



# Kate Bright

## Smashing Stereotypes

**Kate Bright**, CEO of UMBRA International, a private security company; talks to us about what it's like being in such a mass male-dominated industry.

I set up UMBRA initially to build on my experience in Close Protection and felt confident enough to embark upon my Non-Executive Director/Board and Trustee Career path because of working more deeply within the Private Security Industry. I bring over 20 years of client knowledge and connection to the industry as well as having boundless energy to put into the passions where I can leave a positive legacy.

“Some people may have an outdated idea that the industry is all-male because of the physical attributes associated with ‘security’ in terms of strength, height, muscle & bulk. But perhaps miss the invisible traits that a more diverse workforce brings. This includes opportunities within the world of cyber security where a wide range of skills, backgrounds and mindsets are required”.

However, Kate felt that it was a natural progression from her time in a private office to working around private security industry professionals. She never felt out of place, especially when she was encouraged by a male mentor to undertake the Close Protection (CP) training. She was lucky enough to seek out men and women in CP to whom she could call on for advice, and soon had a supportive framework of people around her to ask questions.

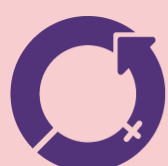
When first joining the profession Kate was acutely aware of the brilliant men and women in the industry and how little light was shone on their backgrounds and experience. “It felt like I had stumbled upon a new gear shift in my career that I knew was only going to open more doors, it also changed my own stereotypes of what the limits of my skills and career progression would be every step along the way,” said Kate.

Kate was welcomed by her male colleagues with support, guidance and always a spirit of allyship. No matter what the challenge there is a male/female supporter or champion nearby.

Kate's biggest obstacle was her own confidence. Entering a new role or industry takes a while to find your feet and voice. With a good network, continuous professional development, and a focus on always keeping your physical and mental health in tip-top condition you can carve a path and in Kate's case set up your own business.

Self-development is key. Trusted people around you giving honest feedback about your skills and learn from mistakes when things don't go as planned. Embracing the speedbumps as essential parts of the growth in mindset and possibilities you might not have thought of prior to that moment.

Kate's advice to those wanting to smash stereotypes. “Build and support your networks as you go, embrace continual learning. The more you learn, the more entrenched you become in your career, the more people you meet, and the more opportunities will present themselves to you. Try always to support and champion others as you go, mentorship and reverse mentorship will always teach you more than you could ever imagine about where to take your career, and what to do when you reach those moments of change, crisis, or self-doubt.



International Women's Day