

ODIHR support for parliaments in advancing gender equality



ODIHR works in multiple areas to advance gender equality in political and public life, in line with its mandate. This includes:

1. **Promoting women's participation and leadership in democratic processes**, to ensure balanced representation at all levels of decision-making (parliament, political parties, the executive, local government);
2. **Strengthening gender equality legislation and public policy**, as a basic precondition for the successful integration of a gender perspective into all policy- and decision-making;
3. **Advancing the gender sensitivity of democratic institutions**, including of parliaments and political parties, supporting them in setting up rules, mechanisms, processes and skills to better deliver for all women and men;
4. **Strengthening governmental bodies for gender equality**, as central coordination units in charge of gender equality policy and advancing gender-responsive approaches to democratic governance.

National parliaments are central partners for ODIHR. As democratic institutions that represent the diversity of a country's population, they are best placed to lead and oversee national gender equality reforms and to serve as a role model for all other institutions.



Bosnia and Herzegovina [Zeljko Kadric]

ODIHR/OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina event on engaging male politicians for gender equality in politics, Sarajevo, 5-6 June 2024

Why national parliaments should work with ODIHR

Over two decades, ODIHR has continuously advanced its approach for cooperation with national parliaments and is a **global leader on advancing gender equality in politics**. ODIHR can bring added value to your work with national partners.

All assistance is based on **comprehensive, OSCE-wide data collection and research**. Alongside the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, ODIHR regularly surveys national parliaments, to better understand their needs, good practices and challenges, and also the trends across the different regions of the OSCE. ODIHR and its partners take this research and publishes **OSCE-dedicated toolkits, guides and handbooks — change-oriented publications made for parliaments**. They present both diverse case studies and step-by-step guidance on how to address different challenges.

By engaging with ODIHR, your parliament can receive free, **country- and context-specific assistance**, tailored to your requirements, to help you **implement your mandate on representation, lawmaking and oversight**.

ODIHR's practical assistance includes:

- 1. National assessments on gender equality in politics:** Parliaments and their working bodies can invite ODIHR to conduct assessments to inform policy development, including on national gender equality strategies and laws. This can be particularly useful at the start of a new legislative cycle, producing guidance and creative solutions for parliamentary working bodies in charge of gender equality;
- 2. Strategic planning on gender equality in parliament:** With each new parliamentary cycle and creative leadership, MPs should draw inspiration from global good practices. ODIHR offers a two-day strategic planning workshop, aimed at identifying priority actions to advance the gender sensitivity of parliamentary representation, lawmaking and oversight;
- 3. Gender audits:** For parliaments that have taken decisive steps to advance gender equality internally, ODIHR can run a gender audit, using diverse data collection tools to produce an action-oriented report with tailored recommendations that can best be implemented through a multi-year **parliamentary gender equality action plan**;
- 4. Induction and thematic gender equality training for MPs and parliamentary staff:** Given the broad subjects that MPs and parliamentary staff must cover, targeted training can be very beneficial. ODIHR's offer includes training on gender-sensitive parliaments, gender-sensitive lawmaking and oversight, violence against women in politics, engaging male politicians, international gender equality policy and legislative frameworks;
- 5. Strategic discussions on legislative and non-legislative measures to advance gender balance in parliament:** Countries apply different solutions to ensure gender balance and women's equal political participation. ODIHR offers workshops to discuss gender quotas and many other measures for increasing women's representation;
- 6. Support to informal bodies for women's rights and parliamentary gender equality committees:** Many parliaments are deciding to introduce formal or informal bodies to lead parliamentary gender equality work. ODIHR can support this process with strategic discussions, international expertise and research;
- 7. Strengthening governmental bodies for gender equality and gender mainstreaming efforts:** Strong governmental bodies and policy frameworks for gender mainstreaming are needed to improve delivery on gender equality. ODIHR can help parliaments to identify how to improve existing frameworks, e.g., through improved legislation regulating the work of governmental gender equality bodies.
- 8. Assistance on gender equality legislation and parliamentary regulatory frameworks:** At the request of a parliament or parliamentary committee, ODIHR assesses the compliance of legislation with OSCE commitments and international human rights standards, including those that guarantee gender equality. This may include gender sensitivity reviews of Rules of Procedures, Codes of Ethics and Laws on Parliament, as well as national gender equality legislation.

Key ODIHR resources — available in multiple languages



Gender-responsive Governance Toolkit 1 – Advancing gender equality in politics – National assessments and action plans



Gender-responsive Governance Toolkit 2 – Transforming political parties from within – Gender audits and action plans



Realizing Gender Equality in Parliament: A Guide for Parliaments in the OSCE Region



Participatory Gender Audits of Parliaments: A Step-by-Step Guidance Document



Addressing Violence against Women in Politics in the OSCE Region



Making Laws Work for Women and Men: A Practical Guide to Gender-Sensitive Legislation

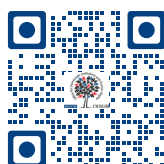
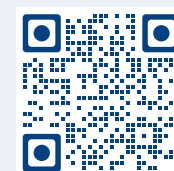


Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan



Requesting Legislative Assistance from ODIHR

All ODIHR resources on gender equality are available at:
www.osce.org/odihr/gender-equality



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