

“Anyone who despairs of the manner in which contemporary political and moral debate is contaminated by prejudice, emotion and ‘fake news’ can find immediate rational consolation in the life and work of Mary Warnock. No one of our generation has better claim to the title ‘public intellectual’.”

This citation is from Laurie Taylor, the sociologist and broadcaster who knows a thing or two about connecting academic ideas with the public.

But perhaps the most extraordinary thing about Baroness Warnock is that “public intellectual” is just one of the many titles to which she can lay claim.

A hugely respected moral philosopher, she is also a committed teacher, a trusted adviser and policymaker in some of the most contentious areas possible, and an academic leader. As one newspaper profile put it: “She has run a Cambridge college and an elite Oxford secondary school; brought up five children; sat on many of the most important committees in the country; and given her name to the most influential report on the ethics of embryos and fertilisation in the world.”

This breadth of endeavour, and the energy and industry that has allowed her to range so widely and successfully, combines with her powerful intellect and almost unparalleled impact on public policy to make her one of a kind.

It is our great honour to award her the 2018 Lord Dearing Lifetime Achievement Award.