “I-House relies on philanthropic support from alumni, foundations, corporations and friends,” says Howley.

The Gala will be held on Thursday, May 9th in Chevron Auditorium at International House, located at 2299 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94720. Tickets are $275 per person, or $150 for those under 35 years of age, and can be purchased online at ihouse.berkeley.edu/gala. For more information on our honoree, sponsorship opportunities, or to buy event tickets by phone, please contact Angela Rauch at (510) 642-4128.

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International House is a non-profit living and learning community at the University of California, Berkeley that fosters boundary-breaking discoveries, intercultural friendships, and global leadership for a world of greater understanding. Since 1930, we have served 90,000 students and scholars representing 150+ countries, including the U.S. To learn more about International House, visit ihouse.berkeley.edu.