

In the Spotlight

Highlights from our latest e-Discussion

Women continue to be under-represented in political processes and assemblies across the world at all levels. A major factor to this is the **unequal access to the financial resources** needed to successfully seek nominations or participate in electoral campaigns. The costs of running for office varies across countries and the barriers faced by women differ depending on context. Systemic issues such as lower economic status and lack of economic independence affect women globally, effectively placing barriers for women's participation in politics.

We hosted an [e-Discussion](#) to explore the **challenges and opportunities of funding for women candidates** from 15 May to 19 June 2018 and it was joined by high-level contributors including women in politics, political party leaders, academics and activists from Cameroon, Ghana, India, Turkey, UK and USA as well as experts and practitioners from International IDEA, the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy, the National Democratic Institute and EMILY's List. Participants explored the different challenges women face in raising funds for electoral campaigns at the local and national levels and provided many **best practices and recommendations** on how to financially support women candidates in elections.

[Read the summary of the e-Discussion](#)

Watch this video to hear from women in politics about the challenges they face in campaign financing.



Youth in Politics Campaign

The [Inter-parliamentary Union](#) (IPU) found in 2016 that of all Members of Parliament (MPs) globally, only **1.9% are under the age of thirty** and 14.2% are under the age of forty. [IPU's research](#) also found that women remain the least represented group in all age categories of MPs. What explains the low representation of young people in politics? How can we make sure more of them engage in politics?

To help answer these questions, help raise awareness on the severe under-representation of youth in politics, and celebrate International Youth Day (12 August), we dedicated the month of August to the topic with a social media campaign around the hashtag **#YouthInPolitics**. The social media [campaign](#) included a [video](#) on the topic (watch below), [sixteen interviews](#) with young MPs from fourteen countries, and a [Twitter Chat](#) in collaboration with IPU on 10 August.



What's happening?

- The United Nations General Assembly elected the Foreign Minister of **Ecuador**, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, as President of its 73rd session on 5 June. She is the fourth woman to occupy the position ever and the first since 2006. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- **Spain's** new Socialist government announced on 6 June a female-majority Cabinet with 11 female ministers and six male ministers. With this announcement, Spain joined a handful of countries where women hold at least half of ministerial portfolios. Click [here](#) to learn about them.
- A total of 103 women deputies were elected to the 600-seat **Turkey** Parliament in the June 24 poll. With 17% of women MPs, Turkey ranks 117th in IPU's world classification of women in parliaments. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Claudia Sheinbaum Pardo is **Mexico** City's new mayor, the first elected woman to get the post. Increasingly, women are seeking active roles in Mexican politics, with now women holding half the seats in the national and state legislatures. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Souad Abderrahim, a 54-year-old pharmacist of the moderate Islamist party Ennahdha, was elected on 3 July as mayor of the capital city of **Tunisia**, Tunis. She is the first woman to hold the post. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Hameeda Shahid is making history as the first woman who runs for Parliament in Dir, a conservative tribal area of **Pakistan** and a former Taliban stronghold where women were not allowed to vote until recently. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- A flood of women, minorities and first-time candidates is poised to radically alter the composition of the **US** Congress next year after winning Democratic primaries in record numbers in 2018. Click [here](#) to learn more.

- **Bolivia** is one of only two countries in the world – the other is Rwanda – with more women in Congress than men. But as women gain more political power, they are also becoming the target of violent attacks from those opposed to change. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh was named Acting President of **Vietnam** on 23 September following the death of President Tran Dai Quang. Although she is the first female President of the country, activists are unimpressed. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- Sixteen women leading their countries' diplomacy attended the first meeting of women Foreign Ministers in **Canada**. Activists were given the opportunity to share ideas with the ministers about what a feminist foreign policy should look like. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Interviews



Salote Radroro
Member of Parliament
Fiji



Joan Burton
Member of Parliament
Ireland

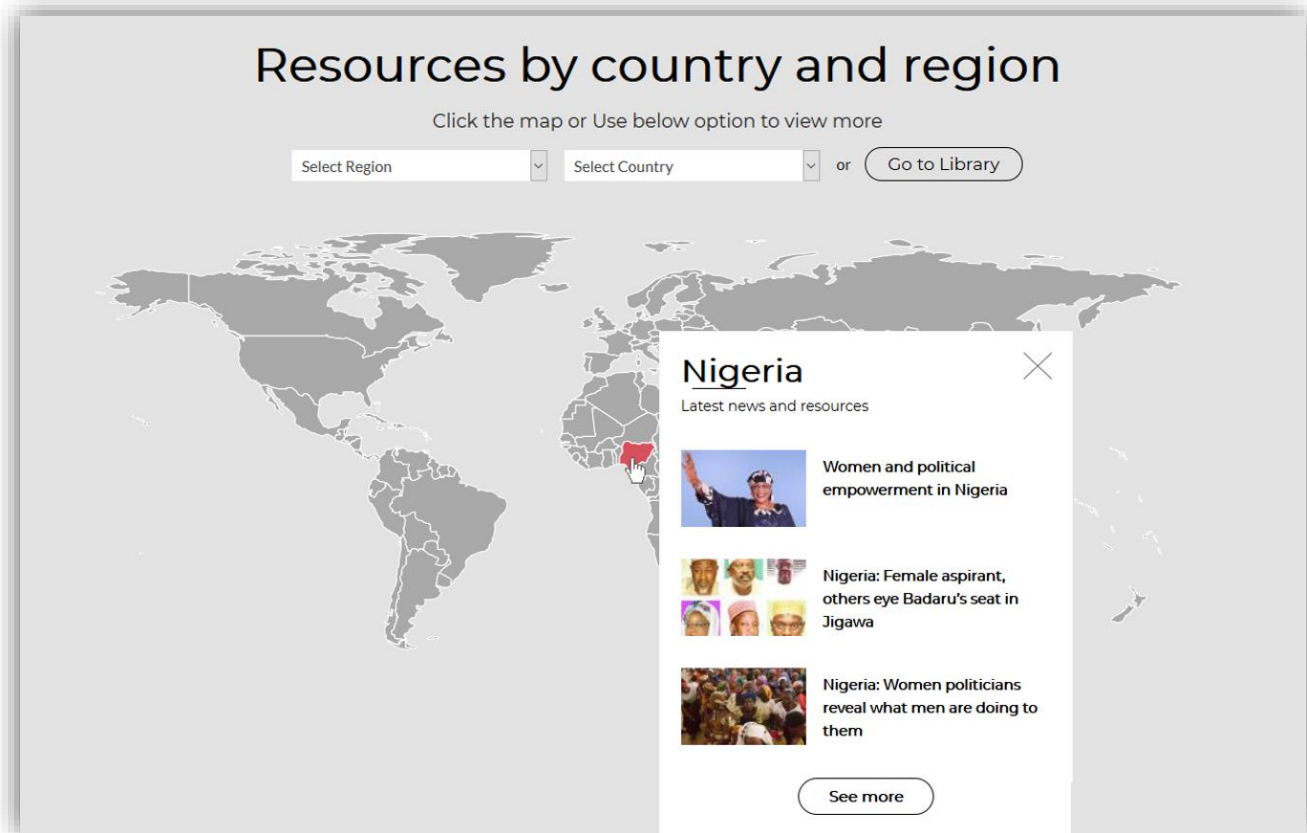


Thandi Modise
Chairperson of the National Council of
Provinces
South Africa

[See more interviews](#)

News and Resources

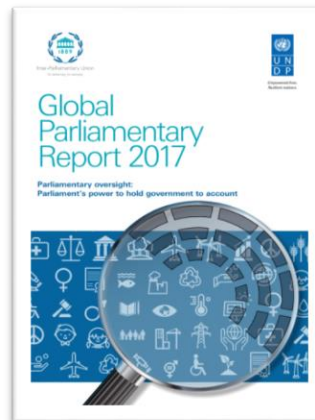
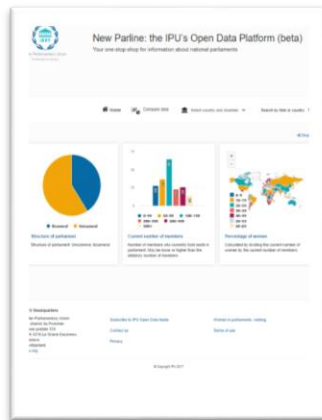
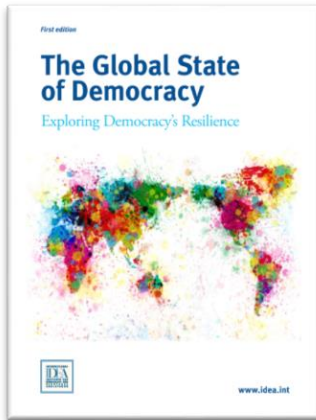
We share news and resources in four languages for and about women in politics daily on our platform and social media pages. Our **online library features over 17,400 news and resources**, including world news, reports, research papers, training material, videos, case studies, databases, and blogs. We are happy to announce that with our enhanced **interactive map**, users now have **easier and faster access** to the latest news and resources related to a particular country!



[Browse the map](#)

Partner Updates

Our partner organizations are contributing with their specific mandate and expertise to make advancements in women's political participation a reality. Find below some of the latest resources from **International IDEA**, **IPU**, **UNDP**, and **UN Women**.



About Us

iKNOW Politics is a unique platform on women in politics, designed to connect members and build knowledge through e-discussions, webinars, interviews, videos, a rich online library of resources, a calendar of events and daily world news. Created in 2007, iKNOW Politics is a joint project of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (UN Women).

