



Webinar

Towards gender parity and transformative gender equality policy: The role of parliamentary bodies

Thursday, 6 March 2025, 14:00-15:00 CET

OSCE/ODIHR and OSCE PA joint event marking International Women's Day 2025

Parliamentary bodies for gender equality are specific mechanisms that, through their emphasis on gender equality and gender mainstreaming within the work of a national parliament, assist in enhancing the gender sensitivity of parliaments. They work not only on increasing the number of women in parliaments, but also on making parliaments deliver on gender equality policy nationally. They include formal bodies, such as standing committees and parliamentary councils, as well as more informal bodies, such as women's caucuses.

This year, as the world marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA) aim to highlight the important role such bodies play, by presenting our latest research from 48 OSCE participating States across North America, Europe, and Central Asia. The [Parliamentary bodies for gender equality — Overview and recommendations](#) publication demonstrates the diversity of such bodies, assesses their role and function within parliaments, and offers action-oriented recommendations as well as highlighting some interesting case studies.

Finally, in this webinar, we will call for stronger support for existing formal and informal parliamentary bodies, while also emphasizing the need to explore new formats of informal collaboration for and the greater engagement of male parliamentarians.

Objectives of the seminar:

- Raise awareness about the role of formal and informal parliamentary bodies for gender equality;
- Present the conclusions of the latest research from OSCE national parliaments contained in [Parliamentary bodies for gender equality — Overview and recommendations](#);
- Call upon OSCE national parliaments to ensure renewed focus on gender equality issues.

Target participants:

- Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and relevant staff
- Members of national parliaments of OSCE participating States and parliamentary staff, in particular those in charge of gender equality policy
- Delegations of participating States to the OSCE
- Representatives of OSCE executive structures
- Representatives from the global 'gender-sensitive parliaments' community, working in international organizations, academia and civil society
- Gender equality advocates from across the OSCE region

AGENDA

Moderator: Yulia Netesova, Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, ODIHR

14:00-14:10 **Opening remarks**

Tea Jaliashvili, First Deputy Director, ODIHR

Hedy Fry, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues

14:10-14:40 **Good practices and lessons learned in the OSCE space**

Kenneth G Forslund, Deputy Speaker and Chair of the Working Group on Gender Equality, Representative of the Working Group on Gender Equality, Rikstag (Parliament) of Sweden

Marija Lugarić, Chair, Gender Equality Committee, Croatian Parliament

Petra Ahrens, Senior Researcher, Tempere University

Tamara Pešić, Adviser, Gender Equality Committee, Parliament of Montenegro

14:40-14:50 **Presentation of the latest ODIHR and OSCE PA publication**

[*Parliamentary bodies for gender equality — Overview and recommendations*](#)

Saša Gavrić, Gender Adviser, ODIHR

14:50-15:00 Closing remarks

Registration

All interested participants need to register their participation at the following [link](#).

Once registered, participants will receive a Zoom link to their e-mail address.

Technical information

The event will be held online, via Zoom, in English only.

The webinar will be recorded and will be available on the OSCE PA YouTube channel.

Contact

If you have any questions about registration or participation, please contact Thibault Monbailly at thibault.monbailly@odihr.pl

For any questions about the content, please contact Saša Gavrić at Sasa.Gavric@odihr.pl