



Edna Ryan Awards

2023

Shirley Randell

For Making a Feminist Difference in Mentoring

Professor Shirley Randell AO is an award-winning global mentor, educator, author, public speaker, change activist, and campaigner for human rights for the improvement of the status of women. She has provided specialist technical assistance to governments and agencies in Africa and the Asia Pacific Region over 20 years as a leading expert in education, gender mainstreaming and human rights in developing countries.

She founded and was first Director of the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Rwanda. Shirley was an Australian Inaugural Women of Influence in 2012, a TIAW World of Difference Awardee in 2013, and winner of the Institute of Managers and Leaders ANZ Sir John Storey Lifetime Leadership Achievement Award in 2018.

One of Dr Randell's major strengths is Education: she recently completed an assignment as the Pre-service Education Specialist with the Teaching Quality Improvement Project for the Ministry of Education in Bangladesh. Dr Randell played key roles in discussions for the development of Rwanda's first Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy. She also had key roles in national girls' education and gender policies, as well as gender mainstreaming in Bangladesh.

A world vice-president of GWI (formerly the International Federation of University Women) from 2007-2010, she is a founder and Board member of one of the biggest associations for women graduates in Africa - the Rwanda Association of University Women, and was Founder Director of the Centre for Gender Studies at the University of Rwanda's College of Arts and Social Sciences. RAUW has over 900 women on its roll.

She is now Coordinator of International Relations for Australian Graduate Women, and Vice Chair of Graduate Women-New South Wales City Branch.