

# *Swedish Women* **Mediation Network**

Presentations of the network members



Photo credentials:

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Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

## **A NETWORK FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

The Swedish Women Mediation Network was established in 2015 with the aim to promote peaceful conflict resolution and actively support women's meaningful participation in sustainable peace-making processes before, during and after conflict.

The network was established by the Swedish Government in response to the fact that women remain systematically underrepresented in peace processes.

The network consists of 15 senior women with extensive expertise and experience relevant to conflict mediation, peacebuilding and negotiations. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs' Special Representatives for Inclusive Peace Processes, they actively participate in peace processes and promote the inclusion of women and civil society in peacemaking and conflict resolution at all levels and in conflict situations around the world.

The Swedish Mediation Network is part of the Nordic Women Mediators Network.

## **Agneta Johansson**

*Executive Director, ILAC*



Agneta Johansson is a lawyer specialized in international law with over 30 years of experience in international development in conflict and post-conflict countries. She has served 15 years as Executive Director and Deputy Director of the International Legal Assistance Consortium (ILAC), an international association for legal experts offering guidance to countries to rebuild justice systems after conflict. As Executive Director, she has overseen comprehensive rule of law assessments and programs in Cuba, Guatemala, Liberia, Central African Republic, Syria and the MENA region.

Agneta Johansson has also worked for several international organizations and the Swedish Foreign Ministry. She served three years in Bosnia (1996-2000) at the OSCE and as Head of the Department of Missing Persons and Exhumations at the Office of the High Representative where she was responsible for the negotiations and the creation of a missing persons mechanism between the former warring parties. She lived in Palestine for several years and worked e.g. for the TIPH (Temporary International Presence in Hebron).

She is a member of the board and the jury of the Right Livelihood Award and served on the board of Kvinna till Kvinna (2003-2010). She has lectured extensively on international law, human rights and gender justice.

**Geographic expertise:** Middle East, Western Balkans

**Topical expertise:** Rule of law and justice sector reform in post-conflict countries and transitional settings, gender justice, human rights and humanitarian law

**Language skills:** English

## **Ann Dismorr**

*Ambassador, Head of Department for Middle East and North Africa at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs.*



Ambassador Ann Dismorr is Head of Department for Middle East and North Africa at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs since October 2015. She joined the Ministry in 1981 and has held posts such as Diplomatic Advisor to the Swedish Special Envoy to the Israeli-Palestinian Peace talks 1993-1997, ambassador in Lebanon 1999-2001, ambassador in Turkey 2001-2005 and ambassador in Kenya 2009-2012.

From 2012 to 2014 Ann Dismorr was Director of UNRWA in Lebanon.

Between 2014 and 2015 she served as Counter-Terrorism Coordinator at the Security Policy Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Ann Dismorr has also been Head of the International department at the Swedish Parliament (2006-2009).

Her book “Turkey decoded” was published in London 2008.

Ann Dismorr holds a postgraduate degree in political science from the universities of Stockholm, Gothenburg and Yale.

**Geographic expertise:** Turkey, Middle East, Africa

**Topical expertise:** Human rights, humanitarian affairs, counter terrorism, mediation support and peace talks

**Languages:** English, French

## **Anna-Karin Johansson**

*Former Secretary-General for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan*



Anna-Karin Johansson has been working with human rights, democracy, discrimination and development issues in Sweden and internationally for more than 20 years. She was Secretary-General for the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in 2013-2017, and has travelled extensively in the conflict torn country.

Anna-Karin Johansson was, on behalf of the Swedish Prime Minister, responsible for the Living History Project promoting democracy and human rights. She also led the Swedish governmental agency Living History, working with democracy and human rights, taking the Holocaust, genocides and crimes against humanity as starting points.

Anna-Karin Johansson was Head of Department at the Swedish Ombudsman against discrimination in 2012-2013. In 2001-2003 she worked at the Swedish Prime Minister's Office.

Anna-Karin Johansson has also worked at the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in 1991-1996. She started her career as a journalist, mainly covering international affairs at the Swedish daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter and Amnesty Press.

Anna-Karin Johansson has a university degree in journalism from the University of Stockholm.

**Geographic expertise:** Afghanistan, East Africa

**Topical expertise:** Human rights, discrimination, development issues

**Language skills:** English

## **Birgitta Holst Alani**

*Ambassador (rtd)*



Birgitta Holst Alani has over 40 years' experience of the Middle East. In 1975, she moved to Iraq for postgraduate research on an Iraqi dialect of Arabic. After several years in Baghdad, including the first two years of the Iran-Iraq war 1980-82, she returned to Sweden where she served at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. 1993-1998, Birgitta Holst Alani worked with disarmament and non-proliferation at the Ministry. Between 1998 and 2002, she was the Deputy Director of Stockholm International Peace Institute (SIPRI) and thereafter she was appointed Swedish ambassador to Nigeria.

Birgitta Holst Alani served as an advisor to the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) between 2008 and 2010, and to the UN Special Envoy to Syria since 2015. She has extensive experience in post-conflict reconciliation, reconstruction and development, and issues related to UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Until 2014, Birgitta Holst Alani served as Head of the Swedish Institute in Alexandria.

Her knowledge in Arabic has assisted her in better understanding the Arabic culture, values and traditions, and she has a special interest in Islamic feminism and cross-cultural communication.

**Geographic expertise:** Middle East and North Africa, especially Egypt, Iraq and Syria

**Topical expertise:** UNSC resolution 1325, post-conflict reconciliation reconstruction and development, Intra-Syrian peace talks in Geneva facilitated by the United Nations

**Languages:** English, Arabic, basic French, German

## Charlotta Sparre

*Ambassador*



Charlotta Sparre has over 25 years of experience from international diplomacy, with a special focus on the Middle East North Africa (MENA) region. She served as Ambassador of Sweden to Egypt 2013-2017, and to Jordan 2008-2013. Prior to that she served as Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of Sweden to the EU 2003-2008, as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo 1999-2003, and held different positions in the Swedish Foreign Ministry from 1986, mainly working on issues related to the MENA region, including the Middle East peace process, Euro-Mediterranean cooperation and the setting up of the Swedish Institute in Alexandria. She has also lived in Libya, Botswana and China for studies, work and family reasons.

During the last decades Charlotta Sparre has been an active participant in several Track II mediation processes and academic meetings on the Middle East, with a special focus on regional security issues, democratic development, human rights and gender equality. She was co-editor of the book 'Reconstructing the Middle East', published by Routledge in 2017.

**Geographic expertise:** Middle East, North Africa

**Topical expertise:** Human rights, democracy, women peace and security, management

**Language skills:** English, French



## **Eva Walder**

*Ambassador*



Eva Walder has been a diplomat of the Swedish Foreign Service for more than 40 years. She has been Ambassador to Finland 2006-2009 and to Singapore 1998-2002. She has also served in Dhaka, Vienna, and New York (Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations). At the Stockholm office she has been Head of Human Resources, Head of the Asia Department, Head of the Department for Promotion of Sweden and Swedish Trade and the EU Internal Market as well as Director-General for Trade (2011-16).

Eva Walder has represented Sweden at the UN (first, second and third Committees), several UN Conferences as well as a number of EU meetings on Asia and on trade. She has a profound knowledge about economics, economic development, trade and trade agreements. Moreover, she has served on several boards with an economic/financial emphasis. Her knowledge also comprises corporate social responsibility, gender issues and disarmament. She represents Sweden at various meetings and has extensive contacts with civil society.

**Geographic expertise:** Asia, Europe

**Topical expertise:** Economics, trade, leadership and management, security policy and disarmament

**Language skills:** English, French, basic German

## **Helena Gröndahl Rietz**

*Ambassador, Head of Africa department, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs*



Helena Rietz has over 20 years' experience of international diplomacy in general and crisis and conflict management in particular. Between 2001 and 2003, Helena Rietz worked as main coordinator for the Special Representative of the EU Presidency for the Mano River countries i.a. assisting in launching the peace process for Liberia. During 2006/2007, Helena Rietz served as Chef de Cabinet for the UNSG's Special Envoy for Darfur, Mr Jan Eliasson, in undertaking his mandate to revive the peace process for Darfur jointly with the African Union.

Helena Rietz has extensive management experience from several positions within the MFA as well as serving as Deputy Head of Sweden's Military Intelligence and Security Directorate 2010-2013. She has also served as Sweden's Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo between 2007 and 2008 and as Sweden's Ambassador to Jordan between 2013 and 2016.

**Geographic expertise:** Great Lakes Region (Central Africa), Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea (Mano River), Sudan/Darfur, Jordan

**Topical expertise:** European security policy and defence cooperation, security and intelligence, peace support operations

**Language skills:** English, French, Italian

## **Ingrid Tersman**

*Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan,  
Uzbekistan*



Ingrid Tersman has over 25 years of experience from international diplomacy at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and from service at the Swedish Ministry of Defence. Her profile is security policy, conflict resolution and conflicts in the OSCE area, gender issues, and conventional arms control. During 2010-2015, Ingrid Tersman served as Sweden's Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova. Prior to that she held various positions at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs related to EU and Nordic issues, including EU enlargement, conflict resolution and conventional arms control.

During 2006-2007, Ingrid Tersman served as Swedish Political Representative and Head of the civilian team at the Swedish ISAF/PRT (International Security Assistance Force/Provincial Reconstruction Team) in Mazar-e-Sharif in Northern Afghanistan.

Ingrid Tersman has extensive management experience from positions within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. Ingrid Tersman has served at the Swedish Defence Research Institute and worked at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C. Ingrid Tersman holds a Master's degree in International Relations from The American University, Washington, D.C, and a B.Sc. in Business Administration and Economics from Uppsala University.

**Geographic expertise:** Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan

**Topical expertise:** Conflicts in the Eurasian region, OSCE, security policy, women, leadership and management

**Language skills:** English, German, basic French

## **Karin Landgren**

*Former SRSG (Special Representative of the Secretary-General)*



Karin Landgren is the first woman to have headed three United Nations peace operations. She was until 2015 a UN Under-Secretary-General and head of UNMIL in Liberia, a peacekeeping mission. Prior to this, she led two political missions, BNUB in Burundi and UNMIN in Nepal.

Karin Landgren's engagement with human rights-oriented policy and practical responses to crises dates to her work with UNHCR between 1980 and 1998, based in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Eritrea, the Philippines, Singapore and India, among others. She was the UNHCR chief of standards and legal advice for four years before becoming UNICEF's first chief of child protection, in 1998.

Karin Landgren earned a Bachelor of Science (Economics) and an LLM from the London School of Economics. She has lectured widely on conflict- and rights-related themes, as well as on leadership and child protection. After previously teaching at Columbia University and the Central European University, Karin Landgren is now a non-resident fellow at the Center on International Cooperation (CIC), New York University.

**Geographic expertise:** South and Southeast Asia (especially Nepal, India and Myanmar), East and West Africa (especially Burundi/Great Lakes and Liberia), the Balkans

**Topical expertise:** UN peacekeeping and peacebuilding; women, peace and security; peace agreements, ceasefire agreements and monitoring, DDR and security sector reform, human rights protection, leadership and management

**Language skills:** English, French, Scandinavian languages, Japanese, basic Farsi/Dari and Hindustani

## **Lena Nordström**

*Ambassador, Head of the Department of Human Resources of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs*



Lena Nordström has 20 years' experience of international diplomacy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. She has vast management experience at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and currently serves as Deputy Director-General and Head of Human Resources. She has served a total of 11 years as Ambassador of Sweden: to Colombia (including Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama) between 2005 and 2011, to Zambia 2011 to 2015 and to Liberia between 2015 and 2017. She was also Deputy Director at the Department of the Americas at the MFA in charge of the countries in the Andean region. She has also worked five years for UNICEF at the sub-regional office in Santiago de Chile with a primary focus on gender issues.

Lena Nordström's areas of expertise include internal armed conflicts and post-conflict contexts, human rights and women, peace and security with a special focus on Colombia and Liberia. As ambassador in Colombia, she actively pursued support for women's organizations and human rights organizations in order to keep the hope of a future peace process on the national and international agenda. Second track mediation was part of her work. In Liberia, the focus was primarily on young people's, and especially young women's role, in sustaining peace in accordance with the UN resolution 2250. Lena Nordström has also worked strengthening women's leadership skills in the area of women, peace and security as well as other areas.

**Geographic expertise:** Latin America (Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Chile and Peru in particular), Zambia, Liberia (Manu River region)

**Topical expertise:** Human rights; women, peace and security; leadership and management

**Language skills:** English, Spanish, basic French

## **Lena Sundh**

*Ambassador and Special Envoy to the Great Lakes*



Lena Sundh has a long experience in working on issues relating to peace and stability, conflict resolution and gender equality both at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the United Nations. She is presently Special Envoy to the Great Lakes at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and was, in January 2018, appointed by the UN Secretary General as chair of the International Commission of Inquiry for Mali. Until September 2016, she was Ambassador of Sweden to Angola.

From April 2002 to April 2004, Ms. Sundh served as the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, (MONUC). From November 2006 to July 2007, she was head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal. From July 2000 to October 2001, she was a member of the UN Monitoring Mechanism for the Angola sanctions. In 2004–2005, she chaired the Stockholm Initiative on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (SIDDR) and has also participated in the work to follow up the findings of the SIDDR in the field. She has also represented Sweden as delegate to the UN Commission of the Status of Women.

**Geographic expertise:** Angola, Great Lakes, Cambodia, Namibia, Nepal, Thailand

**Topical expertise:** Ceasefire negotiations, Security Council resolution 1325

**Language skills:** English, Portuguese

## **Margareta Wahlström**

*Former SRSG for Disaster Risk Reduction*

*President of the Swedish Red Cross*



Margareta Wahlström has 35 years of extensive experience in both disaster relief operations and disaster risk management, in development and political work with the United Nations system, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the private sector.

Between 2009 and 2015, Margareta Wahlström was the Special Representative of the United Nations' Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and simultaneously Head of the United Nations' Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), the focal point within the UN system for the coordination of disaster reduction, ensuring synergies with regional organizations across UN activities in socio-economic, development and humanitarian fields. Under Margareta Wahlström's leadership, UNISDR designed and supported the inclusive consultations for, and subsequently the inter-governmental negotiations leading to, the 'Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030', adopted in March 2015 by all UN member states. The Sendai Framework is the first of the 2015 global policy directions for the coming 15 years.

Margareta Wahlström is appointed honorary doctor at Karlstad University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**Geographic expertise:** Afghanistan, Lebanon, Palestine, the Philippines, Southern Africa, South America

**Topical expertise:** Conflict and non-conflict emergencies, long-term issues of sustainable development

**Language skills:** English, French, Spanish

## **Maria Leissner**

*Ambassador to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal. Special Envoy for the Sahel*



Maria Leissner has wide and broad experience within international diplomacy and holds the office of Ambassador of Sweden to Benin, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal and as Special Envoy for the Sahel. She has previously served as Ambassador to Guatemala 2000-2004, headed a governance program in Baghdad, Iraq (2004-2005) and senior adviser for human rights with the AMM mission in Aceh, Indonesia (2005-2006). Maria Leissner served as Ambassador-at-Large for Democracy at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs 2006-2012, and Secretary-General of the intergovernmental organisation Community of Democracies 2012-2017. As Chair of the Swedish Delegation for Roma Issues (2006-2010), Maria Leissner focused on the struggles faced by the Swedish Roma population and engaged in dialogue with the community on the preservation of its cultural heritage and language.

Prior to joining the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Maria Leissner held political positions as MP in the Swedish parliament 1985-1991, served on its Committee on Foreign Affairs and the governmental Delegation on Disarmament. She led the Swedish Liberal party between 1995 and 1997, the first woman to hold the office. Between 1991 and 1994, she presided the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and the foundation Women Can. She also served as chair of the University College of Borås.

**Geographic expertise:** Central America, West Africa and Sahel, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Iraq

**Topical expertise:** Democracy, human rights, minority policy, leadership and management, security policy and disarmament

**Language skills:** English, French, Spanish



## **Marie Jacobsson**

*Principal Legal Adviser on International Law at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs*



Marie Jacobsson is the Principal Legal Adviser on International Law at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. She was a member of the United Nations International Law Commission 2007–2016 and Special Rapporteur for the topic ‘Protection of the environment in relation to armed conflicts’. She is a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, arbitrator under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, arbitrator under the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and Alternate Arbitrator of the Court of Conciliation and Arbitration within the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Ambassador Jacobsson’s work focuses on matters of international peace and security. She has extensive experience of high-level multilateral and bilateral negotiations in the areas of international humanitarian law, the law of the sea, international environmental law, boundary delimitation and regional security.

She is Associate Professor of International Law at Lund University. Marie Jacobsson has also worked as a Security Policy Analyst at the Swedish Armed Forces.

**Topical expertise:** Gender aspects of international law, dispute settlement, international cooperation, UN law, international humanitarian law, international environmental law, the law of the sea, boundary delimitation and regional security

## **Marika Fahlén**

*Ambassador/Special Envoy*



Marika Fahlén has a 40 years career as diplomat of the Swedish Foreign Service and UN employment, i.a as Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa and Ambassador for Humanitarian Affairs. She has been closely associated with the peace and mediation processes in Sudan (Darfur and CPA running up to the Independence of South Sudan) and Somalia and held senior positions in UNHCR, UNAIDS and UNDP.

Board functions include the UN Central Emergency Fund CERF (Chair), the OECD/DAC Task Force on Conflict, Peace and Development Co-operation (Chair), the Somali Think Tank Heritage Institute for Policy Studies (Chair), the International Crisis Group (ICG), Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI) and other Human rights NGOs in Sweden, and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

Marika Fahlén has also served as Special Representative of the Minister for Foreign Affairs on global peace and security and as senior advisor in peacebuilding to the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation (DHF). Her profile is regional and global peace-making, peacebuilding and prevention, human rights and humanitarian affairs, women peace and security.

**Geographic expertise:** Africa, especially the Horn of Africa

**Topical Expertise:** Global patterns of violent conflict and state-fragility

**Language skills:** English and French



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## **CONTACT DETAILS**

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