



*Shefali Razdan Duggal*

PRESS CLIPS

9/25

## #PowerWomen – Meet Shefali Razdan Duggal



My goal for Social and Style is to be a platform to inspire women to reach their greatest potential. Whether this means being a leader in your home, community, workplace, or nation – we each have a role to play in shaping our own lives and the society we live in.

Last week, I had the honor of attending the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Women's Leadership Forum 21st Annual National Conference. The forum is a place for women to connect and discuss important issues related to our voice, our values, and our vote. Whatever your political beliefs are, the cornerstone of the conference is for us all to understand that women's issues are universal issues.

During the conference, I sat down with a conference co-chair Shefali Razdan Duggal. A powerhouse in politics and the South Asian Community, Shefali is one of the most humble people I have ever met. And chatting with Shefali changed my own perception of leadership.



**Meet: Shefali Razdan Duggal**

- **What inspired you to be a part of the Democratic National Committee (DNC)?** The people. When I support a candidate, it is imperative for me to fundamentally trust the person, their ethics, and what they stand for. Perhaps it is a bit naive, although I believe that when a person is essentially pure intentioned to the core, then they will likely make correct, ethical and broad thinking decisions for the betterment of their constituents. My background is in political communications, having my bachelors in Mass Communication/Political Science and my masters in Political Communication. I have been deeply passionate about politics since I was a very young child. My first vivid memory of political interest is the 1980 Presidential Election (Carter v. Reagan), and how I was completely enthralled with the concept of, effectively, a peanut farmer (by way of being President) running against an actor (by way of being a governor) to be the President of the greatest country on earth. Only in this great nation is this possible, as we live in a true and genuine meritocracy. Over the years, I have had the blessing to work on various political offices (Senators Ted Kennedy and Feinstein; the MA and NH Democratic Parties) and some amazing campaigns, which include Gore for President 2000, Hillary Clinton for President 2008, Obama 2008 and 2012 Presidential campaigns, Kamala Harris (LOVE HER!) for California Attorney General and several senate and congressional campaigns throughout the country. I am fortunate that they tolerate me within their ranks!

- **You've met President Obama on several occasions, what's one thing we may not know about our President?** One of my favorite characteristics of both the President and First Lady is their respect for elders. My mother is 75 years old, 5'2" and very slight. During an event at the White House, I brought my mother as my guest. As you can imagine, there was a lot of rush to meet the President. Out of the bustling crowd, President Barack Obama came over and made it a priority to meet and speak with my mom. Then, his beautiful wife followed behind him, to greet people. Mrs. Obama, who towers quite a bit over both my mother and I, was gracious to take a photo with my mother, in spite of the the many people who were thronging about her. The sweetest part of that moment is that Mrs. Obama had to bend down soooooo far to reach my mother's cheek (the First Lady, at 5'11", had a long journey to reach my mother's face!). I thought that moment was absolutely precious and it touched both my mother's and my heart very much.
- **What advice do you have for readers aspiring to be in leadership positions?** I don't have advice for people aspiring to be in leadership positions. I do not believe leadership is something you strive for. If you do something exceptionally well, you will end up in a leadership position – if you choose. The people that strive for titles or positions tend to be transactional and rather transparent. I value building relationships over striving to get something from someone.
- **How do you think readers can be a part of closing the gender gap of women in leadership?** Be optimistic – it may take a few generations for the paradigm to truly shift. Both men and women need to be educated on the importance of women being participatory and joyfully a part of our culture.
- **What's the one thing attendees should remember after the conference?** We heard such great advice from the keynotes, speakers, and panelists. We want to see a thought shift in the concept of women's participation that will fundamentally change how our society progresses.
- **What's next for Shefali?!** I leave all doors and windows open for what comes. I would be honored to join the National Finance Committee for Hillary Clinton should she run for the 2016 Presidential Campaign. I also look forward to my role as a Presidential Appointee to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council and continuing to be an active member of the DNC!

**Connect with Shefali:** [shefali@shefalirazdanduggal.com](mailto:shefali@shefalirazdanduggal.com), [www.shefalirazdanduggal.com](http://www.shefalirazdanduggal.com)