

PROFILE OF DR GRACE NALEDI MANDISA PANDOR

Born on 7 December 1953, Dr Pandor is South Africa's former Minister of International Relations and Cooperation from 2019-2024. She was part of the ministerial team of the cabinet of South Africa that initiated the genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice. Dr Pandor was appointed the new Chair of the Nelson Mandela Foundation from 1 October 2024. Dr Pandor will be the third person to hold the position since Nelson Mandela established the organisation in 1999.

Dr Pandor became an MP in 1994 and has amassed impressive experience in positions of public office, including Deputy chief whip of the ANC in the National Assembly from 1995 to 1998, served as the Deputy chairperson of the National Council of Provinces in 1998, and its Chairperson from 1999-2004.

Dr Pandor's experience in education policy planning made her a welcome appointment as South Africa's Minister of Education in 2004. She has been a member of cabinet ever since, and has served her country in the following portfolios:

- ❖ Minister of Education (2004-2009);
- ❖ Minister of Science and Technology (2009-2012);
- ❖ Minister of Home Affairs (2012-2014);
- ❖ Minister of Science and Technology (2014-2018); and
- ❖ Minister of Higher Education and Training (2018-19).

Dr Pandor has a Phd from the University of Pretoria (2019) and honorary doctorates from the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, University of Stellenbosch, and the University of Lisbon (Portugal) and the University College Dublin in Ireland.

Upon being awarded Germany's highest federal award, the Grand Cross of Merit, the German Ambassador to South Africa, Walter Lindner, said: "Pandor is for us a symbol of the new South Africa: modern, innovative, dedicated to scientific progress and also outstanding female leadership".

Dr Pandor is married to Mr Sharif Pandor and have four children and seven grandchildren.