**Dear friends,**

We are pleased to share with you the latest news and resources on women’s political participation and leadership in this end-of-year newsletter. We thank you for reading our updates and for following and supporting us this past year, and hope you continue doing so in 2020. Happy New Year from all of us!

All the best,
Team iKNOW Politics

---

**In the Spotlight**

**40th Anniversary of CEDAW**

The [Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women](https://www.cedaw.org) (CEDAW) is the most important treaty on women’s human rights. Adopted in December 1979 and ratified by 189 States, it is a leading tool in eliminating all forms of discrimination against women and advancing women’s empowerment and gender equality, both in the law and in practice.

When laws guaranteeing equality are adopted, their implementation is often hampered by persisting gender stereotypes, discriminatory social norms and the economic exclusion of women. CEDAW mandates that States guarantee substantive equality between men and women – not only equality in the law or equality of opportunities, but also equality of outcomes, bearing in mind the diverse experiences and backgrounds of women.

The 40th anniversary of CEDAW’s adoption is a unique opportunity to draw attention to the role the Convention has played in repealing and amending laws that discriminate against women and in advancing gender equality, as well as identify solutions to accelerate positive change for women and girls everywhere. In December, we hosted an e-Discussion to facilitate an online exchange of knowledge and experiences on this topic. [Click here](https://www.cedaw.org) to see the guiding questions and read the contributions.
The Role of Political Parties in Promoting Women in Politics

In most countries, political parties are the primary and most effective structure through which women become politically engaged and get elected. Political parties’ practices, policies, and values can have a deep impact on women’s political participation and representation. Indeed, political parties nominate candidates in local and national elections, provide campaign funding, rally voters, set policy and governance priorities, and form governments.

For efforts to promote women’s equal and full political participation to be effective, they must include strategies for political parties to ensure their constitution, structures, processes, and financing are gender responsive and inclusive of all women. It is crucial that political parties encourage women’s participation and integrate gender equality issues in their policies and programmes to ensure diversity of views and no one is left behind.

We recently convened an e-Discussion to collect knowledge on the role of political parties in promoting women’s political participation and representation as well as good practices and recommendations on ways to increase and strengthen their contribution to achieving gender equality in politics and the wider society. Political party leaders and members, women in politics, experts, practitioners, and researchers shared their experience and views on the matter. Click here to read the summary.

Here are the most gender-balanced cabinets in the world
We published in October 2019 an update to our 2018 list of the most gender-balanced cabinets in the world. We found **22 gender-balanced cabinets, of which 14 have at least 50% of women ministers. Click here to see the list.**

### The latest news

- **Claudia López**, a gay politician, is the first woman to be elected mayor of **Colombia's** capital, Bogotá. Mayor of Bogotá is widely considered the second-most important political post in Colombia after the presidency. Click here to learn more.
- **Sophie Wilmès** succeeded to Charles Michel as the head of **Belgium's** new caretaker government in October 2019, becoming the country’s first female prime minister. Click here to learn more.
- In November 2019, women and minorities — including Muslim women and refugees — won historic victories in state and local elections across the **United States**. Click here to learn more.
- More women MPs have been elected to the **United Kingdom's** House of Commons than ever before, breaking the previous record of 208 set in 2017. Click here to learn more.
- **Rwanda** celebrated another victory for women’s representation in November when President Paul Kagame reshuffled his cabinet and increased in the process the proportion of female ministers to 52%. Click here to learn more.
- **Sanna Marin** is the new Prime Minister of **Finland**, becoming at 34 the youngest serving Prime Minister in the world. She now leads a government with four other parties, all headed by women. Click here to learn more.
Interviews

Rosianne Cutajar
Member of Parliament
Malta

Heena Gavit
Member of Parliament
India

Ravza Kavakçi
Member of Parliament
Turkey

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 over 18,500 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.

**Go to the Library**

### 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**.

- **Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament**
- **We'll carry Jo's banner of love**
- **BREAKING CYCLES OF VIOLENCE: Gaps in Prevention of and Response to Electoral Related Sexual Violence**
- **GENDER EQUALITY IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION PAKISTAN CASE STUDY**
- **POLITICAL FINANCE Design Tool**

**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).