

Q: Why do you think it is important to celebrate International Women's Day/Month?

A: Whilst there has been lots of progress, and some of us may never have really experienced or noticed some of the inequalities that exist, they still do. It's important to celebrate International Women's Day/Month because you can achieve so much as a group of people or in a community, whether it's in your village, town, business, country or across the world. And anyway, celebrating is fun!

Q: What was your journey to get to where you are now?

A: I worked hard, I went the extra mile, I sought out the opportunities, and I stayed true to myself. It took a long time to realise that I didn't have to keep trying to be like someone else - I just had to be me!

Q: What challenges have you faced as a woman in the industry, and how have you overcome them?

A: Some of the biggest professional challenges have been other women. That has always saddened me and I have heard other women say the same thing. However, I have drawn inspiration from many other women - and very importantly, the men - who have championed me and other women to overcome any challenges.

Q: What advice would you give to other women in the industry building their careers?

A: I would probably repeat what I have said above: work hard, go the extra mile, take all the opportunities going, be proactive and don't wait for someone to hand it to you on a plate. Be yourself, and have fun!



Amanda Illing

Chief Executive

Gatehouse Chambers

Amanda joined Gatehouse Chambers in 2009. Her role as CEO is to take a lead in the strategic development and management of chambers and to implement its business plan. She takes a key role with colleagues in developing business and long-lasting relationships with clients. She takes responsibility for the recruitment of and career development of the barristers and her staff team.

**INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S
DAY**

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Q: What women have supported or inspired you throughout your career and why?

A: I've been so lucky to have been supported and inspired by so many women in my career, which is why I think it is ingrained in me to pull up others who follow or are around me. There were so many amazing women in the Civil Service, and then in the 3 barristers chambers in which I've worked. However the support and inspiration also comes from your professional and personal network, and your friends and family. I think it's important to remember to stay grounded and get the outside perspective you need to make good decisions and stay true to yourself.

Q: It's 2022, how can we move forward in the industry to raise awareness against bias and take further action for equality?

A: You can join communities of people and initiatives and take action on a big scale. There is strength in numbers. However, just as important is to take action on a small scale every single day.