



PRIME MINISTER  
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Dr. Farzanna S. Haffizulla, MD, FACP  
President  
American Medical Women's Association  
12555 Orange Drive, Suite 257  
Davie, FL 33330

17<sup>th</sup> September, 2014

Dear Dr. Haffizulla,

I wish to express to you my sincerest gratitude for your kind gift of your book, *Lead With Your Heart*.

I was immediately struck by all the nuances contained in the title: The roles and style of a leader, the value of one's emotional intelligence, finding the balance between public and private life, the importance of history, reflection, goals and friendships.

In short, you were able to express, in very relatable terms, the requisite balance to facilitate holistic progress and the innumerable strengths of a woman leader.

My own experiences have led me to ponder along many of the same lines and I am thrilled that you have managed to verbalise so many of these items and offer heartening elucidation to many women around the world.

I remain particularly moved by one of your narratives in which you shared an early memory of your grade school experience in Trinidad.

One must admire your refusal to passively witness injustice as well as your courage to act in accordance to your beliefs.

*"I was capable of speaking my mind and being heard."*

As I read those words, I became firmer in my resolve that more young girls would come to this realization in my time.

These words resonate in me as they are reminiscent of my own determination to seek education at a time when most girls in my position were not afforded the opportunity.

It reminds me of my efforts when I responded to my vocation as an educator and later as I served my country as the Minister of Education.

Now, as Prime Minister, it is one of the driving forces behind my efforts to engage all of my fellow citizens in referendum and consultation.

Farzanna, I am sure that you will continue with the inspiring work that you are doing. I am sure that you will experience many more successes and joyous times with your family. It is my hope for you that you achieve all that you set out to do.

Again, I thank you for sharing your work with me and I look forward to seeing and hearing more of and from you.

Sincerely,



Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, MP

Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago