



**Monica Ostrowski**

Narrative Edge  
EO Austin

**I have nine other guys in my forum telling me how valuable my perspective is.**

Being based in Dubai for so long, I often get the question, "How were you able to do business in the Middle East as a single female?" My international experience has made me conscious of approaching every new relationship on equal ground. While I've grown accustomed to working in male-dominated environments, these experiences have shaped me as a tough, straight-shooting professional.

As the only woman in my forum, it took some time for me to feel comfortable being vulnerable –this is such an important part of the process. When I first joined, I had significant issues with my business partner. I was a blubbling mess in my first few forums. They kept asking me to present because what I was going through was so emotional. This was so hard for me, but it was instrumental to bring about necessary changes.

I applaud EO for actively working toward inclusivity. Starting women's groups and actively inviting women to participate at all levels of leadership. Any organization can use more female voices. We bring a high EQ to the table. In EO, tapping into your emotions is not only welcomed; it's required.

 **Entrepreneurs'  
Organization**