

Gender mainstreaming research services

APLAP Conference, Canberra, 1 December 2015
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Overview



- Promoting gender equality outcomes in parliament
- Gender equality and gender mainstreaming: key definitions
- Gender research:
 - questions driving gender research across all policy areas
 - collecting and using sex-disaggregated data
 - gender analysis

Gender equality outcomes in parliament

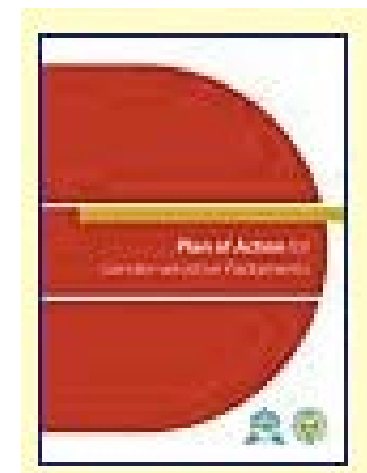
- In 2008, the IPU's *Equality in Politics* report found that **women** were the **overwhelming drivers** of **gender equality outcomes** in parliaments.
 - *Laws on gender equality, eliminating violence against women/gender-based violence, equal pay for women and men*
- The IPU's (2012) *Gender-Sensitive Parliaments* report suggested that parliaments, as institutions, should take ownership of these outcomes:
 - **men and women** parliamentarians; and
 - **men and women** parliamentary staff.





IPU Plan of Action for Gender-Sensitive Parliaments

- **Action area 1:** Increase the number of women in parliament and achieve equality in participation
- **Action area 2:** Strengthen gender equality legislation and policy
- **Action area 3:** Mainstream gender equality throughout all parliamentary work
- **Action area 4:** Institute or improve gender-sensitive infrastructure and parliamentary culture
- **Action area 5:** Ensure that responsibility for gender equality is shared by all parliamentarians – men and women
- **Action area 6:** Encourage political parties to be champions of gender equality
- **Action area 7:** Enhance the gender sensitivity of, and gender equality among, parliamentary staff



Gender equality



- Women and men enjoy the same status and have **equal opportunity** to realise their **full human rights** and **potential to contribute** to national, political, economic, social and cultural development, and **to benefit** from the results.
- It is the **equal valuing by society** of both the **similarities** and the **differences** between women and men and the different roles they play.
- Equality does **not** mean that women and men will **become the same** but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will **not depend on whether they are born male or female**.
- Gender equality is **not a women's issue** but concerns men as well as women. Gender equality is a goal for **society as a whole**.

Gender mainstreaming

IT IS NOT:

- meant to be a confusing concept!
- a synonym for gender equality
- an 'add-on' to existing activities

IT IS:

- a process of **integrating** a gender equality perspective into **all processes**, at **all stages**
- a **strategy** to achieve gender equality
- **everyone's** responsibility



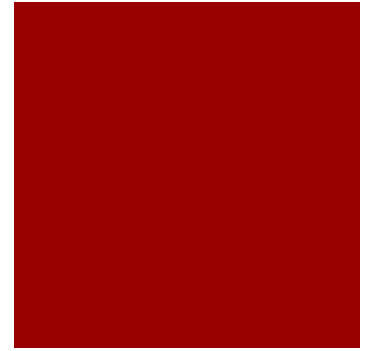
The UN's definition

“The process of **assessing** the implications for women and men of any **planned action**, including **legislation, policies** or **programmes**, in **all areas** and at **all levels**.

It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the **design, implementation, monitoring** and **evaluation** of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men **benefit equally** and **inequality is not perpetrated**.

The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.”

Economic and Social Council, 1997



Mainstreaming requires ...

1. Political will of the institutional leadership
2. Infrastructure
3. Technical capacity

Guidelines for parliamentary research services (2015)

As the range and complexity of issues before parliament increase, some administrations ... create specialized research units to respond to particular aspects of legislative work. For example, some units have been created to analyse human rights and gender dimensions...

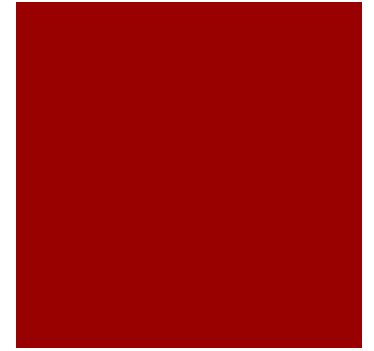


Questions

- *How many parliaments represented here today have **a dedicated unit** in their library or research service that looks into gender equality issues?*
 - *If so, what are some of the common issues you investigate?*
 - *Are your main clients women or men, or is it 50-50?*
- *For parliaments **without a dedicated unit**, how do you distribute client requests on gender equality issues?*

Why gender research?

- Gender research often **uncovers patterns of discrimination** – either against women or men
- Gender research aims to **identify the structural causes of inequality** between men and women
- Gender research is more likely to reflect a **broader range of experiences** in society, and therefore has the capacity to more **comprehensively address** society's **interests** and **needs**
- **Mandate** exists in international conventions and agreements (CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action)





Questions

- *To begin investigating a policy issue from a gender perspective, what do you think are some **key questions to drive** the research?*

Key questions



- Who is the target of a proposed policy, programme or project?
- Who will benefit? Who will lose?
- Have women and men been consulted on the issue being addressed?
- Who makes the decisions? Have women and men been involved in the development of a solution to address the issue?
- Who uses the resources? How are the resources procured?
- Does the intervention maintain or challenge existing gender relations?

Sex disaggregated data



- Data are collected and presented by sex as a primary and overall classification;
- Data reflect gender issues;
- Data are based on concepts and definitions that adequately reflect the diversity of women and men and capture all aspects of their lives;
- Data collection methods take into account stereotypes and social and cultural factors that may induce gender bias in the data (e.g. under-reporting)
- Good example:
World Bank: Gender Equality Data and Statistics
<http://datatopics.worldbank.org/gender/>



Questions

- *Is the data you have access to adequately disaggregated by sex?*
- *Do you compile any databases yourselves? Is it disaggregated by sex?*
- *What data sources would you like to see disaggregated by sex?*

Gender analysis



- Presents an analysis of the impact of an issue on women and men – which will most likely be different
- Investigates the context - gender relations, the resources, institutional changes and strategies needed to solve problems and minimise disadvantage
- Uses a participatory and inclusive approach, and identifies barriers to inclusive participation
- Establishes baseline data, and ensures data collection is broken down by sex
- Identifies risks for women and men and monitors and evaluates change for men and women



Questions

- *Do you think gender analysis is (or could be) used to understand and explain policy issues in your parliamentary library and research service?*
- *What would help parliamentary library and research services in adopting a more 'gender mainstreaming' approach?*

Thank you!

■ Useful resources include:

UN Women Repository “Resources and Tools for Developing Capacity on Gender Mainstreaming for the UN System”

<http://www2.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/how%20we%20work/unsystemcoordination/resources%20and%20tools%20for%20capacity%20development%20on%20gender%20mainstreaming%20within%20the%20un%20system.pdf?v=1&d=20150520T181132>

IPU website and publications

<http://www.ipu.org/>

International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics

<http://iknowpolitics.org/>