



Dear friends,

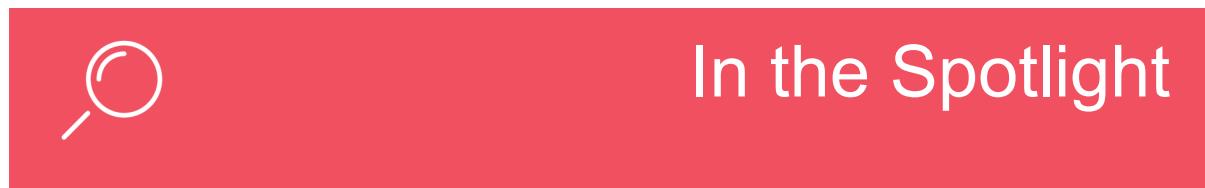
As 2021 comes to a close, we are pleased to share this newsletter for the latest news and resources on women's leadership and political participation. Click on the buttons below for the Arabic, French, and Spanish versions. We hope you enjoy this update!

Happy holidays from all of us,
Team iKNOW Politics

[View in Arabic](#)

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Violence Against Women in Politics: A Growing Danger For Democracy

Sexism, harassment, and attacks are often used as tools to discredit and silence women leaders, including women candidates, and discourage them from participating in public life and developing political careers. In [this video](#), we asked women leaders about the impact of violence against women in politics and the solutions they propose to make politics a safe space for all women.



Did you know? An Inter-parliamentary Union [study](#) found that over 44% of surveyed women parliamentarians received threats of death, rape, beatings or abduction during their term. More than 80% of the female MPs who took part in the survey said they suffered psychological violence over the course of their mandate.

[Learn more](#)

Have you taken our survey yet?

We're always looking for ways to serve you better. Please take 2 minutes to share your thoughts in this survey and help us improve our website! Share your feedback in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), and [Arabic](#).



The latest news

- Germany's new government will have more women in its cabinet than ever before, with incoming Chancellor Olaf Scholz appointing 8 women and 8 men as ministers. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- In Libya, Laila ben Khalifa and Hunaida Tumia are the only two women to stand for president in a field of 98 registered candidates – evidence that a decade of chaos has entrenched the country's patriarchal politics. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Sweden's parliament elected Social Democratic Party leader Magdalena Andersson as the country's first ever woman Prime Minister. Ms. Andersson is preceded by 33 men on the post. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Fears that another bitterly disputed presidential election might plunge Honduras into chaos eased after the governing party conceded to the opposition candidate Xiomara Castro, making her the country's first woman president. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Dame Sandra Mason was elected as the first President of Barbados, replacing Britain's Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State. The country's Prime Minister is Ms. Mia Mottley, also the first woman to hold the position. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- As in 2008, 2010 and 2014, none of the women candidates standing in Tonga's 2021 November general election were successful. The twelve women candidates received 11% of the total votes. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- None of the 26 women who stood in Qatar's first ever legislative election were successful. Voters elected 30 men to fill the 30 seats of the 45-seat Shura Council. The remaining 15 members are appointed by the ruling Emir. Click [here](#) to learn more.

[Go to the Library for more news](#)



Interviews



Eri Tokunaga
Member of
Parliament
Japan



Liselott Blixt
Member of
Parliament
Denmark

[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 more than **20,000 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**.

The cover of the issue brief features the logos of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the African Parliamentary Union. It includes contact information for the IPU Secretariat and the date November 2021. The title 'Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa' is prominently displayed.

Issue brief
November 2021

Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa

Introduction

The right to an equal and effective participation of women in decision-making positions on an equal footing with men is making slow progress. Women still only account for **29.8 per cent** of parliamentarians worldwide and continue to face many obstacles to discourage or remove them from political life.

Among those obstacles, violence against women in politics is one of the most devastating. It is a violation of the human and political rights of women, with long-lasting and harmful effects on those affected, on democratic processes and on political institutions, as well as on society as a whole.

The work of the IPU on sexism and violence against women in parliaments has brought to light the reality of sexism, harassment, and violence, which seeks to reduce women to silence and exclude them from political life.

In 2018, a joint study carried out by the IPU and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) found that 123 women parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from 45 European countries confirmed that sexism, harassment and violence against women, parliamentarians and staff were widespread and unacceptable in their respective parliaments at other regions of the world. This study demonstrated an alarming level of sexual and psychological harassment directed at women parliamentary staff in Europe.

The present regional study, the second in the series, focuses on parliaments in Africa and was carried out by the IPU and the African Parliamentary Union (APU). It is based on confidential interviews conducted with 228 women parliamentarians and members of parliamentary staff from 50 African and 13 African parliamentary assemblies (see methodology of the study on page 25). The results of this study provide a fresh perspective and knowledge on sexism and violence against women in parliaments in Africa, taking into account their voices and realities in the local context. This study builds on the findings of the European study and complements the two previous studies, helping to further fine-tune how we view and understand the problem. It is by listening to women's voices that we can better understand the challenges they face in fighting against them, while also combating the impunity enjoyed by parliamentarians. Listening to women affected by violence and gathering their perspectives are also ways to ensure that the help and necessary measures are appropriate and effective.

The cover of the handbook features the logos of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women. It includes the title 'Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 33: Gender-responsive law-making' and a photograph of two women in traditional attire walking outdoors, one holding a folder.

Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 33

Gender-responsive law-making

2021

GENDER EQUALITY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

The Role of Political Parties on Women's Participation and Representation

International IDEA Technical Paper 1/2021

- 1. Global context: comprehensive frameworks and commitments

All landmark international agreements and commitments acknowledge and reiterate the need to redress gender inequality and gender-based discrimination and discrimination against women of all ages in all spheres of life. This includes women's participation and representation in positions of power and decision-making at all levels. The principles of equality and non-discrimination, and the principles of political and democratic participation, are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is the cornerstone of international law.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which forms the basis of the bills of rights included in many national constitutions, also envisions the entitlement of all persons to non-discrimination, including on the basis of sex (United Nations 1948 articles 1 and 2). Non-discrimination is one of the most fundamental human rights, and it is also an indispensable foundation for sustainable development and democracy. Women are clearly entitled to participate and represent themselves in their communities and in situations where decisions that affect their lives are made.

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) contains specific provisions on the right to equality between men and women in public and political life. In particular, the ICCPR (United Nations 1966 article 2, para. 2) states:

Everyone shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2, and without reasonable restrictions:

 - To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
 - To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;

The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is a comprehensive instrument to address women's human rights. By ratifying CEDAW, countries have an obligation to eliminate all forms of discrimination, including by adopting measures to respect, protect and fulfil all of the rights contained in CEDAW at the national level (United Nations 1979 article 1, para. 2). Article 7 is particularly important in the context of women's political participation, including their right to be elected to public office, to fully participate in the public functions and service of their countries, and their right to vote.

As a result of this international consensus around political parties not being neutral in the pursuit of equality and democracy, the UN Resolution on Women and Political Participation (United Nations General Assembly 2010) urges states:

 - To take all appropriate measures to eliminate prejudices that are based on the idea of the inferiority of the number of the sexes or the different roles for men and women, and that constitute a barrier to women's access to and participation in the political sphere, and to adopt inclusive approaches to their political participation;
 - To encourage political parties to overcome all barriers that directly or indirectly discriminate against the participation of women, to develop their capacity to analyse issues from a gender perspective, and to adopt policies, as appropriate, to promote the participation of women in politics.

[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).



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