



Parliaments Act for Equal

An inter-parliamentary dialogue on accelerating equality for all women and girls at the Generation Equality Forum Paris 2021

2 July 2021, 10:40-11:25 CEST, virtual event

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Generation Equality Forum provides a unique platform to accelerate progress in achieving gender equality. This multi-stakeholder platform aims to drive much-needed synergies and bold action to achieve sustainable, transformative change for women and girls worldwide. Parliaments have a key role to play in delivering on the Generation Equality Forum's goals. They should be involved and engaged in multilateral processes as well as in national-level implementation of gender equality commitments, in close collaboration with civil society actors.

The Generation Equality Forum's Feminist Movements and Leadership (FML) Action Coalition recognizes that women in all their diversity and across all sectors, especially young women, should be empowered and have their voices heard in all decision-making processes. Across the world, women and girls come together to advocate for and drive change, yet they are limited by shrinking democratic spaces, overt sexism, and lack of resources and opportunities for mobilizing. The COVID-19 pandemic has had multiple gender impacts but also created new momentum for a feminist agenda. [Building back more gender responsive](#) and greener is a key area of a feminist agenda in parliament that requires women's leadership and synergies with feminist, women-led and girl-led movements.

The task is immense. Women remain locked out of positions of power due to longstanding and persistent power imbalances in all areas of life: as a result, only one in four members of parliament worldwide are women. Women in fragile situations, women with disabilities, as well as minority and young women, are particularly impacted. Young women leaders are the least represented. Only 2.2 per cent of parliamentarians globally are under 30, and less than 1 per cent of them are young women. In response to this, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth launched a [Call to Action](#) on Young Women's Political Participation and Leadership. The Call to Action stresses that creating an enabling environment for young women during campaigning and at elections, and supporting them to effect change as office holders, requires strong partnerships with women's and youth movements.

The time to act is now. To achieve gender parity and diversity in representation, parliaments must build on the work of feminist groups, women and girls' movements. These groups must have a say in the work of parliament and their work must be promoted. In particular, strong women's and feminist movements must be consulted and fully engaged in the law-making and oversight work of parliaments so as to ensure genuinely feminist policies are adopted and implemented.

Objective

As a co-leader of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership, the IPU, in collaboration with the French National Assembly and Senate, will be holding a side event during the Generation Equality Forum Paris 2021 on the theme **Parliaments Act for Equal**. The event will be a platform to support dialogue between parliamentarians and civil society actors, including those representing movements led by youth and girls, and to showcase good practices on how parliaments can amplify the voices and leadership of women and girls and



build partnerships to promote gender equality. Cooperation between women's parliamentary caucuses and civil society organizations and movements, and coalition-building with feminist and women's groups, as well as public outreach, will be some of the examples to be shared. Parliaments will be mobilized to make commitments to embark on national action to implement the calls of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership (FML).

Practical information

The inter-parliamentary dialogue will take place online on 2 July 2021 from 10:40 to 11:25 CEST. The event will be held in English, with interpretation into French and Spanish.

To take part in the event and access the virtual platform, prior registration to the Paris Forums is required by 27 June 2021 at 23:59 (CEST): <https://forumgenerationegalite.fr/en/get-involved/register>.

Agenda

Moderator: Ms. Lesia Vasylenko, Ukrainian MP and President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians

- I. Opening remarks by the President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (2 minutes)
- II. Video message by Mr. Richard Ferrand, President of the French National Assembly (3 minutes)
- III. Moderated panel discussion (25 minutes)

The moderated panel will bring together parliamentarians and young women and girls in a dialogue to share examples of good practices and discuss how the two groups can support one another to achieve gender equality in decision-making processes.

- IV. Contributions from participants and Q&A (10 minutes)

Participants will be invited to ask questions and share their experiences, challenges and solutions towards achieving positive change in parliament and through the work of parliament, and pledge to take action in the FML Action Coalition.

Questions and contributions from participants should be made via the chat.

- V. Wrap-up and the way forward (5 minutes)

Discussion questions

- How can parliaments best build coalitions and partnerships with women and girls from civil society organizations and movements?
- What are good parliamentary practices in public outreach to feminist, youth-led and women's groups?
- How can parliaments amplify the voices of women and girl leaders in their work to promote gender equality? What concrete achievements have been made in this regard?

Panellists

The panel will include a mix of politicians and young women and girl advocates.