

ODIHR's gender & politics webinar series

Making gender equality in politics a national policy priority – A call for renewed action



Wednesday, 23 October 2024, 14:00-15:15 CET, Zoom webinar

In 2025, OSCE participating States, together with the rest of the globe, will be marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, a central set of international norms on women's rights and gender equality. The Beijing Platform for Action sets women's full and equal participation in politics and decision-making as one of twelve priority areas and calls upon UN member States to set up or strengthen their governmental bodies for the advancement of women and of gender equality. Reflecting on the last 30 years, the OSCE space has seen a far-reaching development. To name a few of the major achievements: states have tripled the average number of female parliamentarians (31.5%), they adopted revolutionary gender equality laws, and set up stronger government ministries, agencies and councils that lead on gender equality policy. 26 OSCE participating States also introduced legislative gender quotas and dozens of parliamentary political parties committed to voluntary representation targets and measures, all aiming at decreasing male over-representation and targeting gender balanced politics in the long run.

Nevertheless, advancing gender equality in politics in many countries is still not a governmental national policy priority. While the majority of OSCE participating States have adopted some form of multi-year national gender equality strategy, programme or action plan, aiming at addressing key policy issues, like violence against women, women's economic participation or gender-based discrimination, a lot of them have not committed to comprehensive approaches in order to advance gender equality in politics. In fact, governmental bodies in charge for gender equality policy often refrain from engaging with political parties, considering them as non-state actors and in that way beyond the scope of work of the executive. The OSCE space is, at the same time, facing partial stagnation in women's political representation. While the percent of female ministers is still gradually increasing, the number of women parliamentarians is standing on the same level for the last five years.

This leads us to the conclusion that a renewed and innovative commitment of OSCE participating States is needed in order to ensure further development. At this webinar, we will present

- existing good practices on how governmental bodies for gender equality are promoting women's political participation and gender equality in politics, and
- [ODIHR's newly published methodology on national assessments of gender equality in politics.](#)

The webinar will issue a call for OSCE participating States to integrate more comprehensively the policy issue of gender equality in politics into the national gender equality policy framework or develop targeted, multi-year action plans aimed at advancing women's political participation and gender equality in politics.

The following issued will be discussed:

- Why is it important that governmental bodies for gender equality take a coordination role in making gender equality in politics a governmental policy priority?
- What are some effective strategies applied by governmental bodies for gender equality in order to advance women's political participation and gender equality in politics?
- What are the expectations of women's movements in Europe and how can effective alliances between civil society, government and political parties be established?

Keynote speakers

- Yanna Parnin, Head of Policy Unit & Secretary to the Gender Equality Commission, Council of Europe
- Markéta Kos Mottlová, Project Manager, Forum 50%, and Chair of the Committee for Balanced Representation of Women and Men in Politics and Decision-making of the Gender Equality Council, Czech Republic
- Mary Collins, Secretary General, European Women's Lobby *tbc*
- Mona Lena Krook, Distinguished Professor, Rutgers University, United States

Moderator & methodology presentation

Saša Gavrić, Gender Adviser, OSCE/ODIHR

Closing remarks

Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR Director's Alternate/First Deputy Director

Please register your participation [HERE](#) to receive the Zoom access link.

Please note that the webinar will be in English language only.

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ODIHR works on two areas aimed at ensuring equal opportunity for the participation of women in political and public life in the OSCE region, in line with its mandate from Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 — The 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and the priorities set by OSCE participating States in the Ministerial Council Decision No. 07/09 on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life:

1. *Women's equal political participation and leadership in democratic processes and representation at all levels of decision-making; and*
2. *Strengthening democratic institutions and national mechanisms for advancing gender equality, including assisting in the implementation and assessment of national strategies and action plans on measures to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming.*

Learn more on how ODIHR can support governmental bodies for gender equality, parliaments and political parties on our web page [Gender equality | OSCE/ODIHR](#)