

# Biographical note of authors

---

**Sumona DasGupta** is a Political Scientist and independent research consultant based in New Delhi. She is currently senior research consultant with Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA). Her research and publications focus on issues of governance and democratic dialogue, conflict and peace building, and South Asian politics. Gender is a cross cutting issue that informs all of her work. Her book "Citizen Initiatives and Democratic Engagements: Experiences from India" from 2010 among other things the book deals with issues concerning women's political leadership in local governance. She was the author of the India country paper on analysis of political parties from a gender perspective, a research initiative of International IDEA in 2011.

**Rumbidzai Kandawasvika-Nhundu** is the Senior Programme Manager responsible for the Global Programme on Democracy and Gender at the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA) in Stockholm, Sweden. She is a gender equality advocate and practitioner, with more than twenty years of hands-on professional experience on gender equality and women's empowerment initiatives at national, regional and international levels. She has worked with capacity building and gender mainstreaming in parliaments, intra-party democracy processes, management of electoral processes from a gender perspective and transformative leadership strategies for women in politics.

**Maryse Helbert** has been an advocate for, and researcher on, women's participation in politics and decision-making for over a decade. After completing a Master's thesis on the comparative strengths and weaknesses of the French and Finnish political systems in encouraging and increasing women's political participation, she became actively involved in the movement to institute the so-called 'Parity Law' in France (1999-2000). Maryse Helbert has since broadened her research to include women's involvement in decision-making processes related to development, specifically in the context of resource exploitation and climate change, where evidence shows that women are being sidelined.

**Jytte Larsen** is a senior research consultant at KVINFORM, the Danish Centre for Information on Gender, Equality and Ethnicity. She is a historian and her research and publications focus on gender history, feminism and equality. Over the last twenty years, Jytte Larsen has contributed extensively with scientific articles and lectures on Danish women's history, gender equality, feminism etc., especially for the Danish Labour Union and several women's organisations. She is producing book reviews for Danish and international gender research periodicals, and has contributed to several larger anthologies.