



International Women's Day 2013



Women in Policing

In celebration of International women's day, we thought it would be a good opportunity explore and find out what roles women are undertaking in policing across the globe. We hope you enjoy reading the 'day in the life' profiles of women in various roles and from all corners of the world.

We would like to thank IAWP for allowing us to use their profiles for International women's day. If you would like to know more international women in policing or about IAWP please visit their website <http://www.iawp.org/>



A Day in the Life...



of Fatima, Abu Dhabi Police (March 2012 – Women Police)

Why did you become a police officer?

I had been encouraged since childhood by my father to join the police force. He made me actually love the idea of becoming a policewoman. Every time he saw me around the house, he used to salute me and I saluted him in return. It was fun. Eventually I decided to realise my father's wish for me. I joined the police force and I am proud to be a policewoman as I am now.

What is your current role?

I am a police sergeant, but this is by no means an end to my ambitions. I intend to climb the police ranks from lieutenant to the top ranks. I want to make my mark on the police force. I continue my university studies now to a degree in business administration specialising in Human Resources. I have been awarded a scholarship in reward to my achieving top places in our graduation from our basic recruit course: top place in the total marks and top place in the academic sciences. I was really encouraged by this reward and took upon myself to continue to excel in my field.

What do you love about your job?

I really love my work as I live in a family-like environment among my colleagues, my superiors and administration officers. We are tied with mutual respect and love to each other. Our director, Col. Waleed is an additional element to our love and excellence to our work, as he keeps

encouraging and motivating us. He maintains an open-door policy towards all of us, listening to our views and our personal problems and sharing our happiness and grieves.

How does your family feel about you being in the police?

My family is proud of me for being the first female in our family to become a policewoman. My confidence in myself is boosted every day by their on-going encouragement.

What advice would you give to other women in the police?

Should I extend some advice to my fellow UAE sisters, I would encourage them to join the police force. This is a service that is in need of all disciplines and the UAE Police Forces are in need of the services of policewomen.

What's the best thing about being involved in a women's police association?

By entering and participating in the IAWP has opened the way for me to encounter and meet people from all over the world and become acquainted with the development achieved by women policing. It is great for the exchange of thoughts and experiences, in addition to getting acquainted with the cultures and traditions of different societies and countries and maintaining contacts, mutual love and respect. I maintain all love and respect for them, and I sincerely believe that this was a golden opportunity for me to gain and learn from them and vice versa.

A Day in the Life...



Former IAWP scholar Saadia (35) from the Sulaimanya region of Kurdistan (Women Police – Sept 2012)

What is your rank?

In 2003 I contacted the police academy and in July 2004 I was appointed lieutenant. Now I am first lieutenant and also head of law department in

Hawler Directorate of Tracing Violence Against Women. This month I become Captain.

Where are you based? What are you responsible for?

I have been a traffic officer for six years and because of being active in my job I was made responsible for one of the police traffic stations in Hawler. I was promoted six months earlier than expected. Then, I opted to transfer to Hawler Directorate of Tracing Violence Against Women to be able to serve women in Kurdistan.

How did your family feel about you becoming a police officer?

My family are proud that I have reached this position and they are so helpful to me.

How did your community feel about it?

When every society faces change or a new phenomenon, at the beginning people can't accept it and they feel shocked especially if this change is about women but step by step they will get used to it.

Nowadays the number of women officers and polices are increased in Kurdistan.

Can you describe a typical day?

My daily job begins at 08:30 in my office in Hawler Directorate of Tracing Violence Against Women. Any woman who has complained about domestic violence has a special folder and special time to visit our office regularly to make sure that everything is okay. Everyday I meet them and if a woman did not visit in her special time we follow up and we have to know the reason why. If a woman visits our directorate to complain I meet her and talk to her and tell her about her rights and solutions.

What is the best thing about your job?

I feel sorry when I hear the victims telling their problems and I feel happy when we solve a women's problem.

I believe that reaching your aims is not easy and it needs a lot of works. Women make sacrifices which is why every woman should try hard to gain her rights. Also saving a person's live gives me a special feeling and we as police are saving women. Her life is our responsibility and we are proud

A Day in the Life...



Constable Dannielle of Australia's Northern Territory Police

(Women Police Sept 2010)

When did you become a police officer?

I started as an Aboriginal Community Police Officer (ACPO) with the Northern Territory Police Force in May 2004. In 2009 I undertook a Transitional Course (ACPO to Constable) and as a result graduated as a Probationary Constable in September of that year.

What made you want to become a police officer?

The variety of tasks appealed to me and the thought of being "out and about" in the community, meeting and working with new people was also an exciting thought. There are also great opportunities for career advancement / training opportunities / personal development and the opportunity to work in urban, rural and remote settings.

What is your rank and where are you based?

Prior to undertaking the transitional course I was a Senior Aboriginal Community Police Officer and am now a Probationary Constable based at Katherine, Northern Territory. The population is around 8000 here. The capital of the Northern Territory is Darwin and that is just over 300km's away.

What do you love about your job?

Helping people, even if it only changes a small part of their life and being a role model for other indigenous people.

What is your family life?

My partner is a police officer and my mother is a police auxiliary in the communications centre. At times she has had to task me to incidents which can be quite stressful for her but they're all very proud of me. My nieces and nephews look up to me and always want to put my hat or work shirt on, or see me out and about on duty.

Can you describe a typical day at work?

A typical day at work could be anything from attending incidents to community events.

What advice would you give to women police across the world, particularly newly qualified ones?

The first couple of months can be trying while your finding your feet, stick at it - don't give up as there is definitely a light at the end of the tunnel.

A Day in the Life...

Claudia, 34, is a sergeant in the Netherlands.

How long have you been a police officer?

I became a police officer in 2000 after six years in the military where I was a first class sergeant. Since then I've worked as a detective and made my way up to police sergeant.

Where are you based?

I'm based in Zoetermeer which is a big city near The Hague. There are 120,000 people living here and 200 police officers. At the station I work with a lieutenant and together we lead fourteen police officers. We work with eight other teams in 'the blue'; that's what we call the uniformed officers.

What do you love about the job?

I love my job because every day is different. At the beginning of the day I never know what will happen. Sometimes I am helping people who are sick or in trouble then I'll be giving fines to people who didn't follow the rules. My job allows me to work with people and in this job I can do that everyday. I can assure you that it's no boring job!

What is your family life?

I'm married, my husband is a police officer too. We don't have children but we do have a dog.

What rank are you?

I've been a sergeant for two years and now I'm studying again. It will take two years but then I'll be a lieutenant.

What specific role do you have within your police force?

A great part of my role is to lead and coordinate the team when something big happens. This could be a big

and complicated car accident or a big street fight, problems in the city or in someone's home. I also help students who are learning to become police officers. I guide and coach them whilst they work and learn on the job.

Which of your experiences as a police officer stands out the most and why?

With all of my experiences I could write a book! But the experience which stands out the most was when I got a call five years ago. A girl called and said that her father was killing her mother. When I got to the scene the man was still stabbing the woman. I won't tell you what I saw but I will never forget the incident. The woman was dead on arrival and the man is still in jail. They had two kids and they had seen it all happen, I sometimes wonder how they are doing right now.

Can you describe a typical day at work?

Every day is different!

What advice would you give to policewomen around the world, particularly newly qualified ones?

Don't ever let people tell you what you can't do. Believe in yourself and if you want to reach a bigger goal; go for it! We're working in a business where more men than women work; stay a lady at all times, we can be strong, but we can still look like a lady and be a lady!



A Day in the Life...

Tracy is an officer based in Alaska.

What is your rank and role in the police? Where are you based?

I am a police officer at the Dillingham Police Department in Dillingham, Alaska. I perform all of my own investigations in addition to my patrol duties. I am also a field training officer.

What attracted you to policing?

I got into police work because I was looking for ways to be of service in a more active way. I didn't want to be trapped at a desk. There is a lot of diversity within the profession of law enforcement and that appealed to me. I felt that law enforcement would be a profession in which there would always be something new to learn.

What is your family's view of your job?

My family is very supportive of my profession. My father was a police officer with LAPD in the late 60's. He passed away when I was very young; even so, I think his presence in my life influenced my decision to become a police officer.

What do you enjoy most about your work?

I like having the opportunity to help people. I find a great deal of satisfaction in being able to be part of a process that can protect those that are unable to protect themselves, (particularly children), and further, that can serve justice to the victims of violent crimes.

Is there a single experience in policing that stands out for you? If so, what is it and why?

During my first year as a police officer I was able to investigate a homicide. It was a team effort with other agencies that resulted in the arrest and conviction of the suspect. I learned a great deal during that time from other investigators. I later

received a letter of commendation from the Chief of Police for the investigative work that I did on that case. This incident greatly impacted the community and I was glad to be part of a team that was able to serve justice to the victim's family and perhaps offer them some comfort through that.



What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the relationships and rapport that I have established in my community, as well as the investigations that I have been able to perform and participate in that have positively affected the lives of women and children. There is great value in helping a child. I find a tremendous amount of satisfaction in putting the perpetrators of crimes against children in jail.

What is the best thing about being a member of IAWP?

The best thing is the connection and support from other female officers. I find that to be invaluable in this profession. I am the first woman to work for my police department and for several years I was the only female officer in my police department. The IAWP conference of 2009 was the first conference that I attended. It energized me in way that I had not been energized before, it was very inspiring. I was also very impressed with the calibre of speakers and trainers that were present at the conference. There are so many women that have so much to share from their long careers in law enforcement. I felt very fortunate to be part of that.



A Day in the Life...

First Lieutenant Amena Mohamed Khamis works for the Abu Dhabi Police as an Administration Officer.

Dec 2011 - Feb 2012 | *WomenPolice* |

What attracted you to a role in law enforcement?

Since I was young I was interested in policing because of its ability to deliver humanitarian aid to people and secure lives and properties. The dream stuck in my mind and my desire to share the march of development around my country led me to think seriously about joining the police force to save lives and prevent crime.

What is your rank and where are you based?

My rank is 1st Lt. in Abu Dhabi Police G.H.Q based in the Capital Police Directorate as an Administration Officer. I lead a team of employees, both men and women, involved in duties and responsibilities of administration and financial issues. I am also managing the project to create the UAE Women's Police Association. Currently we are designing the constitution of the EWPA with a well-qualified team of experts and talented Women Police Officers. This will be the first association of its kind in the Middle East.

Could you describe a typical day?

I usually get to the office at 7.30am, inspect my check list of follow up jobs, duties, responsibilities and assign staff to perform duties according to the schedule at the time. I evaluate the performance step by step while following up any other urgent responsibilities. In addition I communicate with other related organisations in regards to performance quality and standards.

What do you love most about your role?

I like my position leading the UAE Women's Police Association as the most unique organisation of its kind in the to be abreast of the activity of women police officers, to ensure their rights are upheld and coordinate efforts to keep women police involved. Where female police officer is required, according to our traditions and social values, a woman should be assigned to deal with the investigation, arrest, escort and guarding. This may include personal inspection at airports, jails, and female detention centers.

What unique skills do you think women bring to policing?

Women bring to policing a very unique service in our society as it is not easy for females to deal with males in police centres, complaints, conflicts, family disputes, female privacy nature issues and rapes. A woman brings a different perspective to the case. In United Arab Emirates it is better for women to be interviewed by women without any issues or embarrassment. Women show high levels of commitment, accuracy and perform duties often more efficiently.

What advice would you give to women police officers across the world? Particularly newly qualified ones?

I advise newly qualified women police officers to be open minded to learning new skills, enhancing experiences and assuring mutual confidence with their team work through cooperation and understanding.