



Foto credit: Christian Jungwirth

**Hon. Ms. ELKE KAHR**  
**Mayor City of Graz, Austria.**

Born 1961 in Graz,

Political functions:

Member of the KPÖ since 1983

Employed in the KPÖ district leadership in Graz from 1985.

2003 - 2004 Deputy Federal Chairwoman of the KPÖ

From 1993 local councillor and from 1998 KPÖ club leader

2005-2017 City Councillor for Housing Affairs, from 2013 also responsible for Building Affairs and the Peace Office

2016-2017 Deputy Mayor

2017-2021 City Councillor for Transport

**Mayor of the City of Graz since 17 November 2021**

Focus of political work:

Housing, social affairs

Message:

Never forget anyone!



**Hon. Ms FATNA EL KHIEL**

**Vice-President of REFELA, President of REFELA-Morocco Chapter, President of the Communal Council of Arbaoua, Morocco.**

Ms El Khiel was appointed by His Majesty King Mohammed VI in 2017, Secretary of State to the Ministry of National Land Use Planning, Urban Development, Housing and City Policy, in charge of housing, is a doctor specializing in public health.

As member of the political bureau of the Popular Movement Party, Ms. EL KHIEL was Advisor to the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) between 2000 and 2002.

She was a Member of the Parliament from 2002 to 2016 and was elected Vice-President of the House of Representatives between 2003 and 2008.

Between 2003 and 2015, Ms. EL KHIEL was in charge of the Presidency of the Provincial Council of Kenitra.

She is the President of the Communal Council of Arbaoua since 2009 and is the Vice-President of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) since 2010 to date.

Dr. El Khiel is President of the REFELA-Morocco national chapter and she is the Vice-President of the continental Network of REFELA for the North Africa Region.

She is married and has two children.



**Hon. Mrs LESLEE WAY**  
**Siteki Town Council Deputy Mayor**  
**Kingdom of Eswatini**

A 37-year-old self-motivated developing politician, Leslee Way was appointed by the Honourable Minister of Housing and Urban Development to the Municipal Council for two consecutive terms, from 2012-2017 and 2017-2022. At the age of 24, she served as Chairperson of the Finance Committee and the Works Committee at Siteki Town Council, where she brought in her business expertise to head the Finance Committee. Her political journey took a significant turn in 2019 when she successfully lobbied for the seat of Presidential Committee member in the Eswatini Local Government Association (ELGA). The experience gained from this role inspired her to successfully lobby for the Mayoral seat in the May 2021 elections. These experiences made her an asset in the Alliance of Mayors and Municipal Leaders on HIV/AIDS in Africa (AMICAAL), where she was elected as Deputy Chairperson of the National Executive Council.

In addition to her political achievements, Leslee is an experienced businesswoman. She ventured into business at the age of 21 and has contributed significantly to Siteki Town's economy. She is also a qualified Human Resource practitioner, having acquired an advanced diploma in Human Resource Management in 2009. Leslee attended the prestigious Mandela Washington Fellowship, a key leadership program for young African leaders, which further broadened her horizons. Upon her return, she registered her own NGO, which focuses on youth development. Her work through this organizations reflects her commitment to empowering the younger generation and providing them with the skills and opportunities they need to succeed. Leslee has also been actively involved in mentoring young women in local government, a project she holds dear to her heart. She is passionate about assisting young women to climb the political ladder, just as she did.



**HON. MS MILKA MORAA AREBA**

**Member of the County Assembly, Mombasa County, President of the Women Caucus of REFELA-Kenya Chapter, Vice-President of REFELA for East Africa, Kenya.**

Hon. Ms Milka Moraa Areba is a passionate advocate for inclusive governance and equitable access to resources for all. She actively calls for #CRAVE inclusive financing and #WeCRAVE just sanitation measures, emphasizing the need for a healthier and sustainable environment for all citizens in Africa. She currently chairs her political party's Women's League, and the County Women Assembly Society (MOCAWS).

Hon. Milka began her professional journey as an educator, where she taught in several schools, including the Aga Khan Educational Services (AKES), for 31 years. Her tenure in the education sector equipped her with valuable leadership and organizational skills, which were foundational as she transitioned to another form of public service. Her deep-rooted commitment to education and community development has driven her advocacy for policies addressing inequities in society, especially for women and other marginalized groups. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in public management.

**Community Leadership:** Before venturing into politics, Hon. Milka was an influential patron and chairperson of several women's groups. She played a key role in their formation, fostering economic empowerment, social inclusion, and gender equity, self-sufficiency and active participation in governance.

**Political Career:** Hon. Milka was first nominated as a special elect member of the Mombasa County in 2017-2022. During her first term, she served as the Vice-Chairperson of the justice and legal affairs Committee. Her second term runs from 2022-2027.

**Vision and Impact:** Hon. Milka vision is firmly grounded in the Constitution of Kenya and legislative frameworks promoting Gender equity.

Through her leadership, she continues to inspire and implement transformative policies that enhance the role of women in governance and in society. These include policies on childcare centers, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), online sexual exploitation of minors and youth unemployment.

Hon. Milka Moraa Ngare's journey from an educator to politics exemplifies her unwavering dedication to public service and her passion for driving meaningful change in her community and beyond.



**HONORABLE MS. AATIMAD ZAHIDI**  
**President of Skhirate-Temara Prefectoral Council**  
**Kingdom of Morocco**

Hon. Ms Zahidi is a committed Moroccan politician, recognized for her rich experience in promoting territorial and social development. Currently President of the Skhirate-Témara Prefectoral Council, she embodies a model of female leadership combining competence, outreach, and commitment.

Trained as a computer engineer, she also holds a bachelor's degree in public law and a master's degree in diplomacy and strategic negotiation. Currently a doctoral candidate in international law, Ms. Zahidi is also a lawyer by profession. Her rich and diverse academic background complements several years of political and community experience.

She began her political involvement in 2001/2002, through local community organizations. This led her to run in the municipal elections in 2009 as a member of the Témara Communal Council, and was later elected to the Moroccan Parliament for the 2011-2016 legislative term. In the House of Representatives, she distinguished herself through her advocacy for women, youth, and education reform, serving on several strategic committees, including those responsible for foreign affairs, and as Chair of the Morocco-France Interparliamentary Friendship Group.

After her parliamentary term, she continued her commitment at the local level, joining the Rabat-Salé-Kénitra Regional Council and then becoming President of the Skhirate-Témara Prefectoral Council in 2021. At the helm of this institution, she spearheaded several key projects aimed at improving infrastructure, promoting vocational training, supporting women and youth, and strengthening social inclusion.

A woman of dialogue and close to citizens, Hon. Ms. Zahidi advocates for Local Governance based on transparency, participation, inclusion, and equal opportunity. Her career is an example of women's commitment to public management and sustainable territorial development.



**Hon. Ms HELENA BANDEIRA PCM**  
**Mayor of Mocimboa Da Praia, Mozambique (TBC).**

**Hon. MS MARIA JOSE CORREIA HELENA LANGA**  
**Former REFELA President, Member of Mandlakazi Municipal Assembly and**  
**President of MUCHEFA Association, Mozambique.**

In 1997, she Created the MUCHEFA, Mozambican Association for the Development of Women's Head of the Family and become its President until now. She participated in local elections and was elected member of the Municipal Assembly of Mandlakazi since 1998 to date. In 2003, she candidated by OJM (Mozambican Youth Organization) to compete internally to draft the Mayor having seen his proposal withdrawn at last minute under the pretext of being a child yet and she was a woman, they think that only man could be a Mayor. Through the MUCHEFA and other associations for women's Rights, she went on to lead several processes of women's Rights and demonstration of the capabilities that a woman has in the development of society and was involved in several campaigns to combat violence. In 2004, she was elected President of the Municipal Assembly Mandlakazi, position she will occupied until 2024. On 17 March 2007, she was elected Vice-President of the National Network of Women Mayors of Mozambique representing South Zone. In 2009, she was elected Secretary of the Board of the National Association of Municipalities of Mozambique (ANAMM) and in 2014, Vice-President of this Association. On 28th March 2012, she was elected President of REFELA.





## **CII MS DOREEN KALIMBA**

### **Member of RALGA Board, Chair of Local Economic Development Commission, Chairperson of Kayonza District Council, Rwanda**

Hon. Doreen has more than 20 years of continuous experience in the implementation of social protection programs. Responsible for leading the execution of 8 different safety nets for social development of vulnerable groups prioritizing gender as the cross cutting issue in all entities in Rwanda.

- Doreen worked as a social analyst for the Local administrative entities development Agency (LODA), 2010-2017. She also served as a Social economic development commissioner Rwanda National Women Council in the City of Kigali charged 2009-2014 where she played a role in Implementing Gender and development (GAD) policy to integrate gender perspectives in all government programs, enforcing gender sensitive local ordinances such as sexual harassment laws and equal employment policies, Economic empowerment, Gender responsive infrastructure, Political participation and Leadership, Health and Social service, Education and Capacity building.
- From 2006-2009, she was a social protection officer for Kicukiro in Kigali City, in charge of targeting and screening the most vulnerable social protection beneficiaries, identified and advised the District on appropriate community-based opportunities to transform their livelihood.
- Currently, She serves as Chairperson of Kayonza District Council meeting, since 2021 where she presides over council meetings, overseeing policy implementation, supervising District Executive committee, representing the District council, facilitating coordination between District constitution. In addition to this, she is a Local Economic Development Commissioner at Rwanda Local Government-association (RALGA) engaged in Planning and strategy development, Business and investment Promotion, Job creation and skills Development, Resource mobilization, Market Development and Trade Facilitation, Monitoring and Evaluation.
- Hon. Doreen is an Independent consultant on Gender Issues engaging in the Policy analysis and Development, Gender main streaming and Capacity building.
- Doreen holds a Masters in Gender and Development from University of Rwanda and Bachelors Degree in Business Administration (Human Resource Management) from KIST (Kigali Institute of Science and Technology).



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**Anna Majcan,  
Managing Director Women's Council Graz, Austria.**

Anna Majcan is co-founder and chairwoman of the Association 'Catcalls of Graz' and co-initiator of the 'Gallery against Sexism'.

She has been managing Director and Women's Spokesperson for the Graz Women's Council since March 2023.

Her aim is to make the Women's Council Graz accessible to the general public and to strengthen the feminist scene in Graz with joint campaigns, refreshing public relations work and networking meetings.





**Dr. ELKE LUJANSKY-LAMMER**  
**Spokesperson Human Rights Council Graz, Austria.**

Born in 1959, studied psychology, education, women's and gender studies.

1984 to 2000: Public Employment Service Styria.

From 2000 to September 2024: Head of the Styrian Regional Office of the Ombud for Equal Treatment, head of the Regional Office for Styria (= State institution).

Member of the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz since 2007 (Chairwoman 2011 to 2017).

Retired since October 2024 with three voluntary jobs:

- Chairwoman of the Human Rights Advisory Council of the City of Graz again;
- President of Lebenshilfe Steiermark (Organisations for people with disabilities);
- Chairwoman and Managing Director of the Institute for Women and Family (70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2025), offers free counselling (= NGO is funded by the City of Graz and the Province of Styria).

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**HON. MS JULIENDA FLORA KAMAPUNGU**  
**Deputy-Mayor of Otjiwarongo Otjozondjupa Region, Namibia**

Ms Julienda Flora is a community activist and a business woman.

She is committed to work on local efforts in advancing women's rights, how to deal with the barriers they face, and how to design and implement strategies to create inclusive and equitable communities.

