



## International Knowledge Network of Women in Politics

**iKNOW**  
politics  
iknowpolitics.org

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Dear member,

We are pleased to share with you the latest edition of the [iKNOW Politics](#) Newsletter! In this issue, we invite you to take a look at our most recent interviews with women in politics and learn about the latest trending stories from around the world as you browse through iKNOW Politics' [news section](#) and [online library](#). You will also discover our partner organizations' recent stories and publications.

We encourage you to send us suggestions and ideas on how to improve our services and share your stories with us by sending an e-mail to [iknowpolitics@unwomen.org](mailto:iknowpolitics@unwomen.org).

Thank you,  
The iKNOW Politics Team

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Violence Against Women in Politics

Violence against women in politics (VAWP) limits women's political opportunities and discourages or prevents them from exercising their political rights, including their rights as voters, candidates, party supporters or public officials. This past year, elected women from [Canada](#), [Australia](#), [Italy](#), [Scotland](#) and [Israel](#), publicly condemned misogynist and violent political cultures and made the case that violence should [not limit women's](#) participation in politics. There is increasing awareness of the rising tide of VAWP among women in politics, practitioners and academics around the world.

A recent [survey](#) by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) revealed widespread sexism, violence and harassment of women MPs worldwide. Of the 55 women MPs surveyed, over 80 per cent reported experiencing some form of psychological violence. More than 40 per cent of female MPs interviewed by IPU said they had received threats of death, rape, beatings or abduction while serving their terms, including threats to kidnap or kill their children. Some 20 per cent of respondents said they had been slapped, pushed or struck, including by other members of parliament.



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



Following its Global Call to Action to Stop Violence Against Women in Politics with the [#NotTheCost](#) campaign, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25) an [Incident Report Form for reporting Violence Against Women in Politics](#). The form, which is available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish, allows people to report incidents of violence against politically active women safely and securely.

In Mexico, the National Electoral Institute (INE), the Federal Electoral Tribunal (TEPJF) and the Prosecutor Specialized on Electoral Crimes, recognized in the "[Protocol to Deal with Cases of Political Violence against Women](#)" that VAWP is widespread at the local level and occurs also within political parties and the Chamber of Senators and Deputies and agreed that the issue needs to be addressed in order to detect, prevent and avoid gender-based political violence.

### iKNOW Politics e-Discussion on VAWP – some highlights

From 19 August to 16 October 2016, iKNOW Politics hosted an [e-Discussion on VAWP](#). Thirteen experts from the Americas, North Africa and the Middle East, Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, joined the online debate and submitted contributions, highlighting best practices and recommendations. Click [here](#) to read them.



## WHAT'S TRENDING

- Only 22.9 per cent of all national parliamentarians were women as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. As of December 9, 2016, 10 women are serving as Head of State and 9 are serving as Head of Government.
- Convened by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Arab Emirates Federal National Council (FNC), the [Global Summit of Women Speakers of Parliament](#) gathered more than 30 female Speakers of Parliament, and parliamentarians from 50 countries on December 12-13, 2016 in Abu Dhabi. At the conclusion of the meeting, women Speakers unanimously adopted the [Abu Dhabi Declaration](#) that defines concrete steps to tackle geopolitical, socioeconomic, environmental and technological challenges to ensure a more gender sensitive and inclusive world and a better quality of life for generations to come.
- The [push for the first woman Secretary General](#) of the United Nations gained momentum in the past year, trending online as [#SheforSG](#), before António Guterres was selected to take over the top UN position. Out of 13 candidates, seven were women. Guterres, who was sworn in as Secretary-General at a ceremony at UN Headquarters on December 12, said that achieving gender parity among UN staff will form an important part of his agenda and [declared](#) "in the appointments I'll be making, and the first ones will be announced soon, you will see that gender parity will become a clear priority from top to bottom in the UN. And it will have to be respected by all."
- While Hillary Clinton did not make history in the 2016 elections by breaking the highest glass ceiling, [many other American women did](#). From the Senate and the House to state houses across the country, many female challengers of [diverse](#) backgrounds won the race.

[Watch](#) this brief overview of *the long fight for a female American President*



- Young people have every right to be active participants in civic and public life and it is time to ensure they no longer face arbitrary barriers to run for public office – whether at the local, regional or national level,” said the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, Ahmad Alhendawi during the [launch](#) of the [#NotTooYoungToRun](#) initiative. The campaign, a result of a partnership including of the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the Inter- Parliamentary Union (IPU) aims to elevate the promotion of young people’s right to run for public office and address the wide-spread issue of age discrimination.

**51%** OF THE WORLD’S  
POPULATION IS  
UNDER 30

**BUT ONLY  
2%** ARE MEMBERS OF  
PARLIAMENTS

- The initiative 50:50 Parliament launched [#AskHerToStand](#), a campaign to address the overwhelming gender imbalance in United Kingdom’s House of Commons by encouraging everyone to ask talented and inspirational women to stand as Parliamentary candidates.
- During the COP22 climate change summit in Marrakesh held in November, Anne Hidalgo, Chair of the urban network [C40 Cities](#) and Mayor of Paris, began the [Women4Climate](#) session by [announcing C40’s initiative](#) to put more women in decision-making roles on issues relating to climate change. The official launch of the initiative took place at the C40 Mayors Summit in Mexico City, which took place from 30 November until 2 December 2016.



## Join the forthcoming e-Discussion on the SDGs and WPP

In September 2015, 193 Member States of the United Nations unanimously adopted a new global agenda to end poverty by 2030 and pursue a sustainable future for all. The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) (SDGs) includes a specific [goal](#) to achieve gender equality. Advancing women’s political participation is crucial for delivering on the SDGs and that is why Target 5.5 calls to “ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.” iKNOW Politics will host an e-Discussion on this topic entitled **“Women’s political participation: a fundamental prerequisite for gender equality, democracy and**

**achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**. It will be moderated on the iKNOW Politics platform and social media from 09 January to 12 February 2017. Stay tuned and join this online discussion.

## NEWS & RESOURCES

iKNOW Politics uploads news in four languages for and about women in politics daily on its website and social media pages. Its online library now features over **16,200 news and resources**, including world news, research papers, legal frameworks, online courses and training material, case studies, databases, and blogs. Since the publication of the last newsletter in August, about **350** news and resources in Arabic, English, French and Spanish were added to the [online iKNOW Politics library](#).

## INTERVIEWS

Interviews with women and men political leaders is a key feature of iKNOW Politics. Politicians, activists and experts are regularly interviewed. Since the publication of our last newsletter, we have published [11 new interviews](#) with women who tell us their stories and teach us about best practices and the importance of decision-making processes that encourage women and youth to become agents of change.



Mmamoloko Kubayi, Member  
of Parliament, South Africa



Alexia Manombe-Ncube, Deputy  
Minister of Disability Affairs, Namibia



Soraya Mellali, Executive Director,  
African Development Bank

## PARTNER UPDATES

The iKNOW Politics partner organizations are contributing with their specific mandate and expertise to make advancements in women's political participation a reality. Listed below are some of the latest updates from our partners:



- [Maldives: Workshop on women's participation and leadership in peace and security](#)
- [UN ESCWA and UN Women Join Hands to Discuss Regional Accountability Tool for Achieving Gender Equality in Public Institutions](#)
- [City 50-50 Platform encourages gender parity in power spheres in Brazil](#)



- [Strengthening women's political participation: An analysis of the impact of women's parliamentary networks in Europe and Central Asia](#)
- [We need more women in politics: Here's how to make quotas work](#)
- [Tuvalu Parliament hosts Women's Practice Parliament](#)



- [Women Speakers of Parliament set clear goals to respond to global challenges](#)
- [Evaluating the gender sensitivity of parliaments: A self-assessment toolkit by IPU](#)
- [Threats of death and violence common for women in politics, an IPU report says](#)



- [Workshop to promote gender and social inclusion policy and electoral law reform in the Kingdom of Lesotho](#)
- [A framework for developing internal gender policies for electoral management bodies](#)
- [International IDEA hosts all-day event at UN on Political Participation of Migrants and Refugees](#)

## 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). Meet the iKNOW Politics team [here](#).

