

KAS USA / IWDU Panel Discussion

# How Democracy Wins

## The Role of Female Leadership in the Face of Rising Threats to Democratic Values

## Joëlle Bou Abboud

Lebanese Lawyer and member of Beirut Bar Association since 2006, graduated from Saint Joseph University, faculty of Law and Political Sciences- LLB in Private Law.

Born in 1977, married to ex French MP Gwendal Rouillard and mother of an 18-year-old daughter.

In February 2019 and again in February 2023 she was elected member of the Political Bureau of the Kataeb Lebanese Party, and one of its spoke persons.

She is also member of the Kataeb International affairs department and member of the IWDU.

She is an advocate for women's rights and gender equality. As such she is the owner of the SDG 5 (gender equality sustainable development Goal of UN Global Compact Network Lebanon) at Holdal Group and heads as well an NGO called AIM, that provides support and empowerment for women.

From 2007 till 2015 she was the Senior Legal Counsel at Merit Corporation SAL, mother company of the third worldwide maritime company CMA CGM SA.

In May 2015, she joined Holdal Group as Group General Counsel and Secretary of its Board of Directors.

She is skilled in Arbitration and Dispute Resolution, as she holds a D.E.S.S. "Contentieux, Arbitrage et Modes Alternatifs de Règlement des Conflits" from the Lebanese University and submitted a thesis on the "Arbitration Clause in Corporate Law".

She is skilled as well in Intellectual Property, and Vice President of Brand Protection Group BPG a NGO specialized in fighting counterfeit and parallel import in Lebanon.



## Louisa Atta-Agyemang

Louisa holds a Bachelor of Laws (LLB), a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Science, and a Master of Arts in Peace, Security, and Intelligence Management. She has recently been awarded with a SCS Professional Development Certificate in Parliamentary Governance from the McGill University in Canada.

With years of experience in the corporate sector, Louisa has cross-industry experience in banking, oil and education. Louisa has mentored many young women who have risen to hold enviable positions in their endeavours. She has been nominated severally to receive honorary awards for her peerless leadership and for inspiring so many young people.

Among her plethora of accomplishments, she redefined students leadership by doing seemingly impossible things, which explains why she has severally broken the glass ceiling in various spheres; elected the first female President of her University's Student Representative Council, the first female President of the Ghana Union of Professional Students, the umbrella organization of all professional students in Ghana, and later as President of the National Union of Ghana Students (NUGS) in an acting capacity.

Louisa was elected the first President of the Young Democrat Union in 2020 and re-elected in 2021 to serve a second term. She provided peerless leadership to quickly set up the new union as a force to reckon with in Africa. Owing to her dedication and commitment, Louisa has now been elected as the first female and youngest co-chairperson of the Democrat Union of Africa.

Louisa prides herself as a conservative young woman whose ideals are to contribute to creating a world where individual liberties and freedoms, human dignity, equity, and human potential are the guarantors of a free and safe society rooted in democracy and a free enterprise system. She is married to Caleb Owusu, a successful entrepreneur, career coach, and budget and financial analyst.



## Sofia Brambilla

(City of Buenos Aires, March 16, 1980). Degree in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires, today she is National Representative of the Republican Proposal. She has been working for more than ten years in Civil Society Organizations developing and directing social programs.

She started military service in 2013. At that time, the Republican Party was new in the country and Sofia was one of the first to affiliate in her Province (Corrientes). Since 2017 she holds the vice-presidency of the party in Corrientes; and since March 2018, she is in charge of the National Secretariat of Pro Mujeres.

Sofia has experience in the area of Social Policies and has promoted public policies such as the Íbera National Park. She also has presented protocols regarding gender on political violence and the quota for directories of companies where the State has participation.



## Kodiak Hill-Davis

Kodiak Hill-Davis the senior vice president of government affairs at the Niskanen Center, a Washington, D.C. based think tank. She is responsible for developing the educational and advocacy strategies to advance the Center's legislative goals across all six policy departments. In this capacity, she works with a wide-range of legislators, coalitions, and stakeholders to pursue pragmatic approaches to climate, immigration, criminal justice, regulatory reform, governance, and social policy. She also chairs the management committee and serves on the senior leadership team.

Prior to joining the Niskanen Center, Kodiak spent over a decade lobbying the federal government on behalf of local governments, transportation authorities, airports, and defense interests at a bipartisan government relations firm. In 2017, she co-founded Republican Women for Progress (RWFP) to equip and empower more moderate Republican women to run for elected office. As the RWFP political director, she was responsible for identifying the candidates the organization endorsed through three election cycles. Kodiak earned her B.A. in political science from Smith College, her J.D. from George Mason University School of Law, and is a member of the Virginia State Bar.





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