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Dear iKNOW Politics members,

[iKNOW Politics](#) is pleased to share with you the first Newsletter issue of 2016. It was compiled by the [iKNOW Politics Team](#) and provides a snapshot of some recent highlights and upcoming activities. The past year was exciting and full for women in politics. Articles, blogs and books were written on women who have broken through the glass ceiling by reaching high positions in the political world. This newsletter highlights some of these stories and we invite you to browse our online [library](#) and news section for more. We hope that you will enjoy the content and encourage you to send any feedback or suggestions to [connect@iknowpolitics.org](mailto:connect@iknowpolitics.org).

The iKNOW Politics Team

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Commission on the Status of Women 2016

Every year in March, representatives of Member States, UN entities, and civil society organizations from all regions gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York for the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW) to evaluate progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and the advancement of women worldwide. This year, just a few days after [International Women's Day on March 8th](#), the [sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) (CSW60) was held from March 14-24. iKNOW Politics took part in a number of main and side events related to the subject of political participation of women and women empowerment by covering the meetings on social media and conducting interviews with women politicians, including women MPs from Kenya, Mauritania, Chile, Canada, Jordan, Tunisia and the European Parliament. All interviews will be posted [here](#) soon. Click [here](#) to view the CSW60 highlights that iKNOW Politics put together for those who missed the CSW.

### E-Discussion on Parliamentary Oversight of Gender Equality

From January to March 2016, iKNOW Politics hosted an online discussion on '[Parliamentary Oversight of Gender Equality](#)'. Interested members shared their knowledge, experiences and lessons learned in the exercise of parliamentary oversight of gender equality laws, policies, programmes or budgetary allocations.



The iKNOW Politics team will summarize the responses into a consolidated reply which will feature in the second Global Parliamentary Report 'Parliament's power to hold government to account: Realities and perspectives on oversight' – a joint publication of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

## Women, Peace and Security & UNSCR 1325

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security is a critical tool to push for the participation of women in decision-making as well as in peacebuilding processes, to ensure that women are better protected from human rights violations and have access to justice and services to eliminate discrimination in conflict and post-conflict situations. In October 2015, the United Nations Security Council convened a [High-level Review](#) to assess 15 years of progress in implementation of the Resolution. This review was facilitated by the [Global Study](#) on the implementation of resolution 1325 and iKNOW Politics interviewed the lead author, Ms. [Radhika Coomaraswamy](#). In addition, iKNOW Politics launched in November 2015 an [e-Discussion on the implementation of the Resolution in the Arab States](#). Twelve responses were provided by experts and practitioners alike and compiled into a consolidated reply. The [consolidated reply](#) highlights success stories, as well as prevailing challenges specific to the Arab region and recommended actions to move the agenda forward. iKNOW Politics would like to extend its gratitude to those who took the time to contribute. Here are some key resources that iKNOW Politics featured on this topic during the e-Discussion. [Policy Recommendation: Applying global tools to improve national actions plans on UNSCR 1325](#); [UNESWCA study on legislative gaps in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Arabic](#)



[More on Women, Peace and Security](#)

## Women in politics making the headlines

The past year saw several important elections across the globe and marked many victories for women politicians. Saudi women not only voted for the first time, but also ran in municipal elections. The United Arab Emirates appointed their first female Speaker of the Federal National Council (the national Parliament). In neighboring Oman, another milestone was reached when Dr Suad Mohammed Al Lawatiar became the first female Deputy Speaker after a vote by members of the State Council. In another first, Margaret Mensah-Williams, President of IPU's Coordinating Committee of Women MPs, was named as Speaker of Namibia's upper house of parliament, the National Council. She is the first woman to hold the post. Aung San Suu Kyi led her party to a majority win in Myanmar's first openly contested election in 25 years, and Croatia and Mauritius elected their first female Heads of State, Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic and Ms. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim respectively. In early 2016, Hilda Heine became the first female president of the Marshall Islands. Globally, there are now 12 female Heads of State, 11 Heads of Governments and 49 women who preside over one of the Houses of the 190 Parliaments.

[Elections in Saudi Arabia](#) ; [Myanmar elections](#) ; [Trudeau 5050](#); [Oman Council](#)



[Access more news](#)

## INTERVIEWS

iKNOW Politics aims to bring women politicians, gender-sensitive men politicians as well as activists closer to our followers and interviews women who are bringing about positive changes. In 2015, iKNOW Politics has interviewed more than 25 prominent women and men who share their knowledge and personal stories and recommend actions to advance women's participation in the public spheres. The interviews are available on our [new YouTube channel](#), as well as on the iKNOW Politics website.



[See more interviews](#)

## NEWS & RESOURCES

The iKNOW Politics team is committed to make available the latest resources on women's political participation and leadership. The online library is a key feature of the platform, with more than 6600 resources, including research papers, legislative frameworks, online courses and training material, case studies, databases, and blogs. Another key feature is the clickable resource map allowing users to add and find country and region specific knowledge resources in four languages. The search functionalities of the resource map and the online library were recently enhanced.

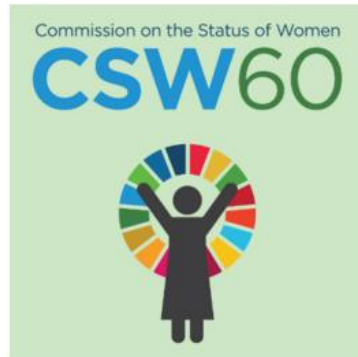


[Go to the library](#)

## Events

In March, the sixtieth session of the [Commission on the Status of Women convened in New York](#) focusing on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development at the United Nations Headquarters. UN Women supported all aspects of the Commission's work. Also in March, the Inter-Parliamentary Union organized its [134th Assembly](#) and a [Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians](#) in Lusaka (Zambia). Many useful capacity building workshops on women's leadership in public services are taking place across regions and there will be more buzz around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and more specifically around Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empower all women and girls and the related targets. Our event section covers many of these upcoming events.

[The IPU Global Conference of Young Parliamentarians](#); [13th AWID International Forum on Women's Rights and Development](#); [Wilson Center Now – Global Women's Leadership Initiative](#); [WIP Global Summit in Jordan](#)



More upcoming events

## PARTNER UPDATES

The iKNOW Politics partner organizations are contributing with their specific mandate and expertise to make advancements in women's political participation a reality. In this issue, we cover some of the key materials produced by them:

- **IDEA:** [Working for Equality in Bhutan](#); [Women in Conflict and Peace](#); [Political party financing and equal participation of women in Kenyan electoral politics: A situation overview](#)
- **UNDP:** video '[Irreversible - Women's full participation in Constitution-Making processes](#)'; [La iniciativa mujeres mayor democracia](#)
- **IPU:** 'New' [Common Principles for support to parliaments](#);
- **UN WOMEN:** [Women promote peace in Burundi](#); [Promoting Women's Political Participation: A MONITORING GUIDE](#)
- **UNDP / UNW:** [BRIDGE Project Encourages Women's Voting in Haiti](#); [Inclusive Electoral Processes: A Guide for Electoral Management Bodies on Promoting Gender Equality and Women's Participation.](#)

## CONTRIBUTORS

iKNOW Politics welcomes contributions in the form of blogs or opinion pieces from our members. What drives you and other women in your country, on campus or within your organization to make women's political participation and leadership the norm rather than the exception? Here are some of the latest opinion pieces submitted by iKNOW Politics members:

- Asma Al Sayed: [The Evolution of the Situation of Women in Saudi Arabia's Political Life](#) [AR]
- Ikram Ben Said: [From the kitchen to public life: In Tunisia, women's personal issues are political ones](#)

## 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. iKNOW Politics is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). You are invited to meet the iKNOW Politics team [here](#).



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

Do you have comments? Please, write to us on [connect@iknowpolitics.org](mailto:connect@iknowpolitics.org).  
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