

Thank you honorable chairperson, **dear colleagues, ladies, gentlemen and others.**

Speaking about **peace, democracy and strong institutions** is today maybe more important than ever.

It is **crucial** for the future on democracy.

It is a global question for the **future of humanity.**

Therefore, there is **NO democracy** without real participation!

And there is **no participation** if everyone is **not able to participate.**

This means that as **decision makers we have a responsibility** to be **critical** towards who we are representing

and **who's voice** is actually **heard** in the decision making process.

Finland was celebrated during our last government as a champion of equality.

The coalition government was led by five women and our prime minister was the youngest prime minister in the world, and a woman.

Still as our minister's said, **is it truly equality if the government is led by five women who are quite similar, all white and all highly educated?**

No it is not, we are no champions, we need to do better.

If we want **true equality** we need to make sure that people from various backgrounds can participate and rise to the highest positions.

WE need to ask ourselves how can people with disabilities, people from migrant background, people struggling with poverty or with mental health participate.

Are the doors of our political parties open for all genders and people from sexual minorities?

Can your citizens live as they are, love who they want?

If not, then you are **failing your people** and you are **failing as a democracy.**

As my last remark, I will pledge for Iran to realise the human rights, women right champion, the Nobel prize winner Narges Mohammadi. Her only crime has been defending women rights, the oppression of women by a theocratic and violent regime.

She is a true inspiration, a true hero to all women all across the world. WE stand in the support of the women in Iran. We hear your voices

- **WOMEN LIFE FREEDOM**

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