

JUDGES UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT



Ylva Oertengren
Chief Operating Officer
Simply Finance

Q: What does it mean to you to be a judge for the Women in Credit Awards?

YO: Obviously, contributing in any way to put a spotlight on the amazing women in our industry is something I strongly believe in and would always support. But if I am being honest, the biggest takeaway for me of a selfish kind. It is the inspiration I get from reading all nominations, discussing the achievements of the nominees with my fellow judges and the strength I get from knowing that out there across our industry, women (and men) are driving change, bringing about a more balanced credit industry.

Q: What are you doing in your current role to raise awareness around gender diversity?

YO: To me, it is clear that diversity of thought and inclusivity of different perspectives is good for businesses and all aspects of society. It is a culture, a way of thinking and an approach to decision making. Driving diversity helps you achieve this. So in my leadership at Simply it is engrained in all people strategies and initiatives, all the way from recruitment to career development. Outside Simply, I am engaged in an initiative called Open51, aiming to gather female leaders in open finance to drive thought leadership and representation.

Beside this, I have founded a network for senior women in the alternative lending industry. Also, I spend time mentoring and supporting women who work in financial services.

Q: What is the importance of being a finalist at the Women in Credit Awards?

YO: Finalists get invaluable exposure. In the judging process, all finalists are discussed at length by the judges. As a very grateful former winner myself, I know how much recognition follows an award and how it helps create connections.

Q: What are you looking for in a winning entry?

YO: I am always looking for the entry that not only breaks new ground or delivers something special, but also opens doors for others. Outstanding performance should not be a one off, it should also lift the women that follow. As Kamala Harris' mother told her: you may be the first, but make sure you're not the last. Nominees that live by this will get my vote.

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