

Promoting gender equality in politics and democratic institutions



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.

- 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.

Key OSCE commitments and Ministerial Council Decisions on gender equality in politics

- Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, 1991
- 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (No. 14/04)
- Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Rehabilitation (No. 14/05)
- Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women (No. 15/05; 07/14 and 04/18)
- Women's Participation in Political and Public Life (No. 07/09)



The Parliament of the Kyrgyz Republic, *Jogorku Kenesh*, discusses the history of gender equality as part of a participatory gender audit of the Parliament.

How does ODIHR promote women's equal political participation and gender equality in democratic institutions and governance?

Based on research into the most effective measures to implement ODIHR's mandate, the Office promotes women's equal political participation and gender equality in democratic institutions and processes in three ways:

1. Actively supporting women's equal political participation as well as representation and leadership in political decision-making;
2. Promoting gender transformation of democratic institutions, e.g., political parties and parliaments; and
3. Strengthening gender-responsive governance, policy- and lawmaking.

ODIHR applies diverse methods and tools, including training, networking and mentoring; gender audits, assessments, legislative assistance and action planning; developing online and offline resources, such as guides, handbooks and manuals; and implementing activities and projects on national, sub-regional and OSCE-wide levels. ODIHR cooperates with OSCE institutions, governments, democratic institutions, civil society and international partners.



The second edition of ODIHR's Young Women's Political Academy training was concluded in 2022 with women politicians from Georgia, North Macedonia, Poland and Uzbekistan.

ODIHR's work with participating States covers:

- **Capacity-building of women politicians and cooperation with civil society representatives** on gender equality and addressing violence against women in politics through workshops, training, mentoring, networking or other learning formats, designed to support gender equality and increase their impact in political and public life;
- Conducting **comprehensive national assessments on the state of gender equality in political life** to inform future policy development, including of national gender equality strategies and laws;
- **Technical assistance to parliaments, political parties** and other democratic institutions in conducting **gender audits** and developing **action plans or roadmaps** to address shortcomings and challenges related to gender equality and violence against women in politics, which may include a) reviews of **parliamentary policies** (i.e., Rules of Procedures, Code of Conducts), b) the setup/strengthening of **parliamentary bodies** and procedures for gender-sensitive law making and parliamentary oversight, and c) discussion of legislative (i.e., **gender quotas**) and other measures to increase the number of women in office and set up mechanisms and measures to prevent violence against women in politics;
- **Legislative assistance**, upon request by a domestic public body, assessing the adherence of legislation, including on gender equality or addressing violence against women, to OSCE commitments and international human rights standards;
- Technical assistance to **governmental institutional mechanisms on advancing gender equality**, aiming at strengthening their gender mainstreaming mandate and promoting gender-responsive governance, including the application of **gender mainstreaming tools** in policy- and law making.

Key ODIHR resources on gender equality in politics available in multiple languages ↓



[Realizing Gender Equality in Parliament: A Guide for Parliaments in the OSCE Region](#)



[Online Gender Audit Tool for Political Parties:](#)



[Making Laws Work for Women and Men: A Practical Guide to Gender-Sensitive Legislation](#)



[Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan](#)



[Participatory Gender Audits of Parliaments: A Step-by-Step Guidance Document](#)

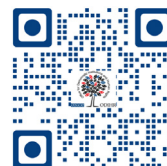


[Addressing Violence against Women in Politics In the OSCE Region: Toolkit](#)



[Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties](#)

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



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