



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

143rd IPU Assembly

Madrid, Spain
26-30 November 2021



Parity debate

Are men and women MPs equally engaged in gender equality?

Monday, 29 November 2021, Madrid, 09:00 -10:30
Hall Madrid, 1st floor, Palacio Municipal (IFEMA)

Concept note

While women have been at the forefront of advancing gender equality outcomes, men and women MPs all around the world are working together to promote gender equality. Partnerships among men and women in parliaments are crucial because gender equality is to the benefit of all.

However, parliamentarians often encounter difficulties in promoting gender equality in parliament and beyond. Studies carried out by the IPU have shown that women MPs who advocate for women's rights and gender equality are more likely to be the target of all forms of violent acts.¹ Hence, the importance of sharing responsibility with men to advance the gender equality agenda.

Feminism from a man's perspective is largely overlooked although crucial to the cause. Multilateral mechanisms such as the SDGs, Beijing +25, and the Generation Equality Forum all call for partnership with men if gender equality is to be achieved. But how can men become effective gender equality champions? What can we learn from the experience of men defending a feminist agenda in parliament alongside their female colleagues?

With this in mind, participants – including men and women members of delegations attending the 143rd Assembly – will be invited to express and explain their agreement or disagreement with the following key statements (“motions”):

- ***It is easy for men MPs to speak out in support of gender equality.***
- ***Gender equality is a women's issue.***
- ***To better engage in work towards gender equality, men MPs need to acknowledge that they are both part of the problem and part of the solution.***

¹ IPU, *Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians* (2016):

www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2016-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-parliamentarians.

IPU-PACE, *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe* (2018):

www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2018-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-in-parliaments-in-europe.

IPU-APU, *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa* (2021):

www.ipu.org/vaw-africa.

Format

The overall aim of a parity debate is to promote dialogue between women and men at the IPU and to encourage them to debate issues of common interest together. Since an equal number of men and women will speak in the debate, the different but complementary views and experiences of both genders will emerge clearly, thus ensuring that gender equality concerns are mainstreamed into the discussion. Delegations are therefore invited to be represented in this debate by male and female participants.

The Parity Debate will have an innovative format inspired by the [Doha Debates](#). The format aims to stimulate a lively exchange among participants. The Doha Debate format involves focusing on controversial motions, with one or two speakers in favour and one or two speakers against.

Once the speakers have presented an outline of their arguments, a moderator will put questions to them, following which the floor will be opened for comments.

At the end of the debate, there will be no voting for or against motions as the objective of the debate is to stimulate reflections and exchanges rather than to take sides.

Register to contribute a 3-minute statement

Mr/Ms/Other:-----

Name:-----

Title:-----

Parliament/Parliamentary Chamber:-----

Country:-----

Please indicate by order of preference the motions to which you would like to contribute your views (from 1 to 3, 1 being the preferred motion) and indicate if you wish to speak in agreement or in disagreement by putting a X next to “Agree” or to “Disagree” here below:

1. -----
 Agree?

 Disagree?
2. -----
 Agree?

 Disagree?
3. -----
 Agree?

 Disagree?

Proceedings

Each participant wishing to contribute should register through this form or via the [online form](#) and will have 3 minutes to give an oral statement in agreement or in disagreement with one of the motions listed above.

In line with the principle of a parity debate, the composition of the panel will be gender-balanced, as will be the order of speakers invited to intervene from the floor.