



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

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In the Spotlight

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.

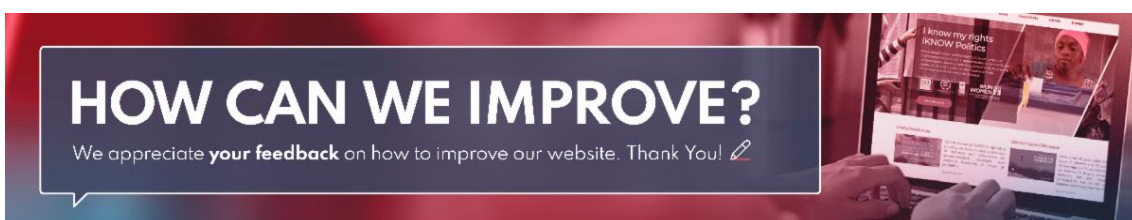


Did you know? An Inter-parliamentary Union [study](#) found that over 44% of surveyed women parliamentarians received threats of death, rape, beatings or abduction during their term. More than 80% of the female MPs who took part in the survey said they suffered psychological violence over the course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

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**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**.



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African Parliamentary Union

Issue brief
November 2021

Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa

Introduction

The fight to achieve the full and effective participation of women in decision-making positions on an equal footing with men is making slow progress. Women still only account for **26.8 per cent** of parliamentarians worldwide and continue to face many obstacles to encourage 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 sought to light the nature and magnitude of this scourge, long invisible, which seeks to reduce women to silence and exclude them from political life.

The IPU conducted its first international survey in 2016 with participation from 55 female parliamentarians from 39 countries in five regions of the world.¹ It then launched a series of regional studies aiming to expand research and knowledge on the diverse forms of sexism and gender-based violence experienced by women parliamentarians and female parliamentary staff in different regions of the world.

In 2018, a joint study carried out by the IPU and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) with participation from 123 women parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from 45 European countries confirmed that sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians was very widespread and rooted, to varying degrees, in Europe as it did in all 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 in partnership with the African Parliamentary Union (APU). It is based on confidential interviews conducted with 224 women parliamentarians and members of parliamentary staff from 20 countries and 1 subregional parliamentary assembly (see methodology of the study on page 25). The aim of the study is to enrich the documentation and knowledge available on violence against women in parliament in Africa, taking into account their voices and realities in the local context of the continent. New data thus obtained can be compared with data from the two previous studies, helping to further flesh out how we view and understand the problem. It is by improving our knowledge and recognizing these acts of violence that we can prevent and fight against them, while also combating the impunity enjoyed by perpetrators. Listening to women affected by violence and gathering their perspectives are also ways to ensure that the help and services available are appropriate and enriched in reality.



Inter-Parliamentary Union
for Democracy, for Women



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



Gender-responsive law-making

Handbook for Parliamentarians No. 33



[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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