

Dalee Sambo Dorough
Doctor of Civil Law
Durham Cathedral, 28 June 2024

Dalee Sambo Dorough is an Alaskan Iñupiaq who has been an international leader in human rights law, Indigenous Peoples' empowerment, and Arctic governance.

Dr Dorough studied Justice and Political Science at the University of Alaska Anchorage, and holds a Master's Degree from Tufts University's Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and a PhD in Law from the University of British Columbia. Even before receiving this formal education, however, she was committed to the struggle for recognition of Indigenous rights, gaining certification as a Tribal Court Advocate while still in high school. From this foundation, she has taken on a range of responsibilities among Inuit, Alaska Natives, and the global Indigenous Peoples community. From 1982-1989 she was Executive Director of the Inuit Circumpolar Council, which represents 180,000 Inuit in Russia, Alaska, Canada, and Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland). Following this, she held posts as Executive Director of the International Union for Circumpolar Health and the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council. She then served for 11 years as associate professor of International Relations in the Department of Political Science at the University of Alaska Anchorage before returning to the Inuit Circumpolar Council to serve as its elected chair from 2018 through 2022. She presently is Senior Scholar and Special Advisor on Arctic Indigenous Peoples at the University of Alaska Anchorage.

While holding these positions, Dr Dorough has taken on voluntary leadership in a number of international fora, including the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the International Law Association's Committee on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. She has served as the Arctic Region representative to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change's Facilitative Working Group, and now holds the post of Arctic Region member of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In these roles, Dr Dorough has played a crucial part in implementing two key global accords protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples: The United Nations Declaration

on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labor Organization's Convention 169 Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries. Throughout her work, she has advocated for international law and governance instruments to account for Indigenous ways of understanding the world, as well as maintaining conditions for continuing Indigenous lifeways.

Dr Dorough's tireless advocacy has earned her numerous honours including, in 1988, the Reebok Human Rights Award and, in 2022, the International Arctic Science Committee Medal, in recognition of her efforts to build bridges between Indigenous ways of knowing and Western science, and for exploring how a dialogue between the two can inform policy. In 2020, *USA Today* named her one of Alaska's ten most influential women of the past hundred years.

In short, Dalee Sambo Dorough embodies Durham University's long-standing commitment to Arctic research, to justice, to female leadership, to Indigenous empowerment, and to bold interventions that rely on diverse sources of knowledge to address forces from climate change to colonialism that challenge all of our livelihoods.

Chancellor, I present Dalee Sambo Dorough to receive the degree of Doctor of Civil Law *honoris causa*.