

## Souhila Chetouane – Vice Chair Diversity and Inclusion Committee



Souhila graduated from the Algerian Petroleum Institute with a Masters of Science in Petroleum Engineering in 2006 and is a multi-lingual physical fitness enthusiast.

Souhila started her career as a Production Assurance Engineer working on Production Optimisation and Performance Analysis of a 7 fields development project for BP In-Salah. She acquired experience in Production Optimisation of oil and gas assets from working with frontline operational teams in Asia, Middle East, North Africa, North

America and Europe and is now settled in Aberdeen over the past decade. She is currently working as a Projects Lead for SMS Ltd, a growing engineering consultancy, focussing on strong project and risk management in assisting operators with Flow Assurance concerns on UK Continental Shelf ageing assets on an advisory role.

As a STEM Ambassador, Souhila's passionate about promoting engineering and stem subjects to young people and is currently collaborating as a mentor with a North East of Scotland Academy to persuade the next generation of boys and girls that engineering is for them and be a positive role model to help them on their path.

Like many women in STEM professions, Souhila is involved in work on Equality and Diversity topics and believes achieving gender balance within STEM and the energy industry as a whole will have wide reaching benefits for everyone.

### *In the Spotlight*

*What career advice would you give your younger self?*

Choose a career mentor much earlier and ...don't be afraid to speak up and be heard.

*What do you think are the benefits of being a member of SPE?*

Your SPE membership is what you make of it.

Volunteering with the programme committee gave me the opportunity to meet many engineers at different levels of their career most of which are lifelong friends and connections now. Through attending technical events and talks I improved on my technical knowledge of other disciplines in the energy industry.

Being able to give something back through the Schools Career Guidance committee and get involved in inspiring the younger generations of engineers is something I am very passionate about.

*Best Achievement so far?*

Launching Women in Energy Aberdeen in September 2019, with my fellow WIN committee members, has got to be one of the proudest moments of my volunteering life.

*What did you want to be when you were younger?*

I wanted to be a pilot but I was discouraged because that career path was "for boys".

*What would your autobiography be called?*

Souly II Souly

*What is the best way to motivate others?*

Get to know them! We may not want to be personal friends with colleagues but that doesn't mean we can't get to know them as people and finding out what makes them tick.

*Your favourite stress-buster?*

Sport and exercise. For me playing a sport, going to the gym is a powerful medicine that is great for the mind as well as physical health.

*What's your dream job?*

"Detective" – which requires key skills we learn to master as engineers "critical thinking, attention to detail and problem solving".

*What are you reading, listening to or glued to on TV?*

I have been watching "Mindhunter", a series based on real-life events and characters that delves into the formation of the FBI's behavioural sciences unit. Based on two former FBI agents who, in 70s America, interviewed some of the country's most disturbed and violent incarcerated psychopaths. I found the show fascinating in the way they studied the mind of the criminals to better understand their behaviour and apply what they learned to ongoing investigations. This psychological odyssey is among the very best in my opinion.

*What's on your bucket list – the things you still want to accomplish?*

Make time to travel the world and visit some of the must-see destinations like: The three Gorges Dam in China, The Mose Project in Italy and The Panama Canal.

Return to [SPE Aberdeen Section website](#).