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## Press Release

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### **Former First Lady Laura Bush Joins AUW's Council of Patrons**

Mrs. Laura Bush, the former First Lady of the United States, will serve as a Patron of Asian University for Women in Chittagong, an AUW release announced Wednesday.

Mrs. Bush served as the First Lady from 2001 to 2009 when her husband George W. Bush was President of the United States.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina chairs the Council of Patrons of Asian University for Women founded in 2008.

The AUW dedicated to the education and leadership development of women from across Asia and the Middle East graduated nearly 550 women from 15 countries.

Announcing the appointment Mrs. Bush as a Patron of the University, AUW Chancellor Cherie Blair commented, “Laura Bush has been one of the most persistent and effective champions of girls and women and others who fall on the wrong side of privilege. She brings an enormous amount of compassion and dedication to her work in support of women, and she makes a significant impact... Laura Bush is the emblem of a great soul...”

Accepting her role as Patron of AUW, the former First Lady said, “The inclusion of women in all aspects of society strengthens and improves the stability of their countries. Asian University for Women recognizes that investments in the success of women are investments that pay off, and that educating women has the power to change the world.”

The University’s Council of Patrons includes the First Lady of Japan Akie Abe, former Italian Foreign Minister Emma Bonino, UNESCO Director- General Irina Bokov, former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong Anson Chan, former Danish Environment Minister Lone Dybkjaer, Her Royan Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg and Madam Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, the first woman President of Sri Lanka.