



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



# IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians

## *Advancing parity: Breaking the barriers of gender stereotypes and negative social norms*

2 to 4 June 2026, Belgrade, Serbia  
**Provisional programme**

### Monday, 1 June

- Arrival of delegations to Belgrade
- 09:00–18:00 Registration of delegates
- 20:00–22:00 **Gala dinner, Atlantic-Pacific Hall, Hotel Crowne Plaza** (See [here](#))

### Tuesday, 2 June

- 09:30–10:30 **Opening ceremony (Main Congress Hall)**  
[Welcome address](#)  
Ms. Ana Brnabić, President of the National Assembly (Republic of Serbia)  
[Introductory remarks by](#)  
Ms. Snežana Paunović, Minister of Public Administration and Local Self-Government (Republic of Serbia)  
[Opening remarks](#)
- Mr. Martin Chungong, Secretary General of the IPU
  - Mr. Milan Antonijević, Commissioner for the Protection of Equality (Republic of Serbia)
  - Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the IPU (United Republic of Tanzania)
- [Keynote address: From Mexico to Belgrade: Pursuing the path to parity](#)  
Ms. Cynthia López Castro, Senator and President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (Mexico)
- 10:30–10:45 **Group photo**
- 10:45–11:00 **Coffee break**
- 11:00–13:00 **Session 1 (Main Congress Hall)**  
**Unpacking barriers to parity: Stereotypes and negative social norms in the spotlight**  
**Chairperson:** Ms. Gabriella Morawska-Stanecka, Vice-President of the IPU (Poland)  
Participants will take stock of advancements in attaining parity, including through the implementation of the [IPU Plan of action for gender parity in parliaments](#) and will focus on stereotypes and negative norms that shape women's political journeys and hinder their progress towards parity. They will share experiences and good practices developed in their own national contexts to combat such stereotypes and norms. Through experience sharing and common reflection, they will identify means and strategies to overcoming stereotypes and norms that limit women's political participation and leadership.  
[Keynote address by](#)
- Ms. Anda Filip, Secretary General elect of the IPU
- [Panel discussion](#)
- Ms. Tanzila Narbaeva, Chairperson of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis (Uzbekistan)
  - Ms. Nahla Haidar, Chairperson of the CEDAW Committee
  - Ms. Emma Muteka, Vice-Chairperson of the National Council (Namibia)
  - Ms. Ágnes Forsthoffer, Speaker of the National Assembly (Hungary)
  - Ms. Sahiba Gafarova, Speaker of the National Assembly (Azerbaijan)
  - Ms. Milana Rikanovic, Head of the UN Women Office in Serbia
- [Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants](#)
- 13:00–14:30 **Lunch break (Lunch area)**

14:30–16:00

## **Session 2 (Main Congress Hall)**

### **Advancing parity through diversity: Zoom on intersecting stereotypes and norms**

**Chairperson:** Ms. Karen Bradley, Member of Parliament and Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU (United Kingdom)

Participants will discuss how gender stereotypes can intersect and impact disproportionately women of different age groups, ethnicity, indigeneity, with disabilities, migration or other status, and their access to parliament and other political leadership and decision-making roles. Participants will reflect on how intersecting stereotypes affect women's political pathways and parliamentary experience and policymaking. They will consider approaches to ensure that efforts to dismantle stereotyping benefit all women.

#### Panel discussion

- Ms. Jelena Žarić Kovačević, Minister for Family Care and Demography (Republic of Serbia)
- Ms. Mabel Memory Chinomona, President of the Senate (Zimbabwe)
- Ms. Julieta Sierra, Member of Parliament and Member of the IPU Forum of Young Parliamentarians (Uruguay)
- Ms. Fatma Öncü, Member of Parliament and Vice-President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (Türkiye)
- Ms. Iqra Khalid, Member of Parliament (Canada)
- Mr. Calixte Bloquet, Academic researcher, IPU consultant on diverse women's representation

#### Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants

16:00–16:15

## **Coffee break**

16:15–17:30

## **Session 3**

### **Working together against stereotypes and negative norms**

#### Breakout groups

Four breakout groups will meet simultaneously. Participants will sign up to join the group of their choice among the four listed below. Each group can include about 50 participants. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic in each group. Each group will be led by organizations that work towards gender equality and women's empowerment, including jointly with the IPU. In each group, participants will learn about the topic under consideration, share their views and experiences, and identify ways forward to address stereotypes and negative social norms limiting women's political participation.

*Group 1: Engaging men and boys against stereotypes and negative social norms*  
(Facilitated by OSCE/ODIHR and the MenEngage Alliance) (**Main Congress Hall**)

*Group 2: Advancing equality in the law to address stereotypes and negative social norms*  
(Facilitated by UN Women, Equality Now and the Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights) (**Hall 9**)

*Group 3: Combatting stereotypes in line with the CEDAW Convention*  
(Facilitated by the IPU and the CEDAW Committee) (**Hall 11**)

*Group 4: Combatting sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament*  
(Facilitated by the IPU) (**Hall 13**)

17:30–18:00

## **Conclusions and key takeaways from the working groups of the day (Main Congress Hall)**

**Chairperson:** Ms. Sevil Mikayilova, Member of Parliament and Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU (Azerbaijan)

#### Reporting in plenary

Participants will be back in plenary to hear reports from the breakout groups.

09:00–11:00

**Session 4 (Main Congress Hall)**

**Challenging online stereotypes, violence and disinformation against women in politics**

**Chairperson:** *Mr. Edin Djerlek, Deputy President of the National Assembly (Republic of Serbia)*

Participants will explore how stereotypes and negative social norms against women's political participation and leadership are prevalent on social media and online platforms. They will discuss how such stereotypes and norms against women in politics manifest themselves through online gender-based violence, including sexualized attacks, stereotypical portrayals, disinformation, misinformation, algorithmic biases and widespread narratives reinforcing traditional roles. They will discuss means to address these issues through collective efforts such as through the promotion of respectful discourse, challenges to harmful stereotypes and support to the voices of women in politics online.

[Keynote address by](#)

Ms. Claudia Roth, Former Minister of State and Federal Commissioner for Culture and the Media, Member of Parliament (Germany)

[Panel discussion](#)

- Ms. Tatjana Macura, Minister in charge of gender equality, prevention of violence against women and economic and political empowerment of women (Republic of Serbia)
- Ms. Hamda Hassan Al-Sulaiti, Deputy Speaker of the Shura Council and Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU (Qatar)
- Ms. María del Carmen Alva Prieto, Member of Parliament and Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU (Peru)
- Ambassador Marcel Peško, Head of the OSCE Mission to Serbia
- Ms. Lucina di Meco, #ShePersisted

[Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants](#)

11:00–11:15

**Coffee break**

11:15–13:00

**Session 5 (Main Congress Hall)**

**Gender-sensitive parliaments advancing societies free from stereotypes**

**Chairperson:** *Ms. Cynthia López Castro, Senator, President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians and Ex-Officio Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU (Mexico)*

Participants will put parliamentary rules, practices and culture under the lens to share good practices and tested solutions on making parliaments more gender-sensitive institutions free from stereotypes, discrimination and violence against women, in line with the [IPU Plan of action for gender-sensitive parliaments](#). They will also focus their discussions on combatting stereotypes in society through their functions of oversight, legislation and budgeting.

[Panel discussion](#)

- Mr. Pere Joan Pons Sampietro, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE, Member of Parliament (Spain)
- Ms. Petra Bayr, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Member of Parliament (Austria)
- Ms. Hadija Murangwa Ndagiza, Senator (Rwanda)
- Mr. Jonathan Murphy, Head of Programme, Political Participation and Representation, INTER PARES
- Ms. Agata Walczak, Democratic Institutions and Processes Specialist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

[Sharing of views, experiences and good practices by participants](#)

13:00–14:30

**Lunch break (Lunch area)**

- 14:30–15:30 **Session 6 (Main Congress Hall)**  
**Leadership and culture change to combat stereotypes: Learning from other sectors**  
**Chairperson:** Ms. Elvira Kovač, Deputy President of the National Assembly (Republic of Serbia)  
 Leaders from different sectors, including sports, the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education disciplines, and the media will share how they confront entrenched stereotypes and the persisting resistance to change, and how they work to bring about this change.  
[Keynote address by](#)  
 Ms. Matilde Mordt, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Serbia  
[Testimonials and messages from changemakers in other sectors](#)
- Ms. Adrijana Mesarović, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy (Republic of Serbia)
  - Ms. Begoña Lasagabaster, Director for Gender Equality, UNESCO
  - Mr. Aleksandar Vlahovic, President, Serbian Association of Economists
  - Mr. Soufiane Adjali, UNHCR Representative in the Republic of Serbia
  - Ms. Samah Hadid, Musawah
- 15:30–16:45 **Session 7**  
**The Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE) initiative: Supporting women’s political participation and combatting stereotypes and negative norms**  
[Breakout groups](#)  
 Four breakout groups will meet simultaneously. Participants will sign up to join the group of their choice among the four listed below. Each group can include about 50 participants. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic in each group. In each group, participants will learn about the topic under consideration, share their views and experiences, and identify ways forward to address stereotypes and negative social norms limiting women’s political participation. The four groups will be led by the partners in the European Union funded WYDE/WPP initiative: UN Women, International IDEA, the IPU, and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).  
*Group 1: Intergenerational cooperation challenging stereotypes and negative social norms (Facilitated by UN Women) (Main Congress Hall)*  
*Group 2: Men and women working together against stereotypes and negative social norms (Facilitated by International IDEA) (Hall 9)*  
*Group 3: Combatting sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliament (Facilitated by the IPU) (Hall 11)*  
*Group 4: Training on combatting social norms limiting women’s participation in parliament (Facilitated by the IPU) (Hall 13)*
- 16:45–17:00 **Coffee break**
- 17:00–17:30 **Conclusions and key takeaways from the working groups of the day (Main Congress Hall)**  
[Reporting in plenary](#)  
 Participants will be back in plenary to hear short reports from the breakout groups.
- 17:30–18:00 **Closing session (Main Congress Hall)**  
**Chairperson:** Ms. Cynthia López Castro, Senator and President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians (Mexico)  
[Presentation and adoption of the Conference outcome document](#)
- Ms. Ivana Stamatović, Member of the Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, Member of Parliament (Republic of Serbia)
  - Man co-Rapporteur (MP from another participating parliament)
- [Closing speeches](#)
- Dr. Tulia Ackson, President of the IPU (United Republic of Tanzania)
  - Ms. Marina Raguš, Deputy President of the National Assembly (Republic of Serbia)

## Thursday, 4 June

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|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| 09:00–18:00 | <b>Cultural visit</b><br>Visit to Danube and Golubac Fortress |
| 14:00–16:00 | <b>Lunch</b>                                                  |
| 18:00       | <b>Departure of delegates</b>                                 |