



Dear Member,

We are pleased to share with you the latest edition of the iKNOW Politics Newsletter! In this issue, we invite you to check out our most recent interviews with women in politics and learn about the latest trending stories from around the world as you browse through our [news section](#) and [online library](#). You will also discover our partner organizations' recent stories and publications. We encourage you to send us suggestions and ideas on how to improve our services and share your stories with us by sending an e-mail to connect@iknowpolitics.org.

Thank you,
The iKNOW Politics Team



In the Spotlight

iKNOW Politics turned 10 this year!

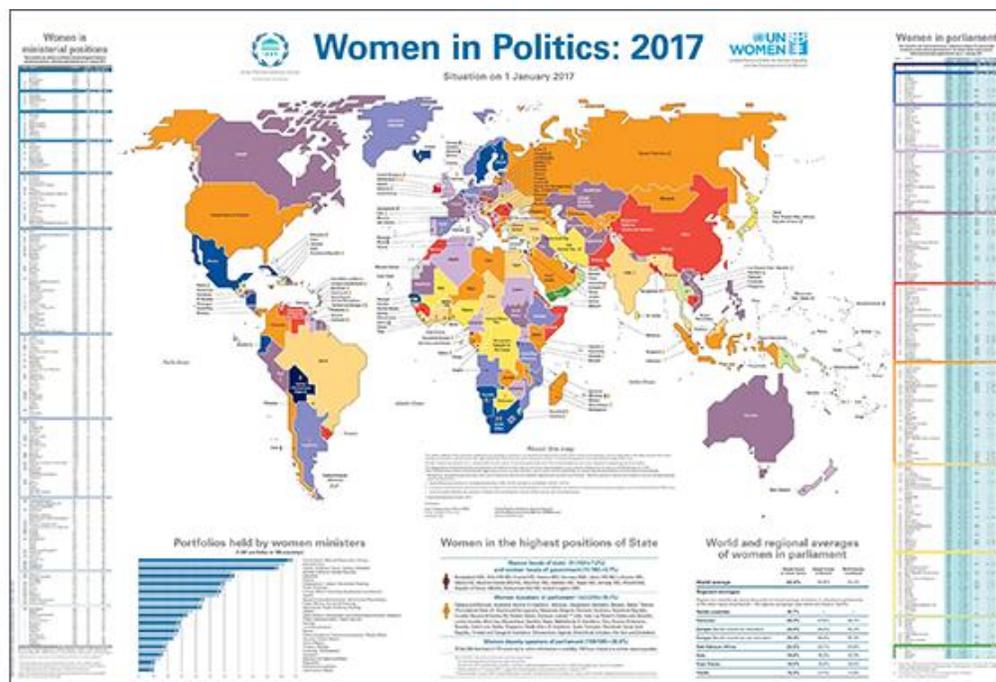
Established in 2007, iKNOW Politics seeks to facilitate women's access to knowledge resources and capacity building materials, as well as provide an online space to share experiences, network and collaborate on issues of interest. In its ten years, iKNOW Politics has been visited more than 1,200,000 times by more than 960,000 users and maintains a network of more than 12,000 members. The platform – available in Arabic, English, French, and Spanish -- acts as a centralized hub of information, providing an opportunity for users to stay abreast of global events and news related to women's political participation globally and regionally. To commemorate the 10th Anniversary of iKNOW Politics, founding partners, including UN Women, UNDP, IPU, and International IDEA, gathered at a side event during the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). The event focused the achievements and best practices that it has experienced in its primary areas of expertise: advocacy & lobbying, elections, parliaments & representatives, political parties and women's leadership. Check out our 10th anniversary video [here](#).

10th Anniversary Video

Women in politics in numbers

According to the data contained in the [Women in Politics 2017 Map](#) launched in March by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and UN Women, the number of women in executive government and in parliament worldwide has stagnated, with only marginal improvements since 2015:

- The data shows a slight drop in the number of countries with a woman Head of State and/or Head of Government from 2015 figures (from 19 to 17). However, the map reveals a significant increase in the number of countries with a woman Head of State and/or Head of Government since the IPU-UN Women Map's first edition in 2005 (from 8 to 17).
- Progress in the number of women Members of Parliament worldwide continues to be slow. The data shows that the global average of women in national parliaments increased just slightly from 22.6 per cent in 2015 to 23.3 per cent in 2016. Women Speakers of Parliament have however significantly increased in number, now at an all-time high of 19.1 per cent. For more information on women in parliament, see [IPU statistics on women in parliament](#) and the report [Women in parliament: the year in progress](#)



What's trending?

- France voted a record number of women into parliament on 18 June 2017. Of the 577 newly elected lawmakers, 223 are female, beating the previous record of 155 set after the last election. Read more [here](#).
- There is more gender equality than ever before in the United Kingdom's Parliament after a record 207 women were elected on 8 June 2017, beating previous high of 196 over the last parliament. Read more [here](#).
- Mexico will hold its presidential elections next year. And for the first time, an indigenous woman is running for the office, after more than 50 indigenous communities from the National Indigenous Council (CNI) designed her as their candidate for Mexican presidential elections. Read more [here](#).
- In Gambia, a new female speaker of parliament was sworn into office on 11 April 2017. Mariama Diack Denton, a lawyer assumed the top legislative post after elections were held to elect new Members of Parliament. Read more [here](#).

- An opposition party in Algeria unveiled a parliamentary electoral list composed entirely of women. While it is illegal to form a party list that excludes women, the party leader explained "there is no law against the establishment of an all-female list." Read more [here](#).
- Before the 14 May local election, the Election Commission of Nepal urged the political parties to ensure women's candidacy in all posts contesting. Nepal's Constitution ensures 40 per cent representation of women in local level elections. Read more [here](#).
- Obsession with female politicians' appearance in the media is putting young women off going into politics, a study has revealed, prompting campaigners to call for an end to sexism in political media coverage. Read more [here](#).
- Sexist comments and insults have become too common for people trying to serve their community, says Unison, the public services union in Cymru/Wales with predominately female members. The union warns that abuse targeted at politicians on social media is putting some women off standing for public office, particularly women with children. Read more [here](#).

Highlights from our latest e-Discussions

Youth Political Participation

From 3 April to 8 May 2017, iKNOW Politics hosted an e-Discussion in collaboration with UNDP4YOUTH on [Youth Political Participation](#). Fifteen participants from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab region, the Americas, and Europe engaged in the online debate and expressed the urgent need for action to give young people the opportunity and power to influence policies that affect their lives by introducing measures aimed at increasing their interest and participation in politics. [Click here](#) to read the summary of the e-Discussion.



Women's Political Participation and the SDG's

From 9 January to 12 February 2017, iKNOW Politics hosted an e-Discussion on women's political participation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), entitled [Women's political participation: a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality, democracy and achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). Fourteen participants from Latin America, the Arab region, and Sub-Saharan Africa engaged in the dialogue and stressed the importance of engaging civil society to ensure quality monitoring of the SDGs, in particular SDG 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls). The contributors agreed on the necessity of strong Government commitments, both political and budgetary, to ensure delivery of the Agenda. Some participants noted these commitments come in the form of state agencies, while there are also examples of national or regional action plans and frameworks. [Click here](#) to read the summary of the e-Discussion.

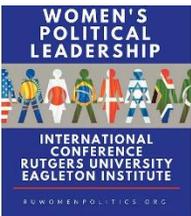


Join the forthcoming e-Discussion on Male Champions of Women’s Political Participation

Recognizing the role that men can play in promoting women’s political participation and empowering women leaders, iKNOW Politics will dedicate the next e-Discussion September/October to the role of male champions in advancing women’s political engagement and leadership. Stay tuned for more information on how to join this discussion!



iKNOW Politics in the Community



In May, iKNOW Politics presented at the Women’s Political Leadership International Conference, organized by Rutgers University and the Eagleton Institute. This annual conference explores the nature, origins and manifestations of resistance to women’s political leadership and seeks to stimulate dialogue between academics and practitioners working in specific countries, as well as at the global level, on how to overcome these obstacles to enhance women’s political leadership.



Data on iKNOW Politics Reach



iKNOW Politics reaches users in more than 190 countries across Sub-Saharan Africa, the Arab region, the Americas, Europe and Asia and the Pacific. Since our last newsletter, 91,406 users have accessed iKNOW Politics platform, 81% being new users. Check out the top 10 countries our users access the platform from since our last newsletter.

Pageviews

172,844

Visitors

91,406



News and Resources

iKNOW Politics uploads news in four languages for and about women in politics daily on its website and social media pages. Its online library now features over 16,600 news and resources, including world news, research papers, legal frameworks, online courses and training material, case studies, databases, and blogs. Since the publication of the last newsletter, more than 440 news and resources in Arabic, English, French and Spanish were added to the online [iKNOW Politics library](#).



Interviews

Interviews with women and men political leaders is a key feature of iKNOW Politics. Politicians, activists and experts are regularly interviewed. Since our last newsletter, we have published 12 new interviews with women and men who share their stories. Scroll through our [interview](#) section to see our recent interviews with women telling their stories and best practices to enable women and youth to be agents of change.



01

Hanna Hopko

Member of Parliament in Ukraine

[Text Link](#)



02

Esther Chilenje

Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Malawi

[Text Link](#)



03

Irene P. Tillah

Assemblywoman Sulu, Philippines

[Text Link](#)



Partner Updates

Our partner organizations are contributing with their specific mandate and expertise to make advancements in women's political participation a reality. Listed below are some of their latest updates:



[New platform launched to galvanize and boost women's leadership of Africa](#)

[Shaping the International Agenda: Raising Women's Voices in Intergovernmental Forums](#)



[Armenian women take the political stage](#)

[Video on the Gender Quota & other Temporary Special Measures](#)



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

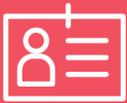
[Making laws work to end violence against women and girls](#)

[Finnish Parliament organizes meeting on gender-sensitive parliaments](#)



[International IDEA promotes women political participation by providing public speaking training to female leaders in Haiti](#)

[International IDEA introduces the Youth Democracy Academy](#)



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).

