



POLITICAL LEADERSHIP: FEMALE EDITION

17 - 24 July 2022

Gummersbach, Germany

Abstract

“May you live in interesting times.”

A Chinese Curse

We do live in interesting times. Over the past two years, we’ve seen the world grapple with the harsh realities of a once-in-a-generation pandemic. Just as we began to imagine a world beyond Covid-19, we witnessed the biggest military aggression since World War II as Russia invaded Ukraine, causing widespread instability and devastation, not just for the two countries involved, but for the region, Europe, and the world. This is a time of great complexity, enormously fast-paced change, huge medical and technological advances, the greatest threat of our lifetime in terms of the climate crisis, societal and geopolitical shifts, and for women, all against the backdrop of a long history of deeply entrenched inequality.

The deck still appears stacked against women,, with data showing that women are still underrepresented in decision-making structures in all types of organisations around the world. But we can spark change. At various times of crisis, strong, inspirational women have stood up, pushed for rights, demanded recognition, changed the world. Perhaps these latest global crises provide us with yet another opportunity to shift the

boundaries. Political challenges emerge at every turn, and at a more rapid pace than ever, where leaders with courage and the capacity to take them on can embrace unique opportunities for change and innovation.

We would like to see a world in which women are on equal footing to step into the leadership roles they desire, and to make a much-needed contribution in the world. This seminar therefore invites female leaders who are passionate about leadership, about making a contribution, and committed to building an active career in politics or public service, to join on a journey of connection, development and transformation as we explore the many aspects of female leadership in 2022 and beyond.

'One of the criticisms I've faced over the years is that I'm not aggressive enough or assertive enough, or maybe somehow, because I'm empathetic, it means I'm weak.

I totally rebel against that. I refuse to believe that you cannot be both compassionate and strong.'

Jacinda Ardern

TOPICS

This seminar explores topics related to:

- Societal, regional and political trends and events affecting and impacting women
- Future trends, and the ability to manage complexity and change
- Leadership and Empathy
- Each participant's purpose, vision, values and unique leadership brand
- Leadership skills, such as negotiation and communication skills
- Cultivating an organisational culture that supports female leadership
- Building a strong network of support

TARGET GROUP

Purpose-driven female leaders who are currently in office, or with political or public service aspirations from Political Parties, Think Tanks and NGOs are encouraged to apply. Applicants can be elected officials or appointed staff members, provided they are in leadership, or aspire. Applicants should have a strong English-language ability, and be willing to share their experiences in the group, as the programme relies on interaction and active participation.

METHODOLOGY

This in-person seminar is a highly interactive and engaging experience, drawing on a vast variety of modern participant-driven methodologies and formats, designed for maximum interaction and engagement. It extends beyond a classroom-style learning environment, and instead the facilitators will create a space in which transformational relationships can be built, experiences can be shared openly and honestly, and in

which the participants can learn from one another, and with guest experts, in an interactive, easeful and inspiring way.

OBJECTIVES

Building a deep understanding of the particular experience of women leaders as individuals, as well as in the local and global spheres, this seminar will support and strengthen the development of political leadership skills in a group of liberal women from around the world.

The session will provide opportunities to build strong global networks and forge valuable value-driven relationships with one another, and to share experiences of female leadership in their own contexts.

Exploring methodologies to expand influence, way to communicate well and to build networks of support around them, participants will be better equipped to impact and contribute in their various roles: as liberals, as women, as leaders.

Facilitators



Penny Tainton

Penny has held numerous leadership roles, both in a liberal political party, as well as in government. Now running her consultancy, *evolve*, her most recent role as Project Lead, Governance in the Democratic Alliance, included a diverse range of projects to build capacity and systems in the organization. Penny was also central in the design of systems and processes for post-election coalition negotiations, preparing Mayors to govern in their new term and rolling out an innovative online development programme for governments which incorporates both technical and leadership skills.

Penny previously worked on strategic projects for two Premiers in the Western Cape Government in South Africa. The most recent of these saw her lead the progress and delivery of War Room teams using Harvard University's Problem Driven Iterative Adaptive (PDIA) methodology to address complex transversal problems in government. This followed a role in the Delivery Support Unit of the Western Cape Government, managing two of the then Premier's Game Changers (priority projects), both working to transform education. Earlier roles included that of Executive Director of Policy & Governance for the Democratic Alliance and serving on the IEC's National Party Liaison Committee for several years. Penny's expertise includes an extensive understanding of the processes and practices of governance, organisational development, legislation, and performance tracking and management initiatives.

An involved citizen of South Africa and the world, Penny is passionate about extending her services to areas of society where she can make a difference, bring about positive change and realise improved standards. A major driver in her work is finding innovative solutions to the inequalities and injustices that remain in society.



Marike Groenewald

Marike Groenewald is the founder of Anew, an organisational and leadership development consultancy based in Cape Town, South Africa, but working with clients around the world. Holding a master's degree in law, Marike has pursued a career as a developer of people and facilitator over many years. Notable, she was until 2016 employed by South Africa's Official Opposition party as its Executive Director of Development and Learning. In this role, Marike was responsible for the development and learning needs of hundreds of members of staff, and nearly 2000 public representatives. During her decade-long career in politics, Marike gained extensive political experience not only in people development, but also in campaigns, strategic marketing, fundraising and other professional political functions.

Since founding Anew, Marike has carved out a unique space in the leadership development field, focussing her work predominantly on non-profit, governmental, political, academic, research and start-up organisations around the world, that are committed to improving the state of democracy and human rights in their respective contexts and countries. She supports these organisations with organisational development and culture, change management, advanced facilitation and programme design, innovation and future planning, political and non-political campaigns, and people development.

As a facilitator, Marike is passionate about creating spaces where individuals can think at their best, and for themselves with ease, courage and freedom. Having studied Ontological Coaching or Coaching to the Way of Being in recent years, and being an accredited facilitator of the Thinking Environment, enables Marike to bring a rich body of work, and an innovative approach as an engaging facilitator to the groups she works with.

In 2015, Marike was selected as one of the Mail and Guardian's 200 young South Africans. She is a fellow of the 2016 Westerwelle Foundation's Young Founders Programme and in 2018 Marike presented a TEDx talk in Germany on courage.

The Foundation

We, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, promote individual liberty, free and open societies and free markets in Germany and throughout the world. To us freedom is the guiding principle in policy making. We believe that free and open societies are the only societies that allow human beings to decide for themselves what is best, to develop their full potential and to pursue their dreams. This is what we mean when we claim to value human dignity. And it is freedom that produces prosperity. Together with our counterparts – who all share a similar set of values – we support initiatives in Germany and abroad that serve to enhance respect for the rule of law, private property and human rights, that foster tolerance and that strengthen economic freedom rights and democracy.

The programs of the Foundation's International Academy for Leadership (IAF) form an integral part of our international work and offer Liberals from all parts of the world opportunities to engage in dialogue, an exchange of ideas, networking and cooperation. We aim to inspire.

Venue: **International Academy for Leadership (IAF)**

Theodor-Heuss-Straße 26
51645 Gummersbach
Germany

Language: English

Registration: 15 April 2022 (via dvinci)

<https://fnst.dvinci-hr.com/en/p/iaf/jobs/20297/intro>

Registration fee: 260,00 €



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