iKNOWPOLITICS
international Knowledge Network of Women in Politics

In the Spotlight

Highlights from our latest e-Discussions

Women in Local Government

Often influencing policies in housing, security, transport, and the economy, local government makes important decisions that affect the lives of women and men. Women's equal participation and representation in local decision-making processes is critical for prioritizing women's practical needs and issues in local governments' agendas and for localizing the SDGs. Gender-balanced local councils may be an important step in helping to attain gender balance at the national levels.

We organized an e-Discussion on women's political participation and representation in local government decision-making bodies from 2 February to 8 March 2018. The online exchange was joined by twenty-four local elected officials, political party leaders, experts and practitioners from fifteen countries. Contributors explored the different challenges that women face in politics at the local level and provided various best practices and recommendations on how to support women candidates and women elected in local government.

> **Read the summary of the e-Discussion**

Male Champions of Women's Leadership

With International Gender Champions, we recently co-organized an e-Discussion on engaging male champions in supporting women's political participation. We interviewed men and women leaders championing gender equality and asked them for advice on how to involve men leaders in promoting women's leadership and political participation. Watch some highlights in the video below:

Stay tuned for our up-coming e-Discussion

Women only make up 23% of parliaments worldwide. A major contributing factor to the lack of female representation is the unequal access to financial resources needed to successfully seek nominations or participate in electoral campaigns. Indeed, it has been increasingly recognized that politics dominated by money, more often than not, is politics dominated by men. We are convening an e-Discussion focused on campaign funding for women and its impact on women's political participation and representation **from 15 May to 19 June 2018**. The objective of this e-Discussion is to explore the challenges women encounter in raising funds for elections; identify innovative ways of fundraising for women candidates; and collect best practices for political parties and governments to ensure that regulations promote women's participation.

What's happening?

- Eight years after the country's first female Prime Minister was elected, Paula-Mae Weekes becomes Trinidad and Tobago's first female President. Read more here.

- In another history-making election, Epsy Campbell became the first black female Vice President in Costa Rica and in Latin America. Read more here.

- The Romanian parliament approved Viorica Dancila as the country's first female Prime Minister. Read more here.

- Women make up around 34% of the new Italian parliament, the highest proportion yet. It is an improvement on 31% in the last parliament but short of the target set by Italy's new electoral law. Read more here.

- For the first time in Kenya's history, women were elected to serve as governors and senators. Women now hold 172 of the 1,883 elected seats in Kenya, up from 145. Read more here.

- There is an 'avalanche' of women running for office in the United States. The 2018 midterm elections are already historic when it comes to the number of women candidates. Read more here.

- In a country where women occupy only 3% of the parliament seats, Lebanon's first women's affairs minister — a man — is supporting a campaign to encourage more women to run for the country's first legislative election in nearly a decade. Read more here.

- Tunisia's new local elections law provides for unprecedented levels of participation for youth, women and disabled people. The new regulations require that both genders be equally represented with alternation within party lists and at their top. Read more here.

- Hair, hemlines and husbands — media coverage of women running for federal political leadership in Canada has, historically, been quite different from their male counterparts. This kind of personal scrutiny persists, and it is dissuading women from running for political leadership. Read more here.

- Rio de Janeiro councilwoman Marielle Franco was shot and killed on her way home. That evening, she had participated in a discussion about black women changing the status quo. Read more here.

Interviews

Monica Mutsvangwa
Senator and Chair of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus
Zimbabwe

Norbert Mao
President of the Democratic Party
Uganda

Tamar Chugoshvili
First Vice-Speaker of the Parliament and Chair of the Gender Equality Council
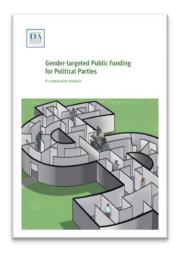Georgia

See more interviews

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 over 16,800 news and resources, including world news, reports, research papers, online courses and training material, videos, case studies, databases, and blogs.
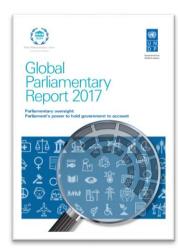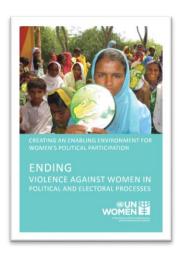
Browse the online library

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.

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).