

Strategies and tools to support women in public life against gender-based violence online and offline

Virtual round table to mark the
International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Monday, 25 November 2024, 14:00–16:00 CET

(Registration link: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdrVmYXmKKF6XY2PhHA7NBcdw-DilhS42Sd7WgaeXORbJxza/viewform>)

In 2024, politics remains a male bastion. Across the globe, only 27% of members of parliament are women and less than 1 in 4 parliamentary chambers is chaired by a woman. What has been steady progress is now slowing down. By 1 October 2024, the percentage of seats held by women in national parliaments had progressed only by 0.1 point since the start of this so-called “super election” year.

Gender-based violence (GBV) – from overt sexism online and offline to femicide – remains one of the key obstacles to women’s equal and full participation in political decision-making. IPU studies conducted since 2016 have revealed the high prevalence of violence against women MPs – between 80% and 85% of the women MPs surveyed by the IPU have indicated they had faced some form of psychological violence during their term. Locally elected women face similar attacks. Online platforms and artificial intelligence (AI) are increasingly used as tools to discredit and intimidate women in politics further accentuating the prevalence and different forms of violence against women politicians.

While GBV affects women in all spheres of life and represents a major threat to their well-being everywhere, violence against women in politics represents a key challenge to democracy, in that it prevents women politicians from fully exercising their public mandate and discourages other women to engage in political life.

The IPU has been at the forefront of collecting good practices in responding to violence against women in parliaments across the globe.¹ It is also a convenor of women parliamentarians worldwide. The IPU has anchored the fight against gender-based violence against women in parliament and in politics in its inter-parliamentary convening platforms and their agenda. Most recently, the 149th IPU Assembly held in Geneva in October 2024, unanimously adopted the resolution [The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law](#) that urges parliaments to “prioritize the prevention and elimination of...all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination generated or facilitated by AI, including better content moderation, accessible and effective reporting mechanisms and the establishment of procedures to remove illegal content”.

How can parliaments and other stakeholders step up their action to prevent and eliminate all forms of gender-based violence offline and online, including violence generated or facilitated by AI? More broadly, what effective strategies and synergies are needed to build a sexism-free, violence-free public space? What targeted support and tools can be made available to women themselves in politics to counter the sexism and gender-based violence they face?

Join us on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on Monday, 25 November 2024, to discuss these questions at a virtual round table. Interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

The round table is organized by the IPU and its partners in the context of the WYDE | Women’s Leadership project “Advancing Women’s Political Participation and Decision-Making through Social Norms Change, Networking and Global Advocacy” implemented from 2024 to 2027 by UN Women, International IDEA, the IPU, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) with the support of the

¹ IPU, [Guidelines for the elimination of sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament](#) (2019).

European Commission within the framework of the European Union (EU) Women and Youth Democratic Engagement initiative.

Objectives

In line with the WYDE | Women's Leadership project, the virtual dialogue will aim at:

- Exchanging knowledge and improving understanding of gender-based violence against women in politics.
- Identifying existing and upcoming initiatives to support women in politics in countering, responding to, and healing from sexism and gender-based violence that target women online and offline.
- Providing guidance for the development of new tools tailored to the needs of women MPs.
- Bolstering partnerships among women leaders, and between elected women leaders and civil society actors, feminist leaders and other partners from Generation Equality Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership (FML) and the EU WYDE initiative.

Participation

The virtual round table is open to members of parliament, representatives from the European Commission and the EU WYDE initiative; WYDE | Women's Leadership partners; leaders and commitment-makers of Generation Equality's FML; and invited guests from civil society, international organizations, local, regional or national governments, the academia and the media.

Draft programme

Opening remarks (14:00–14:10)

Session 1: Good practices in supporting women in public life against gender-based violence, including online (14:10–15:10)

Presentations (14:10–14:30)

Contributions from the floor (2 min each – 14:30–15:10)*

Participants are encouraged to present initiatives implemented in their parliaments, political parties or organizations to support women in public life against online gender-based violence.

Session 2: Tools to support women in public life against gender-based violence (15:10–15:55)

Presentations (15:10–15:30)

Open discussion to identify needs for tailored tools to support women in public life against gender-based violence (2 min each – 15:30–15:55)*

Wrap-up and next steps (15:55–16:00)

* Contributions will be limited to 2 minutes. Any contribution that requires more time can be given in writing using the meeting's online chat.