



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

IPU's Empowerment Series for Young Parliamentarians

Zero tolerance for violence against women in politics

Online briefing within the framework of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence international campaign

Zoom, 9 December 2024, 13:00 to 15:00 CET (Geneva time)

The fight to achieve the full and effective participation of women in decision-making positions on an equal footing with men is making slow progress. Women still account only for 26.9% of parliamentarians worldwide and continue to face many obstacles aimed at discouraging or removing them from political life. Among these obstacles, violence against women in politics – that is, any act of violence against women for political reasons, because of their involvement in politics or in political activities – is one of the most devastating.¹

The work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) on sexism and violence against women in parliaments has brought to light the nature and magnitude of this discrimination, long invisible, which seeks to silence women and exclude them from political life. Three IPU studies² confirmed that sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments was very widespread – between 80% and 85% of the women MPs surveyed by the IPU indicated they had faced some form of psychological violence during their term in parliament.

Furthermore, these studies showed that women and men can be subjected to different and mixed forms of sexism and gender-based violence that may be aggravated by various factors, including age. Young female MPs, those advocating against gender inequality and those belonging to the opposition or a minority group are the most often targeted. Young female parliamentarians below 40 years of age are more commonly targeted by sexist and sexual remarks (9 percentage points more than all female MPs surveyed), degrading treatment and abuse in media and on social networks (18 percentage points more than all female MPs surveyed) and sexual harassment (12 percentage points more than all female MPs surveyed). Young female parliamentarians can also be attacked more frequently online because they are more present and active on online social networks.

To shed light on these issues of concern and mobilize young parliamentarians around needed solutions from both a gender and a youth responsive policy-making perspective, the IPU is organizing an online briefing on zero tolerance for violence against women in politics. This briefing is part of the IPU's Empowerment Series for young MPs and is being organized within the framework of the *16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence* campaign to address the high interest in the topic expressed by young parliamentarians in a recent survey.

The briefing is being organized under the project titled “Advancing Women’s Political Participation and Decision-Making through Social Norms Change, Networking and Global Advocacy” (EU WYDE Project) implemented by UN Women alongside the IPU, International IDEA and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) with the support of the European Commission and in line with the project’s objectives.

WYDE
Women's Leadership



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¹ UN Women, [Preventing Violence against Women in Politics: Guidance note](#) (2021).

² IPU, [Sexism, harassment and violence against women parliamentarians](#) (2016); IPU and PACE, [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe](#) (2018); IPU and APU, [Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Africa](#) (2021).

Objectives:

The aims of the online briefing *Zero tolerance for violence against women in politics* are to:

- Raise awareness among young parliamentarians on violence against women in politics, with a particular focus on young women
- Take stock of advances made and challenges faced in eliminating violence against women in parliament at national levels and identify related legislation and policies

Methodology:

The online briefing will be organized in the form of a virtual panel discussion including presentations by experts followed by a sharing of good practices among the young MPs on policies to address violence against women in politics. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Date, virtual venue and time: The online briefing will take place on Zoom, on 9 December 2024, from 13:00 to 15:00 CET (Geneva time).

Registration link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89604485075?pwd=BBWWnthZn3RrE0wPVjhDHAmBFFBmtm.1>