

James Malcolm Blake

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Executive Profile:

A passionate, astute, critical thinking, ambitious and internationally experienced Risk Management Consultant, published author and Security Risk Management Consultant (SRMC 6), who specialises in the leadership and the development of risk management solutions with a focus on enhancing strategies across a wide range of industry sectors. A natural networker, influential communicator and relationship builder, who possesses a proven track record in delivering fit-for-purpose strategies by delivering change, risk management best practices and innovation.

A pioneering, results-driven, subject matter expert and trusted C-suite advisor, who is able to present complex information in a comprehensible manner to senior leaders and board members to achieve confidence and buy-in. A diligent professional who has excellent negotiation, diplomacy and people management skills, with a proven ability to seize new opportunities, whilst building strong relationships based on trust and mutual respect at all professional levels.

Key Professional Skills & Attributes:

- **Knowledge & Expertise:** Possesses 15+ years of international experience in risk management from within the Insurance, Consulting, Government, Banking, Finance, Emerging & Frontier Markets and Technology industry sectors.
- **Leadership & Teamwork:** A people-centric, collaborative and strategic leader who has an innate ability to lead a range of multi-skilled teams, using various leadership styles to successfully achieve diverse project outcomes and vision.
- **Risk Management:** A qualified SRMC, who is skilfully able to identify significant enterprise risks by adopting a qualitative and quantitative approach, able to carry out in depth risk assessments, incident response, developing risk frameworks and policies.
- **Commercial Acumen:** A commercially sound professional who is able to fully understand the business' strategic goals and objectives, assessing factors that impact upon risk tolerance levels, whilst considering macro-vision of the business.
- **Consulting:** A trusted senior advisor, who adopts a consultative approach, displaying discretion, sensitivity and confidentiality.
- **Project Management:** Able to evaluate end-to-end project scope and deliverables, managing 3rd parties, adopting diverse project management methodologies, overseeing project lifecycle, implementing risk strategies and project completion.
- **Relationship Management:** Passionate in nurturing relations with C-Suite Leaders, Security Chief Officers, Head of Geopolitical Security, Compliance Officers, Data Analysts, Legal Teams, HR, Governments & NGOs by managing clear expectations.
- **Problem Solving & Analytical:** A naturally analytical, meticulous and detail-oriented professional who adopts a 360-degree approach to solving diverse problems, deciphering data and trends with an objective to establish robust plans to mitigate risks.
- **Communication:** An assertive, thoughtful and engaging communicator who is able to adapt styles of communication at all levels of the organisation by bridging the gap, achieving buy-in by displaying subject matter expertise, diplomacy and authority.
- **Emotional Intelligence:** Enjoys working within a global and varied workforce of professionals from a wide range of cultures, backgrounds and diversity, by naturally displaying understanding, empathy, patience and professionalism.
- **Languages:** English, Arabic (Basic) and French (Basic).

Professional Career History:

Senior Security & Political Officer – ClientEarth, London

April 2023 – Present

- Top-tier executive risk support including around high-profile international events, ensuring decision-makers are equipped with insights to navigate complex security challenges.
- Delivering extensive training initiatives encompassing physical security measures across multiple office locations.
- Conducting comprehensive security risk assessments tailored to countries across South East Asia, the US and Saudi Arabia.
- Executing physical risk management strategies for international teams, including a recent assignment in Belgium and upcoming plans for the LA Office, focusing on business continuity.
- Spearheading crisis management efforts in response to terrorist attacks, offering expertise in high-risk assessments, vulnerability identification, tactical responses, and incident management.
- Reporting to the Head of Operations team, facilitating informed decision-making through comprehensive security reports.
- Strategically allocating annual budgets to prioritise critical security projects and initiatives.
- Collaborating with external partners to evaluate and engage consultancy services for specialised security projects.
- Managing risks associated with diverse projects and initiatives, ensuring effective mitigation strategies are implemented.
- Collaborating with Senior Leadership Teams (SLT) to integrate security measures seamlessly within organisational frameworks.
- Providing consultancy services to senior legal professionals and entities within the pesticide, fishing, and oil and gas industries.
- Conducting risk assessments for large-scale events, contributing to the development of tailored risk mitigation strategies.
- Instrumental in refining organisational policies and approaches to enhance event security protocols and standardise risk mitigation practices to ensure due care and in-line with the forthcoming Martyn's law legislation.

Key Achievements:

- Secured consultancy projects and contracts in a competitive market, demonstrating expertise and value proposition.
- Key involvement in high-profile projects risk mitigation, including recent press and media exposure around the ClientEarth V Shell Board of Directors case.
- Addressed emerging enterprise threats such as disinformation through robust risk management strategies, particularly focusing on deep fakes and reputation preservation.
- Led a research project on far-right terrorism risks in the UK, providing insights ahead of significant national events like elections.
- Collaboration with the innovation team around risk intelligence related to the organisation.
- Involved in a high-profile investigation including interviews, facts, and recommendations.

Security Consultant – Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP), London & Middle East

Jan 2023 – April 2023

- Developed and implemented a comprehensive crisis management plan, including travel to Ramallah, programs, hospitals and Jerusalem, and operational involvement in Gaza and Lebanon.
- Led risk assessments to identify existing vulnerabilities in offices and implemented appropriate mitigation measures.

- Identified gaps within the existing insurance coverage.
- Engaged with program partners to foster collaborative approaches to security challenges and proactively prepare for emerging risks.
- Spearheaded the drafting of a crisis management policy, enhancing organisational preparedness.
- Led training for senior leadership, staff members, and former MPs, fostering a culture of crisis awareness and response.
- Facilitated a scenario exercises to test the practical application of crisis plans, enhancing preparedness and responsiveness.
- Collaborated with the Head of Communications through sharing lessons from World Vision's response to a security crisis.
- Conducted strategic risk assessments focused on settler violence, informing proactive security measures.
- Worked closely with the Head of the Gaza office and the CEO to align security initiatives with organisational objectives.

Founder – Next Generation Risk Management LLC & LTD, New York & London
Independent Consultant, London

Dec 2020 – Jan 2023
May 2018 – Dec 2020

- Advised a leading technology company on developing risk assessment tools, security intelligence and emerging geopolitical and security threats, enabling them to build a product to better protect their most senior employees.
- Carried out Risk Intelligence projects on various violent risks, which included scenario planning of security risks ahead of the US election for a large insurance firm in the UK.
- Led consultancy engagements for several top-end consultancy firms, including projects involving engagement strategies, high-level due diligence and political risk reports.
- Partnering with a cyber consultancy to develop dis and misinformation training programs for their c-suite leadership team and to provide introductions, interest in its business and other strategic support.
- Designed a training program with a focus on combating dis and misinformation and improving source quality for a large peace-building organisation's security and Crisis Management Team.

Key Achievements:

- Appointed as an Advisory Board Member of 'Cyberfish', a cyber risk consultancy firm.
- Helped to design and led a project on how to combat dis and misinformation around the COVID crisis in conflict zones across the Middle East with a technology company and a think tank. Featured stories on this topic from Fast Company Magazine, various press outlets; engaged several high-profile advocates to highlight and draw attention to the crises taking place in countries such as Syria, Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon. Presented on the topic to the Pearson Centre, University of Chicago.
- In October 2021, successfully published a book, 'Crisis Readiness', teaching business leaders can prepare for tomorrow from Climate to Cyber published by 'Networkling Publishers', with reviews from a senior corporate security figure at Aon, Crumpton Martin, and the CEO of Collins Consulting and reached Amazon's top 250 business consulting books.
- Provided expert briefings to several different audiences, which included a renowned think tank, GISF humanitarian security risk management forum, and spoke to various media channels BBC World, BBC Africa, Channel 4 News, CBC News and Al-Jazeera.
- Contributed a variety of publications and displayed thought leadership, for a number of leading publications, which included disinformation risks to the US election, cyber-crime risks to businesses, risk-specific publications, and contributing a chapter to the Western Hemisphere's Bipartisan Committee, through the US Senate, on strategies to reorientation drug prevention schemes in Central America with specific projects in-countries, including Guatemala, El Salvador and Northern Mexico.

Consultant – Open Society Foundations, NY

Apr 2019 – Jan 2020

- Helped to organise a conference at the UN, invited distinguished guests, senior leaders and Mayors from across the world to learn about risk issues on how cities could build resilience to issues surrounding the refugee and migrant crisis.

Security & Operations Coordinator – International Rescue Committee New York, NY

May 2018 – Jan 2019

- Worked on a number of projects with the Corporate Security Team under the direction of the Head of Operations.
- Responsible for overseeing 4 key projects; improving the scope, quality and timeliness of security reports; Working on the IRC's Corporate Traveller security development training tool; Worked with the Security Director and VP of Operations to develop protocols of crisis declaration; and worked on various projects of analysis.
- Delivered a key presentation group of private sector Security Analysts, presenting a risk-based approach to preparing for humanitarian disasters.

Associate Director – Veracity Worldwide New York, NY

June 2017 – May 2018

- Led a wide range of high-level strategy projects and enhanced due-diligence, which included advising one of the world's largest manufacturing firms on ways to combat corruption and save millions of dollars of money in Vietnam by identifying the corruption schemes and highlighting potential ways to mitigate these risks.
- Led market-entry strategies for a firm looking to disrupt a drilling-related sector in Russia.
- Drove specific a project for Formula One around political and geopolitical risks ahead of several of their Grand Prix.
- Enhanced due-diligence for a private equity firm looking to establish a large investment in the UAE.
- Led market entry strategies for a non-profit engaging to distribute tablets to various countries to boost education output rates.
- Project experience included managing the project cycle from proposal writing and pricing through to engaging high-level sources, some of whom were former Ambassadors and Heads of Intelligence services.
- Whilst in different countries, managed a team of Researchers and Analysts to gather specific information from a variety of sources, which included databases, Consultants, and available open source records.
- Engaged with the clients directly both during the project and often presented findings to them following the project.
- Closely collaborated in business development efforts which included around specific sectors such as private equity.

Key Achievements:

- Successfully delivered a large number of key risk management projects from conception through to delivery.
- Project 1 – Assisted a client in the acquisition process by developing risk mitigation measures when acquiring a new company.
- Project 2 – Assisted a client wishing to position its business in Russia in the Oil & Gas sector, assisted in the market entry strategy by evaluating and understanding risks and sanctions measures.
- Project 3 – Assisted a client who wished to appoint a respected new Board member who had some intricate relations. Assisted the existed Board on assessing the risks before their appointment to the Board.

International Rescue Committee New York – NY Emergency Preparedness & Response Unit & Security **Nov 2013 – Aug 2016**

- Performed real time all-source intelligence, analysis and related due diligence of emerging security and related risk issues to support IRC's emergency preparation and operations in different crises.
- The audience for this project included the IRC head of security, various international program staff and director of emergency response. This position's success resulted in a greater contribution to responding more quickly to the largest humanitarian crises of our time, more effective programming; and subsequently several new positions which were formed in various country teams to monitor risk in emerging crises such as in the Syria crisis region and in Afghanistan.
- Worked with senior colleagues to help shape emergency responses through post scenario definition work.
- Helped to retool a Watchlist which became more forward-looking and incorporated both qualitative and quantitative data, which enabled the organisation to respond faster and to more humanitarian emergencies across the world.
- Contributed to scenario planning exercises such as around the Syrian conflict and its four-year-outlet for senior staff which led to the formation of scenario planning in country programs under the IRC 2020 strategy; helped by providing scenario assessments of crises across the world to shape programmatic responses and humanitarian access to crises in addition to providing threat and risk assessments on request.
- Collaborated as a team member conducting contingency planning-related analysis in Turkey during the 2015 European Refugee Crisis following interviewing Refugees, Journalists, and other stakeholders, which enabled our team to produce recommendations to guide IRC's crisis response to the European refugee crisis. This culminated in the organisation significantly developing its European presence and operations both programmatically and to engage senior policymakers to help advocate for refugees and asylum seekers and resettlement at the EU, UN and national government-level.
- Delivered a key presentation group of private sector Security Analysts, presenting a risk-based approach to preparing for humanitarian disasters.

Regional Security Advisor – The International Monetary Fund (Control Risks) Washington, DC **Oct 2012 – Nov 2013**

- Led and facilitated regular in-person briefings to IMF staff members ahead of their mission travel with risk assessments developed jointly with the IMF's other staff.
- Oversaw the evacuation of IMF staff during security incidents in Egypt and Tunisia, based on interaction with senior colleagues in the organisation and their specific risk tolerance.
- Conducted security risk assessment missions to the IMF's principal field offices in Jordan and Tunisia.
- Worked with Senior Security coordinators accompanying IMF, which included senior UNDSS staff and former members of the US Department of State's security team.
- Worked on other projects which included increasing compliance-rates across various IMF field offices, helping to improve the resilience of several sub-offices and trying to find ways for the IMF to continue its meetings when countries became too dangerous; such as holding meetings in the Middle East instead of Afghanistan and Yemen and engaging with senior-level staff on discussion around risk tolerance, criticality of mission travel and when evacuations should take place following security incidents.
- Awarded a bonus upon resignation as a recognition of work, in keeping the staff and institution safe at a time of turmoil.

Associate – The Risk Advisory Group, London, UK **May 2007 – Mar 2012**

- Worked with a small, specialised team to develop and provide client-specific security risk assessments, bespoke political risk reports, and threat intelligence to large companies and organisations, which included JP Morgan, Deutsche Bank, extractive companies, oil and gas firms and some consultancies,
- In collaboration with a team of interns, built and maintained WorldAware, a security risk platform assessing worldwide business traveller risks used by hundreds of corporate security teams across the world. Subsequently this product has been bought out by a security company which now has its branded name.
- Helped to create Aon's annual terrorism and political violence risk report which was used by the insurance broker to help understand terrorism risks.
- Collaborated to develop and provide security threat intelligence and analysis for corporate security across a variety of regions. The audience initially was primarily focused on the corporate security banking sector.
- Assisted in creating the organisation's brand by speaking on the TV, radio, after specific events, and on panel discussions, which included one with the former head of the New York Times' London Bureau, John Burns, on political, security and business risks across South Asia following the ISAF drawdown.

Education & Qualifications:

School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, UK **2007 – 2008**
Master of Arts – Near and Middle Eastern (Awarded a Distinction)

University of St. Andrews, St Andrews, UK **2003 – 2007**
Master of Arts – International Relations (Awarded Masters of Arts with Honours – Upper Second Class)

Other Professional Certificates:

Awarded Level 6 Security Risk Management Consultancy Certificate – Regulated by UK Authorities.

Modules Include; Cyber, Risk Management Frameworks, Consultancy Skills; including significant work on Cyber Insurance.

Cyber Policy & Cyber War – Utica University

Certified Information Systems Security Professional – Currently studying for this qualification

AI Certified Risk Management – The Global Cyber Academy

Business Continuity & Crisis Management – The Global Cyber Academy – University of Buckinghamshire

Hobbies & Interests:

International Travel & Culture | A Bagpiper | Cross Fitter | Former Rugby Player | Pro-bono Work in Conflict Countries | Craft Beer Fanatic | Peloton Rider | Pro Bono Humanitarian Security Risk Management Work

References Available Upon Request