



Dear friends,

We are pleased to share with you the latest news and resources on women's political participation and leadership in this end-of-year newsletter. We thank you for reading our updates and for following and supporting us this past year, and hope you continue doing so in 2020. Happy New Year from all of us!

All the best,
Team iKNOW Politics

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In the Spotlight

40th Anniversary of CEDAW



The [Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW) is the most important treaty on women's human rights. Adopted in December 1979 and ratified by 189 States, it is a leading tool in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and advancing women's empowerment and gender equality, both in the law and in practice.

When laws guaranteeing equality are adopted, their implementation is often hampered by persisting gender stereotypes, discriminatory social norms and the economic exclusion of women. CEDAW mandates that States guarantee substantive equality between men and women – not only equality in the law or equality of opportunities, but also equality of outcomes, bearing in mind the diverse experiences and backgrounds of women.

The 40th anniversary of CEDAW's adoption is a unique opportunity to draw attention to the role the Convention has played in repealing and amending laws that discriminate against women and in advancing gender equality, as well as identify solutions to accelerate positive change for women and girls everywhere. In December, we hosted an e-Discussion to facilitate an online exchange of knowledge and experiences on this topic. [Click here](#) to see the guiding questions and read the contributions.

The Role of Political Parties in Promoting Women in Politics

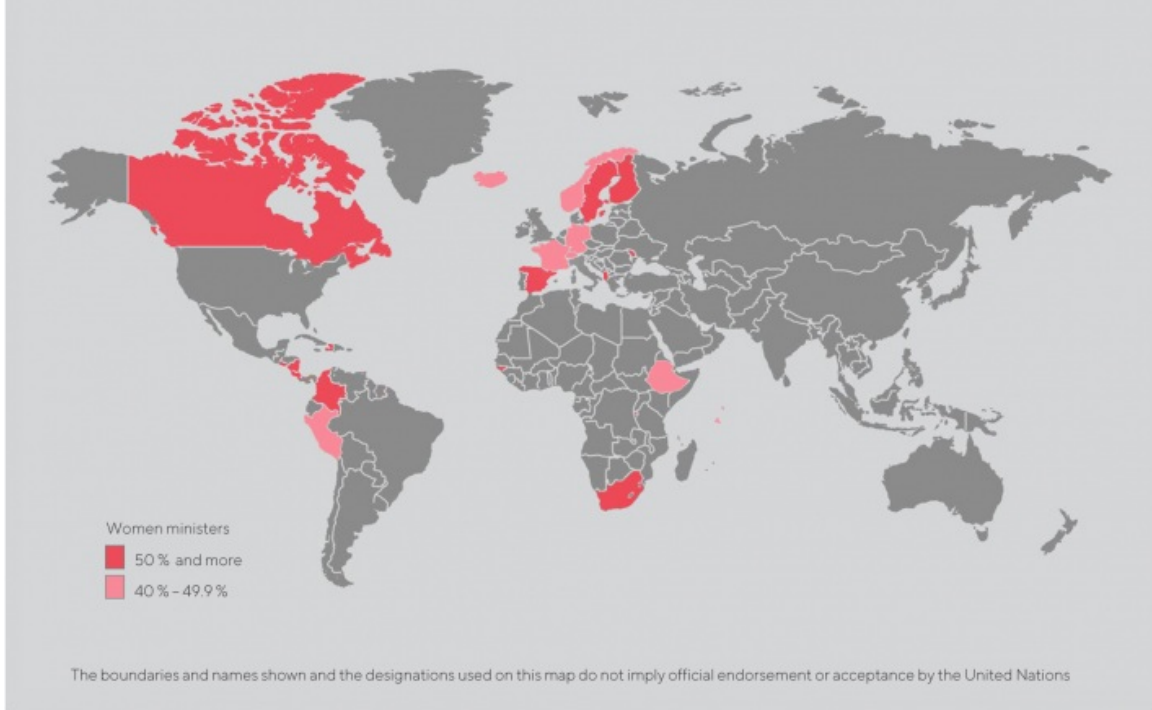
In most countries, political parties are the primary and most effective structure through which women become politically engaged and get elected. Political parties' practices, policies, and values can have a deep impact on women's political participation and representation. Indeed, political parties nominate candidates in local and national elections, provide campaign funding, rally voters, set policy and governance priorities, and form governments.

For efforts to promote women's equal and full political participation to be effective, they must include strategies for political parties to ensure their constitution, structures, processes, and financing are gender responsive and inclusive of all women. It is crucial that political parties encourage women's participation and integrate gender equality issues in their policies and programmes to ensure diversity of views and no one is left behind.

We recently convened an [e-Discussion](#) to collect knowledge on the role of political parties in promoting women's political participation and representation as well as good practices and recommendations on ways to increase and strengthen their contribution to achieving gender equality in politics and the wider society. Political party leaders and members, women in politics, experts, practitioners, and researchers shared their experience and views on the matter. [Click here](#) to read the summary.

Read the summary

Here are the most gender-balanced cabinets in the world



We published in October 2019 an update to our 2018 list of the most gender-balanced cabinets in the world. We found **22 gender-balanced cabinets, of which 14 have at least 50% of women ministers.** [Click here](#) to see the list.

See the list

The latest news

- Claudia López, a gay politician, is the first woman to be elected mayor of **Colombia's** capital, Bogotá. Mayor of Bogotá is widely considered the second-most important political post in Colombia after the presidency. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Sophie Wilmès succeeded to Charles Michel as the head of **Belgium's** new caretaker government in October 2019, becoming the country's first female prime minister. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- In November 2019, women and minorities — including Muslim women and refugees — won historic victories in state and local elections across the **United States**. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- More women MPs have been elected to the **United Kingdom's** House of Commons than ever before, breaking the previous record of 208 set in 2017. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- **Rwanda** celebrated another victory for women's representation in November when President Paul Kagame reshuffled his cabinet and increased in the process the proportion of female ministers to 52%. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Sanna Marin is the new Prime Minister of **Finland**, becoming at 34 the youngest serving Prime Minister in the world. She now leads a government with four other parties, all headed by women. Click [here](#) to learn more.

Go to the Library for more news



Interviews



Rosianne Cutajar
Member of Parliament
Malta



Heena Gavit
Member of Parliament
India



Ravza Kavakçi
Member of Parliament
Turkey

[See more interviews](#)



News and Resources

We share news and resources in four languages for and about women in politics daily on our platform and social media pages. Our online library features over **18,500 news and resources**, including world news, reports, research papers, training material, videos, case studies, databases, and blogs. Browse our library and our enhanced

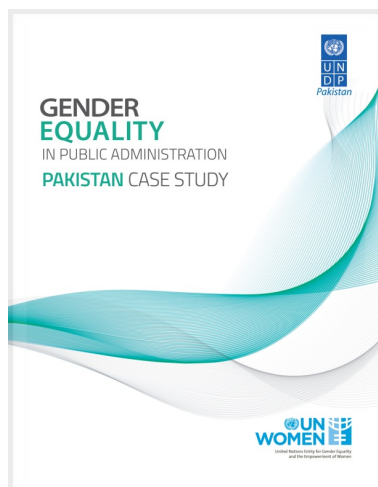
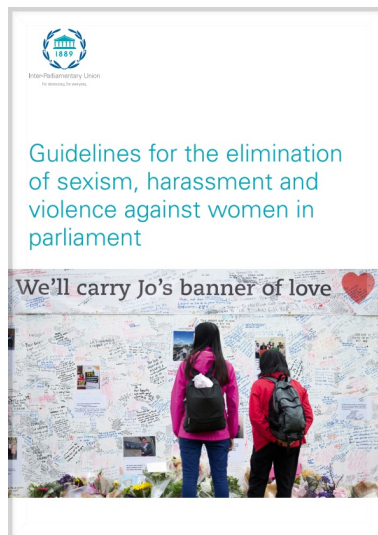
elections page for unique access to insight on women's participation in politics. Do not hesitate to **share your feedback with us** by replying to this email connect@iknowpolitics.org.

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Partner Updates

Our partner organizations are contributing with their specific mandate and expertise to make advancements in women's political participation a reality. Find below some of the latest resources from **International IDEA**, **IPU**, **UNDP**, and **UN Women**.



[See more Partner Updates](#)



About us

iKNOW Politics is a unique platform on women in politics, designed to connect members and build knowledge through e-discussions, webinars, interviews, videos, a rich online library of resources, a calendar of events and daily world news. Created in

2007, iKNOW Politics is a joint project of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women).

