

12 steps to gender-sensitive parliaments in the OSCE region

Helsinki Pledges

1. Commit to achieving gender parity in politics within the next 10 years, supported by a clear roadmap.
2. Conduct regular gender audits in parliament to track progress on mainstreaming gender equality in representation, lawmaking, and oversight.
3. Create a gender-balanced steering group to act on audit results and lead on the implementation of recommendations.
4. Pass laws to boost women's participation in parliament, political parties and all levels of representation.
5. Update parliamentary rules of procedure regularly to ensure gender balance and sensitivity in all processes.
6. Give parliamentary committees tools and support to ensure the needs and perspectives of all genders are included in laws and policies.
7. Engage more male politicians as allies to promote gender equality and work towards gender parity.
8. Tackle violence against women in politics with strong policy responses, training, and accountability measures.
9. Make parliament a supportive workplace that respects work-life balance and care responsibilities.
10. Ensure national budgets reflect gender equality goals and follow international good practice.
11. Remove barriers for underrepresented groups and especially women from those groups, through empowerment initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion.
12. Stand firm against gender equality backsliding with monitoring, communication and actions to challenge stereotypes and harmful gender norms.



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