

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/gina-abercrombie-winstanley (LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Business Relationship Management
Strategy
Political Campaigns

Languages

Maltese (Elementary)
Arabic

Publications

Cyber Diplomacy
The Words are Here On Top: Star Trek and Diplomacy
A Trump-Size Hole in Our Relationship
Disability in Intergalactic Environments

Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley

Diplomacy, Middle East Specialist, Diversity, Inclusion, Consultant and Public Speaker

Cleveland, Ohio, United States

Summary

I am a Leader with proven skills in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion/ Strategic Planning/Negotiating/Cyber/Counterterrorism/Advocacy/ Program Administration/Course Development and Media Relations.

I honed these skills through work in high intensity/high profile assignments throughout the Middle East/Africa/Asia, Europe-- and Washington. I have led teams on the cutting edge of policy formulation, cyber/IT issues, media relations, negotiating and counterterrorism policy at the highest levels of the interagency including at the State Department/The White House/Department of Defense and Capitol Hill. I am a strong advocate for U.S. business and economic interests and excel at making complex programs and policy issues accessible and understandable to varied audiences. I build consensus for change and innovation. I am a highly effective communicator and excelled at being the face of the U.S. Government on challenging issues with friendly and unfriendly audiences. I believe in paying it forward via mentoring and staff development; particularly when given the opportunity to show there is a place at the highest levels of organizations for everyone with a passion to pursue it.

I'm known for my warmth, accessibility and integrity as well as a willingness to engage until an acceptable solution/compromise or accommodation is reached.

Whether leading a delegation to negotiate a security cooperation agreement with Thai officials, speaking on the future of the Middle East Peace Process to European colleagues, briefing Members of Congress on counterterrorism cooperation or navigating being the first woman to run a diplomatic mission in Saudi Arabia, respect for my interlocutors has been key to my success.

Experience

Middle East Policy Council

President

July 2023 - Present (1 year 5 months)

Washington, United States

U.S. Department of State

7 years

Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer

April 2021 - July 2023 (2 years 4 months)

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Lead DEIA Mission at the Department of State

CEO

December 2017 - March 2022 (4 years 4 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area/Cleveland Ohio

Senior Advisor

August 2017 - December 2017 (5 months)

Foreign Service Institute

Advised State Department leadership on available diversity and inclusion options to improve outcomes for talent management and retention of high performers. Focused on leadership development in locations affected by crises and executive level effectiveness across national security agencies using needs analysis, assessment, and validation of methodologies.

Assessor

August 2016 - August 2017 (1 year 1 month)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

I oversaw the extraordinarily rigorous in-person interview process to ensure we continued to attract and accept the very best applicants among the thousands who apply.

Oberlin College

Diplomat in Residence, Oberlin College

February 2020 - March 2022 (2 years 2 months)

Oberlin, Ohio, United States

Abercrombie-Winstanley Consulting, LLC

Ambassador (ret.)

December 2017 - February 2020 (2 years 3 months)

United States Cyber Command

Foreign Policy Advisor

January 2016 - August 2016 (8 months)

To ensure that U.S. Cyber Command's work effectively supported U. S. Foreign Policy goals, I advised the Commander and Command leadership on the impact and implications of cyber actions on U.S. foreign policy aims. I also helped Department of State cyber leadership understand the range of cyber options available for deployment. I presented to multiple audiences ranging from 20 to several hundred, on cyber security issues, priorities and challenges that both the public and private sector face.

U.S. Embassy Valletta

Ambassador

April 2012 - January 2016 (3 years 10 months)

The Republic of Malta

As the President's representative, I led an Embassy of high performing professionals in strengthening U.S.-Maltese bilateral relations, U.S.-EU relations and regional cooperation both in Europe and North Africa. Through quiet and public diplomacy, we increased support for, and cooperation on, current U.S. Foreign Policy priorities on a range of issues including trade, U.S. investment, educational exchanges, environment protection, regional maritime security cooperation, and counterterrorism cooperation.

Department of State

5 years 7 months

Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism (Deputy Assistant Secretary equivalent)

May 2008 - April 2012 (4 years)

I led the professionals who managed U.S. training and partnership programs for civilian counterterrorism professionals around the world. We focussed on training the trainers through conferences, workshops and practical training, as well as providing expertise and equipment for prosecutors, police and government officials. Front line programs included Anti-terrorism assistance, counterterrorism financing, countering violent extremism and border security. Under my leadership my office increased our operating budget by 50%, from 200 million to \$300 million annually.

Director for Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan

October 2006 - May 2008 (1 year 8 months)

I led the office that had primary responsibility for managing the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and four Middle Eastern nations. Served as one of the State Department's Coordinators of the multi-government agency (State, DOD, DHS) and multi-million dollar effort to evacuate 15,000 Americans from war-torn Beirut during the 2006 Israel-Hezbollah war. Led the team that provided substantive expertise to implement The President's foreign policy priorities including successful negotiations with Egypt on bilateral assistance, providing USD 1 billion to support Lebanon reconstruction after the 2006 war, and developing a strategy to reduce the number of Foreign Fighters entering Iraq.

Foreign Service Institute

Chairwoman, Middle East Area Studies

July 2005 - October 2006 (1 year 4 months)

Arlington, VA

I oversaw the substantive training for U.S. diplomats serving in the Middle East. Developed the curriculum and selected instructors for courses covering politics/culture/history of the region. Oversaw a separate course to prepare U.S. diplomats, other government agency officials and contractors to serve in high threat, high profile Iraq. Developed an on-line familiarization course on Egypt.

Department of State

4 years 2 months

Principal Officer and Consul General

August 2002 - July 2005 (3 years)

Jeddah Saudi Arabia

I was the first woman to lead a diplomatic mission in Saudi Arabia at the Consulate General in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia's commercial center. Maintained effective and cooperative relations with government officials, members of the business community and civil society. Represented the United States in the western region of Saudi Arabia with responsibility for the welfare and whereabouts of up to 20,000 American citizen residents. Leading a staff of 100-plus, acted as the lead advocate for and promoter of U.S. business interests, education exchanges and broader civil rights.

Senior Policy Advisor

June 2001 - July 2002 (1 year 2 months)

Washington, DC

I provided regional expertise and foreign policy advice to the Director of the Near Eastern and South Asian Center for Strategic Studies, an education facility for senior and mid level military officers from 22 countries.

National Security Council, The White House

2 years 4 months

NESA Director for the Arabian Peninsula

March 1999 - April 2000 (1 year 2 months)

Washington D.C.

I oversaw the White House's foreign policy priorities with respect to the six GCC countries and Yemen.

Director for Legislative Affairs

January 1998 - March 1999 (1 year 3 months)

Washington, D.C.

I coordinated legislative priorities among civilian foreign affairs agencies for the White House. Developed legislation "roll out" strategies to Congressional leaders and led briefing teams for Members and Congressional staff.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee

Professional Staff Member

August 1997 - January 1998 (6 months)

Washington D.C.

I served as foreign policy expert for SFRC Ranking Member Senator Joseph Biden, with responsibility for Refugees and Human Rights.

Department of State

Political Officer

August 1987 - July 1997 (10 years)

Middle East and Asia

I provided analysis of political events in foreign countries, supported U.S. negotiating teams, and explained U.S. foreign policies to foreign audiences in Indonesia, Egypt, Tunisia and Israel.

Education

The Johns Hopkins University - Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

Masters of Arts, Security Studies and Economics · (1982 - 1984)

Tel Aviv University

Sophomore Year Abroad, Middle East Studies · (1977 - 1978)

The George Washington University

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), International Relations and Affairs