

The Swedish Women's Mediation Network



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry for Foreign Affairs



FBA

We work to amplify the voices of women mediators and peacemakers in conflict-affected areas. We link efforts at different levels to formal peace processes.

Women's representation is important, but not enough in itself to achieve sustainable peace processes. Gender dimensions should be integrated in all steps of conflict prevention and conflict resolution. Gender equality is not a 'women's concern' but a societal and political responsibility.

It is inspiring to see the growing number of women mediation networks around the world. Never again should we need to hear that there are no qualified women available for this work.

The Network

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A Network for **Inclusive and Sustainable Peace**

The Swedish Women's Mediation Network was established by the Swedish Government in 2015. The members were appointed to serve as the Minister for Foreign Affairs' Special Representatives for Inclusive and Sustainable Peace Processes.

The network consists of 15 senior women with extensive expertise and experience relevant to conflict mediation, peacebuilding and negotiations. The network is a response to the fact that women remain systematically underrepresented in peace processes.

The aim of the network is to promote peaceful conflict resolution and actively support women's meaningful participation in sustainable and inclusive peacemaking processes before, during and after conflict.

FBA, The Folke Bernadotte Academy, on behalf of and in close cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, was assigned to facilitate the work of the Swedish Women's Mediation Network, and coordinate the work related to The Nordic Women Mediators together with Nordic Partners.

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Ann Dismorr



Ambassador Ann Dismorr is Head of Department for Middle East and North Africa at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs since October 2015. Between 2014 and 2015 she served as Counter-Terrorism Coordinator at the Security Policy Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. 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, United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. Ann Dismorr has also been Head of the International Department at the Swedish Parliament 2006-2009.

In 2008 she published the book *Turkey Decoded*. It examines the implications of Turkey's affiliation with Europe whilst also discussing its role in the Middle East.

Geographic expertise: Turkey, Middle East, Africa

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

Languages: English and French

Marika Fahlén



Ambassador Marika Fahlén has 40 years of experience of international diplomacy and has held many positions at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, among them Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa, Ambassador for Humanitarian Affairs and Special Representative on Global Peace and Security.

She has been closely associated with the peace and mediation processes in Somalia and Sudan, for example regarding Darfur and the Comprehensive Peace Agreement running up to the independence of South Sudan.

Marika Fahlén has held several senior positions in international organizations such as UNHCR, UNAIDS and UNDP. Her board functions include Chair of CERF, the UN Central Emergency Fund, the OECD/DAC Task Force on Conflict, Peace and Development Cooperation, and the Somali Think Tank Heritage Institute for Policy Studies. She has also served in the board of the International Crisis Group and the International HIV/AIDS Alliance.

She was a Senior Advisor in peacebuilding to the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and worked with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and other NGOs in Sweden. Her profile is regional and global peace-making, peacebuilding and prevention, women peace and security, human rights and humanitarian affairs.

Geographic expertise: Africa (Horn of Africa)

Topical expertise: Global patterns of violent conflict and state-fragility

Languages: English and French

Helena Gröndahl Rietz



Ambassador Helena Gröndahl Rietz has over 20 years of experience of international diplomacy in general, and crisis and conflict management in particular. Between 2001 and 2003 she worked as the main coordinator for the Special Representative of the EU Presidency for the Mano River countries, among other things assisting in launching the peace process for Liberia.

During 2006 and 2007 Helena Rietz served as Chef de Cabinet for the UN Secretary-General'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 served as Head of the Africa Department at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs 2016-2019 and has extensive management experience from several positions within the Ministry as well as serving as Deputy Head of Sweden's Military Intelligence and Security Directorate 2010-2013.

She also has 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

Languages: English, French and Italian

Birgitta **Holst Alani**



Ambassador Birgitta Holst Alani has over 40 years of 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, working with disarmament and non-proliferation 1993-1998. From 1998 to 2002, she was the Deputy Director of SIPRI, the Stockholm International Peace Institute and thereafter she was appointed Swedish ambassador to Nigeria.

Birgitta Holst Alani served as an advisor to UNAMI, United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq 2008–2010. She has served as Senior Advisor on Inclusion and Governance to the Office of the Special Envoy to Syria since 2015 with specific support to Women’s Advisory Board. 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.

She was also Head of the Swedish Institute in Alexandria 2010–2014 and has a deep understanding of Arabic culture, values and traditions, and a special interest in Islamic feminism and cross-cultural communication.

Geographic expertise: The 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 and German



Marie Jacobsson



Ambassador Marie Jacobsson is the Principal Legal Adviser on International Law at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs. Her 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.

Marie Jacobsson was a member of the UN 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 UN 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 OSCE, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

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

Languages: English

Agneta Johansson



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

Agneta Johansson has also worked for the Swedish Foreign Ministry and several international organizations. She served 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 has worked for TIPH, Temporary International Presence in Hebron. She is currently a member of the board and jury of the Right Livelihood Award and she earlier served on the board of Kvinna till Kvinna 2003-2010.

Geographic expertise: The 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

Languages: English

Anna-Karin Johansson



Former Secretary-General for the SCA Anna-Karin Johansson has been working with human rights, democracy, discrimination and development issues in Sweden and internationally for more than 20 years. From 2013 to 2017 she was Secretary-General for the SCA, the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan and has travelled extensively in the conflict-torn country. She is currently Director-General of RFSU, The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education.

Anna-Karin Johansson was, on behalf of the Swedish Prime Minister, responsible for the Living History project, which subsequently turned into a governmental agency. The Living History Forum promotes democracy and human rights, taking the Holocaust, genocides and crimes against humanity as starting points. She has also served as Head of Department at the Swedish Ombudsman against discrimination in 2012-2013. In 1991 to 1996 Anna-Karin Johansson worked at SIDA, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

Geographic expertise: Afghanistan, East Africa

Topical expertise: Human rights, discrimination, development issues

Languages: English

Karin Landgren



Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

Karin Landgren is the Executive Director of Security Council Report, an independent organization reporting on the work of the United Nations Security Council. She is also the first woman to have headed three United Nations peace operations. She was until 2015 a UN Under-Secretary-General and head of UNMIL, the peacekeeping mission in Liberia. Prior to this, she led two political missions, BNUB, the UN Office in Burundi and UNMIN, the UN Mission in Nepal.

Her 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 other countries. 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 has lectured widely on conflict and rights-related issues as well as leadership and child protection. After previously teaching at Columbia University and the Central European University she is now a non-resident fellow at New York University, the Center on International Cooperation.

Geographic expertise: South and Southeast Asia (Nepal, India and Myanmar), East and West Africa (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 SSR, human rights protection, leadership and management

Languages: English, French, Japanese, basic Farsi and German.



SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL AND HEAD OF THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE IN BURUNDI

A Network for **Engagement and Advocacy**

The Swedish Women's Mediation Network is an instrument for advocacy as well as for mediation and engagement in support of peace. It aims to promote the inclusion of women and civil society in peacemaking and conflict resolution; from early warning and prevention to mediation and effective implementation of peace agreements.

The network has contributed to peace efforts in Afghanistan, Syria, Georgia, Somalia, South Sudan, Colombia, Liberia and Burundi. It has participated in numerous events associated with the UN, the AU, the EU and the OSCE and it actively partners with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, spanning from governments to civil society.

The network's approach is guided by international law, human rights and the rule-of-law. The members have extensive experiences of peace processes, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization, reconciliation, international law, human rights, humanitarian affairs, development assistance and other areas of peacebuilding.



Moa Höggholm, The Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Maria Leissner



Ambassador Maria Leissner has broad experience of international diplomacy and currently serves as Ambassador to Sierra Leone, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea and Senegal. She was Ambassador to Guatemala 2000-2004 and Ambassador-at-Large for Democracy at the Ministry 2006-2012. From 2012-2017 she was Secretary-General of the intergovernmental organization Community of Democracies.

Maria Leissner headed an international governance program in Baghdad in Iraq 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 she worked in Indonesia as Senior Adviser for human rights with AMM, the Aceh Monitoring Mission.

Maria Leissner was a member of the Swedish parliament in 1985-1991, serving 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 has also served as Chair of the Swedish Delegation for Roma Issues 2006-2010, engaging in dialogue with the community on the struggles faced and preservation of its cultural heritage and language.

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

Languages: English, French and Spanish



Lena Nordström



Ambassador Lena Nordström has 20 years of experience in international diplomacy and has served as Ambassador to Colombia, including Ecuador, Venezuela and Panama, 2005-2011, to Zambia 2011-2015 and to Liberia 2015-2017.

As ambassador in Colombia, she actively pursued support for women's and human rights organizations in order to keep the peace process on the national and international agenda. Track two mediation was part of her work. In Liberia, the focus was primarily on young people's, especially young women's role, in sustaining peace in accordance with the UN resolution 2250.

Lena Nordström has also worked five years for UNICEF at the sub-regional office in Santiago de Chile with a primary focus on gender issues. Her 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.

She was also Deputy Director at the Department of the Americas at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in charge of the countries in the Andean region. She has vast management experience at the Ministry and currently serves as Deputy Director-General and Head of Human Resources.

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

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

Languages: English, Spanish and basic French

Charlotta Sparre



Ambassador Charlotta Sparre has over 25 years of experience from international diplomacy, with a special focus on the Middle East and North Africa, the 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. She was 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.

During the last decades, Charlotta Sparre has been an active participant in several track two mediation processes and academic meetings on the Middle East, with a special focus on regional security issues, democratic development, human rights and gender equality.

In 2017 she was co-editor of the book *Reconstructing the Middle East – Political and Economic Policy* that examines the changes that happened in the region from 2010 and the long-term challenges and opportunities they present.

Geographic expertise: The Middle East, North Africa

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

Languages: English and French

Lena Sundh



Ambassador Lena Sundh has long experience of 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 currently Special Envoy to the Great Lakes at the Ministry and participates in the Burundi peace talks facilitated by Tanzania's former President Mkapa. In January 2018 she was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as chair of the International Commission of Inquiry for Mali. She was Ambassador to Angola until September 2016.

Lena Sundh has served as the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of Congo, MONUC, 2002-2004. Moreover she was Head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal 2006-2007 and member of the UN Monitoring Mechanism for the Angola sanctions 2000-2001.

In 2004-2005 Lena Sundh chaired SIDDR, the Stockholm Initiative on disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration and participated in the work to follow up the findings of SIDDR in the field. She also represented Sweden as delegate to the UN Commission on the Status of Women 1987-1989 and 1992-1995.

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

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

Languages: English, French and Portuguese



Ingrid Tersman



Ambassador 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.

Ingrid Tersman has served as Sweden's Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. She has also 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, the 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 in Washington, D.C.

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

Languages: English, German and basic French

Margareta Wahlström



Former Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction Margareta Wahlström is President of the Swedish Red Cross. She has 35 years of extensive experience in disaster relief operations and disaster risk management in relation to development and political work with the United Nations, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the private sector.

In 2009-2015 she was the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, and Head of UNISDR, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Under Margareta Wahlström's leadership UNISDR designed and supported the inclusive consultations for the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*, and subsequently the inter-governmental negotiations leading to the adoption of the framework by all UN member states in March 2015. The Sendai Framework is the first of the 2015 global policy directions for the coming 15 years.

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

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

Languages: English, French and Spanish



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan



United Nations



United Nations



UN World Conference on
Disaster Risk Reduction
2015 Sendai Japan



UN SECRETARY-GENERAL



SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

DRR Sendai

WCDRR Sendai

Eva **Walder**



Ambassador Eva Walder has over 40 years of experience from international diplomacy. She has been Ambassador to Finland 2006-2009 and to Singapore 1998-2002. She has also served as First Secretary in Dhaka, Vienna, and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations in New York.

She served at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs as 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 2011-2016.

Eva Walder was also appointed Ambassador for Disarmament and she has represented Sweden in the UN's First, Second and Third Committees, several UN Conferences and 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 and financial emphasis. Her knowledge also comprises corporate social responsibility, gender issues and disarmament.

Geographic expertise: Asia, Europe

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

Languages: English, French and basic German

Supporting Local Women Peacebuilders

The Swedish Women's Mediation Network's approach reflects the contemporary multidimensional mediation landscape. The proliferation of actors engaged in conflict and the growing complexity of violence has altered the needs for international mediators and peace facilitators.

A legitimate peace process requires inclusive and interlinked efforts at the local, national and international level. The Network therefore has a supportive approach with particular emphasis on promoting, empowering and building the capacity of local women peacebuilders – recognizing that local ownership and inclusivity is key to achieve sustainable peace.

The Swedish Women's Mediation Network is part of the Nordic Women Mediators (NWM), a network of women from Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden with professional mediation and negotiation experience. The initiative aims to increase the number of women in peace processes, both Nordic women and women from conflict-affected countries. Similar mediation network initiatives are now expanding worldwide.

NORDIC WOMEN MEDIATORS

More information about the Network can be provided by
Department for Conflict and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
and the Dialogue and Peace Mediation Unit, Folke Bernadotte Academy

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