



Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley

Former Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Former U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Malta and Former President of the Middle East Policy Council.

Ambassador Gina Abercrombie-Winstanley is President Emerita and Non Resident Scholar of the Middle East Policy Council, a think tank that contributes to American understanding of the political, economic and cultural issues that affect U.S. interests in the Middle East, Senior Advisor at the strategic advisory firm, WestExec Advisors, a BBC Contributor and a Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Atlantic Council. Before her current appointments, she held a series of senior positions that included Ambassador to the Republic of Malta, Foreign Policy Advisor to the Commander of U.S. Cybercommand, Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism for the Department of State where she negotiated the establishment of the International Institute for Justice and Rule of Law, and Country Director for Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley was the first woman to lead a diplomatic mission in Saudi Arabia as the Principal Officer in Jeddah after concluding her assignment as Special Assistant for Middle East and African Affairs to the Secretary of State. In addition to the State Department, she held senior positions at the Defense Department and on the National Security Council staff. Prior to that, she was a Professional Staff Member for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley is the recipient of numerous awards including the Maltese Order of Merit, Department of State

Meritorious and Superior Honor Awards, including “For acts of courage during an attack on the U.S. Consulate General, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on December 6, 2004 by al-Qa’ida terrorists”, Foreign Policy for America’s Community Leadership Award, Peace Corps Women of Achievement, and Distinguished Alumna of both Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University.

During her break in public service, 2018-2021, she ran Abercrombie-Winstanley Consulting and advised on issues ranging from U.S. policy in the Middle East, how diversity and inclusion improve U.S. foreign policy making, cyber security challenges, and counterterrorism.

Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley, a Cleveland native, has degrees from The George Washington University and The Johns Hopkins University and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and Women of Color Advancing Peace And Security. She was a co-Founder of The Leadership Council for Women in National Security—LCWINS, and has been an active Board member for several organizations committed to excellence in professional development and leadership including the Cleveland Clinic, the Forum for Education Abroad, College Now Greater Cleveland, and the International Career Advancement Association. She also served on the board of the Cleveland Museum of Contemporary Art. She sings with the Washington Performing Arts Society and has been published in the New York Times Opinion and The Foreign Service Journal. She is the co-author of two papers published in the New York Review of Science Fiction on “Diplomacy in Star Trek” and “The Representation of Disability in Star Trek”, and a chapter in the book “Diplomatic Tradecraft”. Ms. Abercrombie-Winstanley also wrote the Forward for “The Young Black Leaders Guide to a Successful Career in International Affairs”. In 2019, she was voted into the American Academy of Diplomacy.