



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Parliamentary human rights committees

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)






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New Parline: the IPU's Open Data Platform (beta)

Your one-stop-shop for information about national parliaments

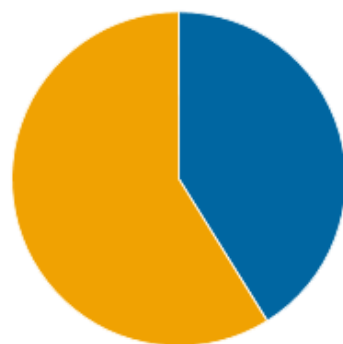
 Home

 Compare data

 Select country and chamber ▼

Search by field or country 

 Share

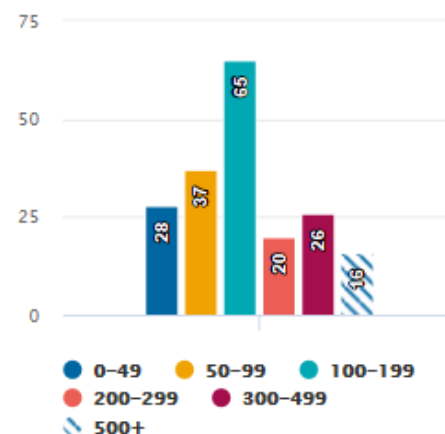


● Bicameral ● Unicameral

Highcharts.com

Structure of parliament

Structure of parliament: Unicameral, bicameral

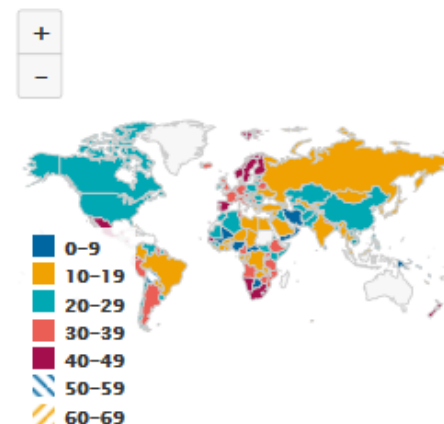


● 0-49 ● 50-99 ● 100-199
● 200-299 ● 300-499
/ 500+

Highcharts.com

Current number of members

Number of members who currently hold seats in parliament. May be lower or higher than the statutory number of members.



■ 0-9
■ 10-19
■ 20-29
■ 30-39
■ 40-49
/ 50-59
/ 60-69

Highcharts.com © Natural Earth

Percentage of women

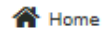
Calculated by dividing the current number of women by the current number of members.



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Compare data



Afghanistan - House of Elders ▾

Search by field or country 🔍

1

Afghanistan - House of Elders

This is a bicameral parliament. Switch to the

House of the People 🔗

Share

Political system ⓘ

Presidential system 📊

Structure of parliament ⓘ

Bicameral 📊

IPU membership ⓘ

Yes 🔄 📊

Basic information +

Elections +

Parliamentary mandate

Law-making, oversight, budget +

Working methods +

Administration

Parliamentary bodies -

Caucuses

Specialized body - Human rights

Specialized body - Women

♀ Data on women

👤 Data on youth

Specialized body - Human rights

Commission on Legal Monitoring and Human Rights (December 2005)

About

Nature

Permanent

Related to Chambers

House of Elders

Members

	All Members	Below 45 years of age
Total	5	0
Men	4	0
Women	1	0

Political affiliation of members

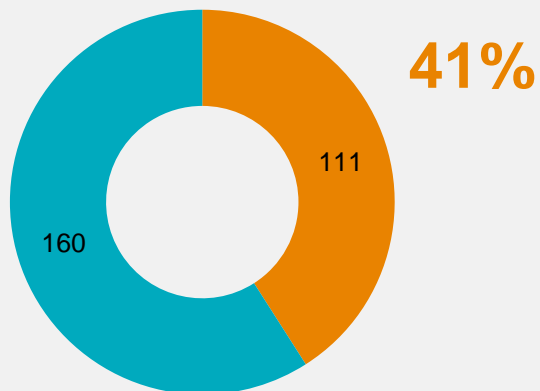
Independent 5

2

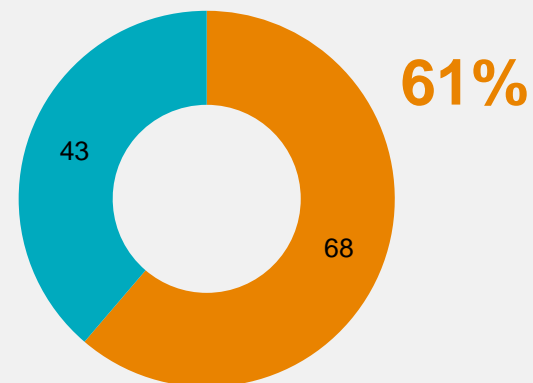
3

Parliamentary human rights committees

■ Data available on 111 parliamentary chambers out of a total of 271 parliamentary chambers worldwide



■ Out of 111 parliamentary chambers, there are 70 human rights committees across 68 parliamentary chambers*



*Zimbabwe's Senate and Canada's House of Commons each have two committees dedicated to human rights



70 parliaments from 56 countries have provided us complete information:

Afghanistan	Lithuania
Andorra	Mexico
Australia	Montenegro
Austria	Myanmar
Bahrain	Namibia
Bhutan	Nicaragua
Bolivia	Paraguay
Brazil	Peru
Burkina Faso	Poland
Burundi	Republic of Moldova
Cambodia	Romania
Canada	Russian Federation
Chile	Serbia
China	Slovenia
Colombia	Somalia
Congo	Spain
Cote d'Ivoire	Sri Lanka
Croatia	Sweden
Cyprus	Thailand
Czech Republic	Togo
France	Turkey
Georgia	Uganda
Germany	United Kingdom
Hungary	United States of America
Indonesia	Uruguay
Japan	Zambia
Jordan	Zimbabwe
Kenya	
Latvia	



17 parliaments have not provided us complete information and are attending the seminar:

	Countries	Chambers
1.	Afghanistan	House of the People
2.	Algeria	National People's Assembly
"	Algeria	Council of the Nation
3.	Benin	National Assembly
4.	Bhutan	National Council
5.	Costa Rica	Legislative Assembly
6.	Cote d'Ivoire	Senate
7.	Djibouti	National Assembly
8.	Gabon	National Assembly
"	Gabon	Senate
9.	Mali	National Assembly
10.	Micronesia (Federated States of)	Congress
11.	Morocco	House of Representatives
"	Morocco	House of Councillors
12.	Pakistan	National Assembly
"	Pakistan	Senate
13.	Paraguay	Chamber of Deputies
14.	Somalia	House of the People
15.	Suriname	National Assembly
16.	Ukraine	Parliament
17.	Uzbekistan	Legislative Chamber
"	Uzbekistan	Senate

Information valid as of 20 June 2019



Survey structure



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Parliamentary committees on human rights

For the purpose of this survey, we only consider as parliamentary human rights committees:

- Committees which have "human rights" or other words with a similar meaning in their title. Examples include: "Human Rights Committee", "Committee on Fundamental Freedoms", "Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Human Rights", "Committee on Human Rights and National Minorities", "Committee on Civil Liberties and Justice" etc.
- Committees which do not have "human rights" or other words with a similar meaning in their title, but which are competent, as explicitly mentioned in their mandate, to address human rights.

1. **Country:**
2. **Name of the person completing the questionnaire:**
3. **Email:**
4. **Job title:**
5. **Telephone:**
6. **Name of the Committee:**
7. **Nature:** Permanent Temporary (ad-hoc)
8. **Date of creation: MM.YYYY**
9. **Related to chambers:** Lower House/
Unicameral Upper House Both Houses



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Survey structure

Members

10. Number of members of the Committee

Note: at the time of the most recent parliamentary elections

	All Members	Below 45 years of age
Total		
Men		
Women		
Other		

11. Political affiliation of members

	All Members
Majority parties	
Opposition parties	
Independent	

Chairperson

12. Sex: Man Woman Other

13. Age: below 45 years of age YES NO

14. Political affiliation:

Majority parties

Opposition parties

Independent

|



Survey structure

Members

10. Number of members of the Committee

Note: at the time of the most recent parliamentary elections

	All Members	Below 45 years of age
Total		
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Women		
Other		

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	All Members
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Opposition parties	
Independent	

Chairperson

12. Sex: Man Woman Other

13. Age: below 45 years of age YES NO

14. Political affiliation:

Majority parties

Opposition parties

Independent

|



Survey structure

Functions, powers and working methods

15. Number of specialised staff to service committee:

16. Committee functions

The Committee has the following functions:

	Yes	No
Mainstream human rights into the work of (other) parliamentary committees and of Parliament as a whole		
Scrutinise all Bills for their compatibility with human rights		
Scrutinise the Executive's policy for compatibility with human rights		
Obtain information from the Executive about the justification for actions or inaction which affect human rights		
Scrutinise State's compliance with existing UN human rights treaties ¹		
Initiate inquiries of its own choosing		
Scrutinise proposed human rights treaties, and other international treaties with implications for human rights, and report to Parliament thereon, prior to ratification		
Ascertain and review the Executive's reasons for not acceding to or ratifying existing international human rights treaties		
Scrutinise the Executive's response to judgments of national, regional and international courts with implications for human rights		
Monitor the adequacy of the existing national system for the protection of human rights		
Review the allocation and expenditure of funds in the State budget to support measures to promote and protect human rights		

Other important functions, please specify:



Survey structure

- 17. Committee involvement in the most recent review of the national human rights situation by the UN Human Rights Council under its Universal Periodic Review** (under which it monitors the human rights situation in each UN Member State every four years or so)

The Committee:

	Yes	No
Was consulted in the preparation of the most recent national report to the UN Human Rights Council		
Was included in the official delegation which orally presented the most recent national report to the Council		
Discussed the conclusions and recommendations which the Council adopted as a result		
Conducted hearings with the Executive about its plans to implement these conclusions and recommendations		

- 18. Committee powers**

The Committee has the power to:

	Yes	No
Propose amendments to legislation		
Introduce bills into Parliament		
Initiate parliamentary debates on its reports or on subjects of its choosing		
Carry out inquiries		
Hold oral evidence hearings		
Compel witnesses to attend		
Compel the production of documents and papers		
Make recommendations to the Executive		
Conduct visits, including visits abroad		
Access places of detention without notice		



Survey structure

19. Committee working methods

The Committee:

	Yes	No
Adopts an annual or longer-term work plan		
Publishes reports on its work on the parliamentary website		
Usually reaches consensus on the issues on which it reports		
Systematically follows up its reports and recommendations		
Reports regularly to Parliament on its activities		

20. Cooperation and coordination

The Committee regularly cooperates and coordinates (e.g. through sharing of reports; meetings; joint follow-up action) with:



	Always	Often	Sometimes	Never
Other parliamentary committees				
Civil society organisations				
National Human Rights Institution(s) (often called "Commissions" and/or "Ombudspersons" in the area of human rights)				
Academic institutions, including research institutes on human rights				
The media				



Survey structure

Contact information for the Committee

21. Phone:
22. Email:
23. Web site:
24. Data valid as at:

Annex: The main core UN human rights treaties

The main core UN human rights treaties:

The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (adoption in 1966; entry into force in 1976);

The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (adoption in 1966; entry into force in 1976);

The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD; adoption in 1965; entry into force in 1969);

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW; adoption in 1979; entry into force in 1981);

The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT; adoption in 1984; entry into force in 1987);

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC; adoption in 1989; entry into force in 1990);

The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (known as the Migrant Workers Convention, or ICRMW; adoption in 1990; entry into force in 2003);

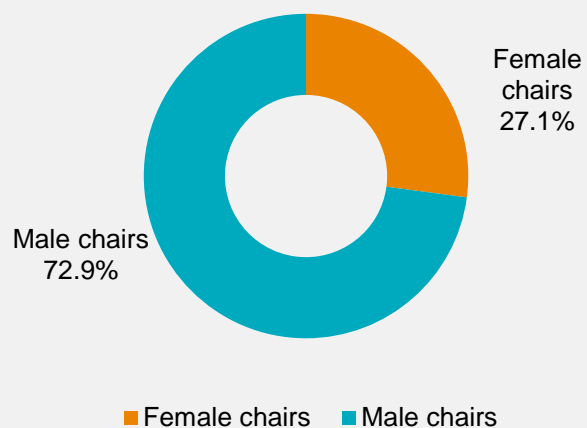
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD; adoption in 2006, entry into force in 2008);

The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED; adoption in 2006, entry into force in 2010)

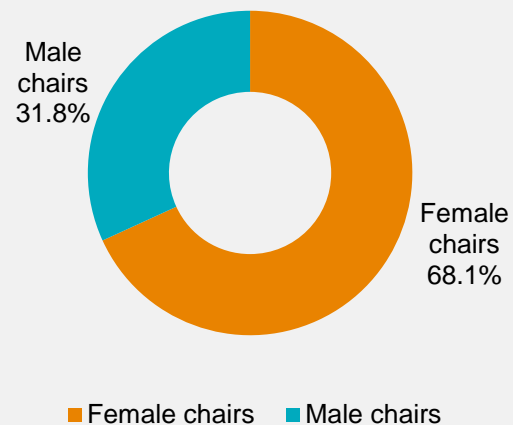


■ **Aggregated data on the sex of chairs of parliamentary human rights committees and gender equality committees**

Human rights committees

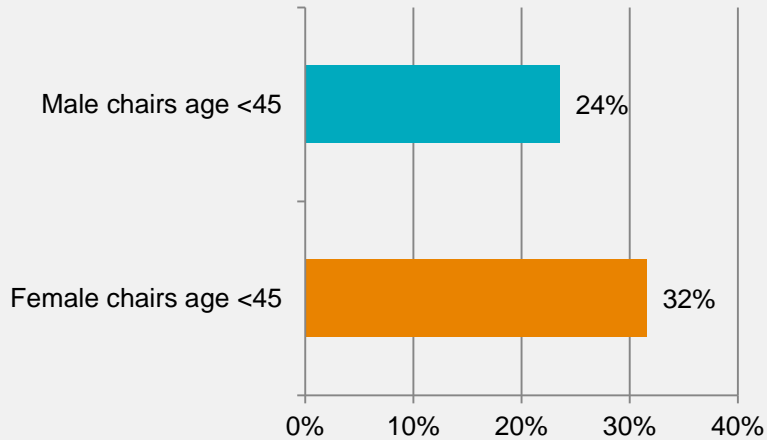


Gender equality committees

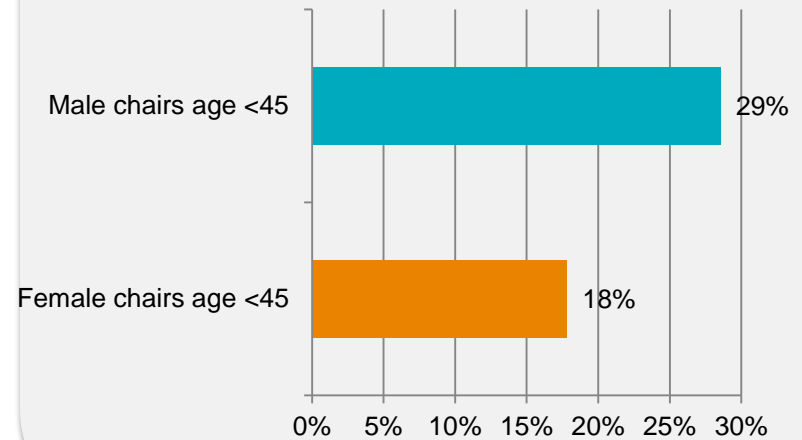


- **Aggregated data on the sex of chairs of parliamentary human rights committees and gender equality committees**

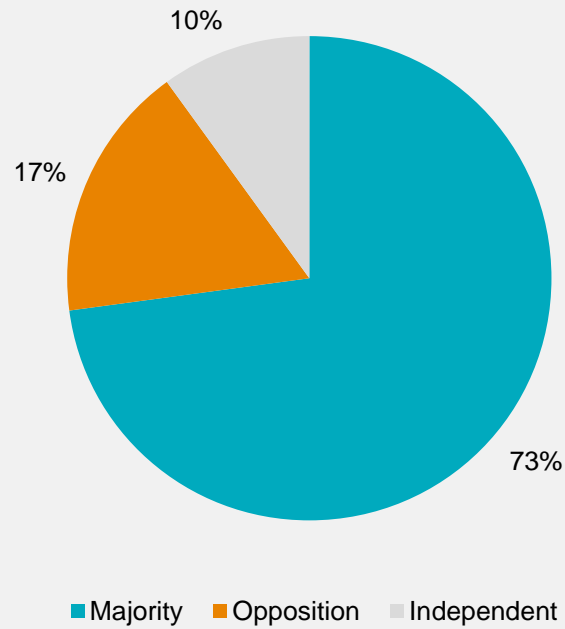
Human rights committees



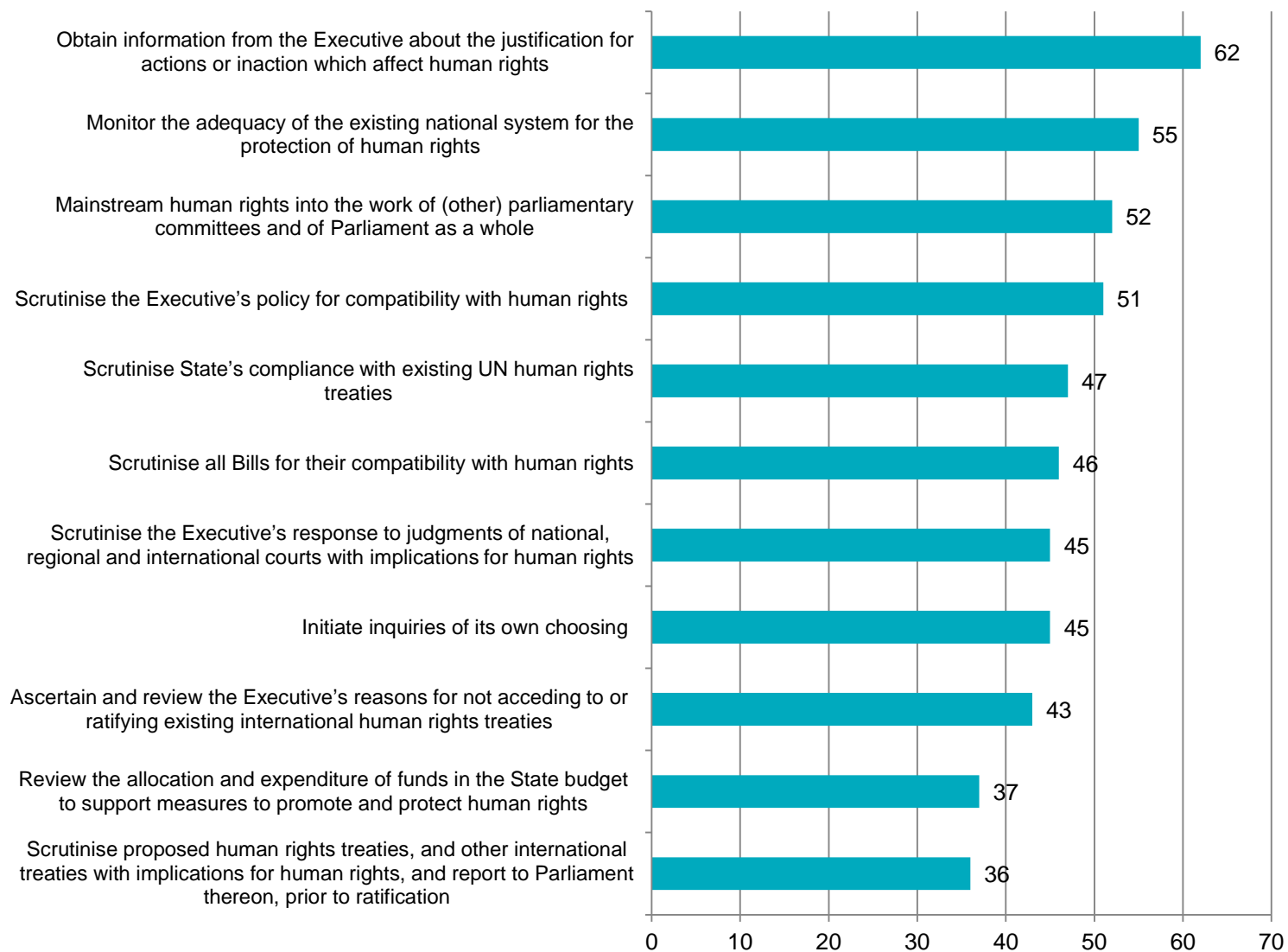
Gender equality committees



■ **Political affiliation of the chairs of the human rights committees**



■ Committee functions



■ **Committee involvement in the most recent review of the national human rights situation by the UN Human Rights Council under its Universal Periodic Review**

