

AMANDA J. VAN DORT

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ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR - WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | POLICY LEADERSHIP

Senior policy leader and practitioner with nearly 15 years of experience including to advance Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and gender equality in U.S. foreign policy, global conflict prevention, and stabilization. Expert in designing WPS strategies, training curricula, and institutional reforms for the U.S. Department of State and interagency partners. Experienced university and professional instructor with a proven ability to translate policy frameworks into applied practice for students and practitioners.

EDUCATION

Master of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
Bachelor of Science, School of Health Sciences, Eastern Michigan University

TEACHING AND TRAINING EXPERIENCE

George Washington University – Elliot School of International Affairs

Adjunct Professor, Global Gender Policy | 2024 – Present

- Teach graduate course ‘Gender, War, and Peace’ and undergraduate course ‘Women and Global Politics’ integrating feminist foreign policy, WPS implementation, and field-based case studies.
- Mentor students pursuing careers in diplomacy, development, and security; facilitate simulations on policy design and interagency coordination.

Johns Hopkins University – Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)

Adjunct Professor | 2025 – Present

- Teach graduate course ‘Feminist Statecraft: Gender, Power, and the Conduct of War’.

U.S. Department of State – Foreign Service Institute (FSI)

Lead Instructor and Curriculum Development | 2018 – 2025

- Lead instructor for ‘Promoting Gender Equality to Advance Foreign Policy’ (PP226), the Department’s flagship course meeting the WPS Act of 2017 requirements.
- Designed and facilitated the Intersectional Gender Analysis Framework and Matrix training.
- Developed the first online Atrocity Prevention course, reaching thousands of personnel.
- Designed the Department’s flagship in-person course on Atrocity Prevention.
- Designed and facilitated the Gender Analysis of Conflict tool and training.
- Designed and facilitated the ‘Gender-sensitive Stabilization’ training on WPS, gender integration in security operations, and women’s leadership in conflict prevention.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of State – Secretary’s Office of Global Women’s Issues (S/GWI)

Chief of Staff (Acting) | 2025 – Present

Division Chief – Policy, Planning, and Public Diplomacy | 2021 – Present

- Lead architect for Department-wide WPS and gender integration reforms in U.S. foreign policy.
- Oversaw the Department’s implementation of Executive Order 14020 and the U.S. National Strategy on Gender Equity and Equality.
- Designed and launched 18 FAM 302, codifying gender integration across U.S. foreign policy.
- Convened the first Department-wide Gender Advisors Conference institutionalizing WPS practice.

U.S. Department of State – Operation Allies Welcome

Lead – Operations, Protection, and Special Cases | 2021

- Led humanitarian operations and protection planning for women and girls during Afghan evacuation, at the Dulles Expo Center and Marine Corps Base Quantico.
- Ensured gender-sensitive response frameworks and trauma-informed programming.

U.S. Department of State – Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO)

Policy Team Lead | 2020 – 2021

Senior Advisor | 2018 – 2021

- Served as Bureau lead for implementing the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017.
- Developed the Department’s first WPS course and Gender Analysis of Conflict training.
- Represented the U.S. on the Experts Panel for NATO to develop its first Policy on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-related Sexual Violence.
- Directed the drafting of the U.S. Atrocity Prevention and WPS Strategies.
- Coordinated with DoD on integrating WPS principles into operations and training.

U.S. Department of Defense – Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD)

Presidential Management Fellow, Acting Director – International Humanitarian Policy | 2017

- Oversaw DOD implementation of the WPS Act, including coordinating monthly synchs across combatant commands, annual reporting requirements, and tools/training.

Emerge Global

Country Director – Emerge Lanka Foundation | 2011 – 2013

- Led operations and fundraising for a non-profit organization empowering adolescent girls affected by gender-based violence in post-conflict Sri Lanka.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) | Gender Analysis of Conflict | Inclusive Peacebuilding | Feminist Foreign Policy | Atrocity Prevention | Gender & National Security Strategy | Training & Curriculum Design | Policy Implementation | Public Diplomacy