

**September 10, 2020**  
**60th Commencement Exercises**  
**Haigazian University Beirut**

**PRESIDENT'S WORD**

Dear graduating students,

You are the class of 2020, the class of our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the class of patience and persistence. You are a class whose senior year saw as many disruptions and distress as one can imagine, or not even imagine. With the Faculty and the Staff you endured much, and, you completed the course. Today is already the tomorrow, and as you have experienced at Haigazian University, that tomorrow belongs to hard work, professionalism, ethics, and faith.

You experienced here what it means to study hard to deserve a good grade. You learnt to break barriers and meet the other. You learnt that peace with others is not agreements but selfless love and educated empathy. You learnt that knowledge is not facts, but inquiring humility and positive attitudes. You learnt that people are not categories, but valuable human souls.

While you were gaining much here, our society was losing much. And of all the losses we can count, the deadliest was and will remain to be the loss of trust. Relationships, identities, companies, and organizations, systems and nations are founded on trust. And that is exactly what we need to re-establish in our lives and in our countries.

With my words of congratulations to you and to your loved ones, and my wishes for success in your carriers for which you were prepared at Haigazian, I pray that your class and generation will shift the focus from the lack of trust in others and systems, into really becoming trustworthy people ourselves. Do not ask, can I trust them? As a holder of a Haigazian degree and Haigazian experience, ask how can I help others trust me? That is where change starts.

We have a tall task, and cannot wait for all the others.

We are sending you, therefore, on a mission, to become people who are trusted. Life is trust, and faith in God is trust; human, rational and material transactions are trust. We will each do our best to re-establish the avenues of trust, and reclaim our dignity, and we will do this for the sake of all.

Enter the future with a joyful attitude, and turn your degree into a testament of trust, and may God bless you.

Congratulations.

Rev. Paul Haidostian, Ph.D.  
President  
Beirut, September 2020