

Geraldine Cox AM

Founder and Country Director, Sunrise Cambodia

Testimonials



"Geraldine is one of the world's most warm-hearted people. She is also fearless and tireless and the residential home, which now exists in politically easier times, was both born and survived entirely as a function of her vigour, generosity and humanity."

Ambassador John Dauth

*Australian Mission to the United Nations,
New York*

Included here is a selection of some of the testimonials that have been given about Geraldine's life, achievements, personality and the presentations she's given all around the world.

Kim Solomon,

Secretary-General, Humanitarian Affairs Asia

"Red hair and all the flair, the flamboyant Geraldine Cox first catches your eyes and then captures your heart. Previously working with diplomats and ambassadors in Australian embassies around the world, Geraldine is a prominent humanitarian figure. She presents a plethora of life experiences and noble work to be admired. But it's more than the positions she has held that make Geraldine a one-of-a-kind individual and inspiration to others.

Geraldine has the ability to connect and influence audiences across the globe by conveying a profound message that captivates the heart, mind and soul. To Geraldine, everything will be right in the end, and if it's not, it's not the end. Instilling a sense of hope in others, Geraldine emphasizes the values and lessons learnt in every circumstance and encourages others to take their own leap of faith in life.

Her unique ability to immerse audiences in her story, leaves one feeling like they walked the journey of life beside her. Geraldine has not only empowered children in Cambodia through local solutions, but presents a global message about the responsibility we have as global citizens to address the pressing humanitarian needs of our world. Geraldine truly embodies service leadership in her words and actions and this is conveyed authentically to her audiences.

If we had to capture Geraldine's approach to life, it would be to think global, to act local and to start personal. This is the very impact she leaves with her audiences – that they too can walk their own journey in life embodying these values. As Geraldine wittingly says, you don't have to run off to the jungles of Cambodia to find your purpose in life – just listen to your heart and what it tells you, it knows you better than anybody else does.

Today, Geraldine's voice is heard not only advocating for children's rights across multiple advisory boards but has become a highly sought-after spokesperson for her noble work in Cambodia and in the global arena.

It is both a great privilege and honor to witness Geraldine touch the hearts of thousands of emerging global leaders at our annual University Scholars Leadership Symposium, and we would warmly welcome her to present with us again for many years to come."

Agnes Emery

*Head of Product Partnerships, Google APAC
and Founding member of Connected Women AU*

"Geraldine Cox participated in December 2017 to a [Connected Women](#) event hosted at Google. Theme was on "Benefits of Change" and event was attended by 270+ men and women from Digital and Media. Geraldine was a wild card for that event with an inspirational talk on Persevering through adversity. She shared her personal journey and was a total hit for the audience scoring a 9.6/10 in post event survey with quotes like "Geraldine was so inspiring", "What a character and inspiration for all" or "Loved Geraldine's inspirational story and energy". The most common social media tags for her session was "#If Cambodia has taught me anything is to not waste my energy on things I cannot change".

Geraldine is not only a fantastic speaker but she has the ability to connect with her audience to make each and every single of us rethink our realities or take perspective on life differently. It has been a true pleasure working with Geraldine and her team to coordinate all the logistics and theme. Thanks again Geraldine for embarking with our community on the journey of inspiring the leaders of tomorrow in Tech and Digital to think about personal or professional changes by embracing diversity at the core of their job!"

Michael Mann

*President, RMIT International University of Vietnam
and Ambassador of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta to Cambodia, Ho Chi Minh*

"I have known Geraldine for more than 30 years. She has never taken the easy way out. She has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to at-risk Cambodian children and energy levels to match. Her story is one of courage and heartbreak, of hard work and love."

Phillip Adams

ABC Journalist, Sydney

"Geraldine Cox has an extraordinary and important story to tell – and she tells it very well indeed."

Prue Holstein

Executive Director, Asia Society AustralAsia Centre, Melbourne

"In speaking for the Asia Society AustralAsia Centre in Melbourne 2 years ago, Geraldine Cox took us through the process of establishing the orphanage, Sunrise Children's Village, in a way that was frank, engaging and inspirational. By the end of her talk, there were few in the audience who did not want to get up and volunteer their services immediately in helping her secure the means needed to support her children. Geraldine is also able to place her activities in the context of the dynamic and changing political and social environments of Cambodia, offering a clearer understanding of a country that has experienced so much tragedy."

Matt Damon

Hollywood Actor

"There are a lot of decisions that she made, by her own admission, could be deemed questionable. You always see the motives that are behind what she's doing and her first priority is the children, you know, in the orphanage and she makes no bones about that, so I think that's really admirable. She's not a saint, she's human. I was just incredibly moved by her and by her work."

Kirk Honeycutt,

The Hollywood Reporter's Head Critic, Los Angeles

"The heroine at the heart of "My Khmer Heart" is such an astonishing, unpredictable, indomitable force of nature as to be wholly implausible, except for the fact she does exist. Think of Bertolt Brecht's Mother Courage, then add Mother Teresa, Hanoi Jane Fonda and the unsinkable Molly Brown."

Danny Glover
Hollywood Actor

"Her commitment in bringing awareness about the plight of these forgotten Cambodian children will never be forgotten."

Harry M. Miller
Celebrity Agent, Sydney

"What an outstanding story this is and what an outstanding woman Geraldine is and what an amazing path she has travelled."

Leigh Shalless
Senior Project Manager, Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation, Pakistan

"SMEC as one of Australia's leading consulting firms is also proud to be involved with Geraldine and her work in Cambodia setting an example of how Australian businesses can have a human face on the international scene for such a worthwhile project. Geraldine was one of the principal guests at the inauguration of the SMEC Foundation in 2002 and was invited to speak at the recent anniversary of SMEC's 10 Years' of Privatization in 2003 and this high regard in which she is held by SMEC management is a reflection of her never-ending efforts to further her goals for the Orphanage and its children."

Warren Reed
Former ASIS Officer and author of 'Code Cicada', Sydney

"Geraldine uses a big heart and openness, combined with subtle tact, to cross borders between cultures, which many people do not even know exist."

Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen
Phnom Penh

"The orphans of Cambodia have a good chance with a mother like her. "

Peter Ustinov

British Actor, London

"She has the courage to believe she can make a difference."

Jacinta Thompson

Executive Director & Events and Exhibitions Producer

The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre

"The Nelson Mandela Lecture series is jointly presented by the Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre and the School of Law at the University of South Australia. The series was established in 2008 to honour Nelson Mandela, the Hawke Centre's first International Patron (2001-2013). The purpose of this lecture series is to promote the fundamental rights and freedoms of individuals and the value of truth and reconciliation in life and public affairs. The ideal of justice for common humanity underpins all the lectures presented. The Bob Hawke Prime Ministerial Centre invited Geraldine Cox to be the 2016 speaker to talk about 'Wealth of a Different Kind'.

The Hawke Centre received an overwhelming response for this event, moving it from the University Campus to the Adelaide Convention Centre to cater for 700 attendees. Feedback from the audience included:

- The speaker and her passion for achieving improved outcomes for the children and communities she works with. Geraldine spoke from her heart: she was warm, empathic and funny.
- The eloquent way Geraldine portrayed her story with love and emotion.
- Geraldine was an excellent speaker and I enjoyed the passion she has for her work, as well as the effort she had put into her presentation.
- Excellent presentation, Geraldine is an amazing woman, who can laugh at herself and be very engaging.
- Thank you - the speaker reminded audience members of what is occurring in our global community and what is important in life.
- Geraldine is an inspiration and I hope she can come back and continue to fill us in on what she is doing - maybe bring one or two of her success stories with her so they can first hand talk about what a difference Sunrise has made to their life.
- This woman is amazing - always thinking of new ways to do things and always so positive. She is amazing. It's never about her: it's always about the people of Cambodia - especially the children.

In the lead up to the presentation, the professionalism of Geraldine was evident from the start. Information for her lecture was provided in a timely manner, and ... it was an absolute pleasure to work with Geraldine on this event, a highlight of our 2016 event program."