

BIOGRAPHIES:

COURSE DIRECTION AND MENTORS



Role:

Course Director

Email:

lesliegroves@gmail.com

Dr Leslie Groves-Williams partners with leaders and their organisations as they walk the talk of gender equality. She runs a successful consultancy business, leading or taking a lead role in over 100 assignments in 34 countries around the world. Leslie is a highly solicited facilitator, author, speaker, coach and designer. She is passionate about designing and sharing simple tools that are not only useful but are then used to effect transformative change.

Leslie has trained/coached/facilitated thousands of staff, including executive leadership teams- be it face to face, online or in a hybrid environment. She has supported multilateral organisations (over 35 UN entities, the OSCE, the EC and EU), international and national NGOs (Plan International, Plan UK, Save the Children, Help Age, World Vision, GICHD), and bilateral donors (DFID and the Swedish FBA) as well as academic, government and private sector institutions. Leslie is a senior level accredited facilitator with the Association of Facilitators, holds a PhD from Edinburgh University, an MSc with distinction and 1st Class honours degree.

Leslie has pioneered a gender-responsive leadership programme targeting senior leaders and executives and developed the first accountability framework for age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in the UN system, under the leadership of the now UN Secretary General. She has developed inclusion related policies, action plans, evaluations and toolkits for over twenty international agencies and has authored/ edited numerous journal articles and other texts.

In relation to the OSCE specifically, Leslie has supported the organisation's gender equality efforts for 16+ years. Examples include designing and facilitating the 9 month Executive Gender Coach Programme with the former SG and his leadership team, facilitating leadership discussions on developing an enabling environment for gender equality for SMM, leading a research project to understand the fall in female representation from P3 to P4 levels within the OSCE and ten years facilitating the popular intensive gender mainstreaming training.





Role:

[Course Mentor](#)

Email:

Lena.Larsson@fba.se

Lena Larsson is a Senior Specialist, Leadership and Gender Equality at the Folke Bernadotte Academy. She has been with the FBA, in various leadership positions since 2004 and throughout this time also served in senior management positions with the EU in Iraq and Palestine, and most recently as the Head of Mission for the International Commission on Missing Persons in Iraq.

Prior to the FBA she spent almost 10 years in the Balkans, mainly with the UN and the OSCE as well as in Sri Lanka, working on wide range of issues such as implementation of ceasefire agreements, border management and sanctions, rule of law reform and the women, peace and security agenda. Lena has a background in law enforcement within the Swedish Customs and further studies in international human resources management, organizational development and leadership.

In her current role she focuses primarily on Gender Responsive Leadership, acting as a facilitator and coach/mentor in FBA led Gender Responsive Leadership (GRL) programs, recently for UN DPPA/DPO staff at D1 and P5 level in New York. This autumn she will also work in a GRL program for 25 senior staff in the UNs verification mission in Colombia.



Role:

[Course Mentor](#)

Email:

Sara.Lindvall@fba.se

Sara Lindvall is a Senior Specialist in Women, Peace and Security at the Swedish governmental agency Folke Bernadotte Academy. In her current position she focuses on support to regional institutions on the African continent and works with the peace and security departments of the African Union and ECOWAS with the aim to strengthen their implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

Sara has field experience from four larger humanitarian conflicts working for the UNHCR with focus on women and child rights as well as community and rights based approaches. She has also worked for the Swedish Women's rights organization Kvinna till Kvinna where she established a regional programme for Syria and worked with Syrian human rights organizations as well as with support to the advisory group for the women negotiators in the ongoing peace process.



BIOGRAPHIES:

OSCE TEAM



Role:

[Project Administrator](#)

Email:

Anita.Nikoleska@osce.org

Anita Nikoleska is a Gender Responsive Leadership Programme Administrator at the OSCE Secretariat. She has been with OSCE since 2009 in various positions, dealing with programme co-ordination and project management, and human resources.

Anita is highly skilled in programme management, gender responsive programming, monitoring and evaluation, and experienced in programmatic work in Arms Control, Organized Crime, Border Management, Cyber/ICT security. She has initiated and implemented gender empowerment initiatives in the security sector, and is highly skilled in working with law enforcement. In her role as HR/Training, Anita has rich OSCE experience in conducting learning needs assessment, developing learning plan and evaluating and reporting on learning programmes.

Prior to OSCE Anita advised on learning and development for the elected officials and was leading the training unit of the association of municipalities in North Macedonia, managing large-scale programmes supported by multilateral organization. Anita holds a MSc in Management, and degree in financial management.



Role:

[Project Assistant](#)

Email:

Dennis.Contino@osce.org

Dennis Contino is a Gender Responsive Leadership Programme Assistant at the OSCE Secretariat. Prior to this role, he supported the OSCE's efforts towards a more inclusive working environment by assisting with the organization of the OSCE Women Bootcamps. He gained experience in addressing challenges related to the changing of organizational cultures towards more inclusive approaches and practices, while supporting the OECD Leadership group in implementing the reorganisation of the Public Affairs and Communications Directorate.

Dennis also worked for AHHA Education, an INGO focused on providing education to underprivileged youth. In his role as focal point for the coordination of project activities, he acquired expertise in stakeholder coordination by engaging effectively geographically dispersed actors across Asia.

