

Shirley Osborne

Global Women's Leadership Strategist | Political Woman | Speaker



Short Bio:

Shirley Osborne is an international speaker and strategist on women's leadership, political empowerment, and governance reform.

Drawing on her experiences as a Regional Representative for Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians for the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region, with the World Academy for the Future of Women and as Vice-chairperson of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Shirley brings a unique global perspective to the urgent issues of women's leadership and participation in decision-making. She has worked with governments, international organisations, and grassroots movements to expand opportunities for women in politics, business, and civic life.

With a reputation for clarity, inspiration, and practical strategies, Shirley equips audiences with the tools they need to break barriers, claim power, and design the future of leadership.

Featured Topics – International Interest

- The global significance of women's leadership
- Breaking barriers and reshaping power structures
- Political empowerment and constitutional reform
- Diaspora strategies and transnational leadership

Keynotes

1. From Barriers to Breakthroughs – Women in Politics and Decision-Making

Despite progress, women still face systemic barriers in politics and governance. This talk offers a candid look at those obstacles and strategies for breaking through to real influence and authority.

2. Breaking Barriers: Women in Political Leadership

Subtopic: Lessons from Small States to Global Movements

Overview:

From Montserrat's tiny legislature to international platforms, women continue to redefine leadership. This keynote uncovers strategies for increasing women's representation in decision-making bodies.

3. Diaspora Power

Subtopic: Unlocking Transnational Networks for Women's Leadership

Overview:

Diaspora networks fuel innovation, remittances, and cultural exchange. Women in diaspora leadership are reshaping political and economic development.

4. From Representation to Power

Subtopic: Moving Beyond Numbers in Women's Political Participation

Overview:

Representation matters, but transformation requires power-sharing. This keynote explores how women move from being seen to shaping outcomes.

5. Courageous Leadership

Subtopic: Women Leading in Crisis and Change

Overview:

Women leaders often rise in times of upheaval—disasters, pandemics, conflict. Drawing on Caribbean and global cases, this talk explores courage in leadership.

6. Redefining Leadership for the 21st Century

Subtopic: Beyond Patriarchy and Beyond Borders

Overview:

The future demands leadership that is collaborative, inclusive, and sustainable—qualities women leaders exemplify. Leadership in the 21st century demands innovation. This keynote challenges outdated models and offers a future-forward vision.

7. Breaking Barriers—Women in Political Leadership from Small Polities

Subtopics: Building democratic institutions in post-colonial settings; diaspora networks as leadership assets; constitutional reform lessons.

8. Leading Globally, Rooted Locally – Women and the Power of Identity

For women from small nations, diasporas, or underrepresented communities, identity can be a source of global power. This talk highlights how local roots can fuel international influence.

10. Democracy at the Margins

Subtopic: Small-Island Constitutional Reform as a Global Model

Overview:

What can the world learn from constitutional reform efforts in small democracies like Montserrat? This keynote highlights the innovation and agility of governance reform on the periphery.

11. Cultural Intelligence: Leading Across Borders and Bias

Navigating cross-cultural politics; unconscious bias in policymaking; diaspora sensitivity in leadership outreach.

Shirley is available to work with you anywhere in the world – virtually or in-the-room.

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