

**First Lady Jeannette Kagame's Address**  
**at the**  
**National Prayer Breakfast Leadership Luncheon**

Washington, D.C., U.S.A

7 February 2019

**Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good Afternoon.**

I am honoured to, once again, join in this fellowship and prayer for our nations.

**Dear Nelly,**

Thank you for your courage.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Walking this path along with Nelly is Geraldine - a young mother just like Nelly, except she has a different heartache - she lost her parents and **three** siblings during the Genocide against the Tutsi, but just like Nelly, she is now in a leadership position and like Nelly, is expected to give the best of herself. For a moment, imagine a young leadership inheriting a country full of Nellys' and Geraldines'- how do you reconcile these two? How do we reconcile:

- Hundreds of thousands of killers
- Even more survivors
- Tens of thousands of mourning widows and orphans

And most importantly, how do we reconcile a people enough, to break the cycle of hate?

As you can see, the leadership had the hardest task; reinventing Rwanda as a brand new unified, and peace-loving nation.

**Dear Friends,**

The progress Rwanda has made, is a result of inclusive policies and structures. It clearly reflects the positive returns, of our decision, to invest in our biggest asset - the people of Rwanda.

We live in a time when humankind is being tested. There is a lot of divisive rhetoric in our world today.

So, as we come together to pray for our nations, let us dedicate ourselves to upholding *Unity* as a core principle, whilst knowing that this will only be attained if we believe the practice of all for one, and one for all. This is the most important legacy we can leave to our children and future generations.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**