

#NotInMyParliament

Sexism, Harassment and Violence against Women Parliamentarians

Harassment, sexism, harmful stereotypes and the intimidation of women in politics are rampant. For far too long, they have been tolerated and normalised. They have negative consequences on achieving gender equality by causing and aggravating the under-representation of women in politics and by creating a chilling effect. A recent [Inter-Parliamentary Union \(IPU\)/Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly study](#) reveals that over 80% of respondents have experienced psychological violence; over 44% have received threats of death, rape or beatings during their parliamentary term and 65% have been subject to sexist remarks.

The UN 2030 Agenda and SDG5, as well as the [Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy 2018-2023](#), commit to women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life and to eliminating violence against women in all spheres of life. The existing international normative framework, including the [Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence](#) (the Istanbul Convention), considers violence against women in politics as a violation of women's human rights. In addition, the Council of Europe is preparing a Recommendation to prevent and combat sexism which will also address women in politics. As a follow-up to the joint study with the IPU, the Parliamentary Assembly has launched the initiative *#NotInMyParliament*, to mobilise parliaments to take immediate action to stamp out sexism and violence.

You are invited to join this CSW63 side event, organised by the Council of Europe, the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Finland's Permanent Mission to the UN, to learn about on-going initiatives and to share experiences and good practices. The event also aims to strengthen partnerships, as well as to increase the impact of the work and efforts in this area in the presence of high-level panellists, some of whom will share their own experiences as women politicians.

Panellists:

- **Liliane Maury Pasquier**, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe
- **Gabriela Cuevas**, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union
- **Annika Saarikko**, Minister of Family Affairs and Social Services, Finland
- **Charles Ramsden**, Chair of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe
- **Dubravka Šimonović**, UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences
- **Purna Sen**, UN Women Spokesperson on Addressing Sexual Harassment and Other Forms of Discrimination

Moderator: Marja Ruotanen, Director, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Date: Tuesday 12 March 2019
Time: 11.30 – 12.45
Venue: Conference Room 1 UN HQ, New York

Contacts:



PRESIDENCY OF FINLAND

Council of Europe
November 2018 – May 2019

PRÉSIDENCE DE LA FINLANDE

Conseil de l'Europe
Novembre 2018 – Mai 2019



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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