



#ParlAmericasGEN

TITLE: Addressing Gender-Based Violence in Parliaments from an Intersectional Perspective

THEMES: Gender-based violence, sexual violence, intersectionality, racism, disabilities

DATE: May 30, 2023

LOCATION: Virtual meeting

PARTICIPANTS: Women parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and women's organizations from 7 Latin American countries.



This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 8, 10, 16, and 17.



5th Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality

This meeting provided a space for parliamentary staff from Latin America to examine strategies and share experiences related to addressing gender-based violence within national parliaments, in both the operational and administrative parliamentary scope. Invited experts supported the analysis of good practices and presented recommendations from an intersectional lens, considering factors such as race, ethnicity, and disability. Special attention was given to how the identities of those most affected should be considered in the development of protocols and programs that seek to prevent, address, penalize, and eradicate gender-based violence in parliaments, with the aim of re-evaluating and strengthening these instruments.



Agenda highlights

Opening remarks

- **Sulma Campos Mata**, Director of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality of the Senate of the Republic of Mexico and General Coordinator of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network for Gender Equality (PNGE-Staff)

“Gender-based violence and disability: Key aspects of a human rights-based approach”

- **Rosario Galarza Meza**, Intersectionality Officer, International Disability Alliance (IDA)

“Racism on the Agenda project: Preventing discrimination and gender-based violence”

- **Stella Maria Vaz Santos Valadares**, General Coordinator of the Standing Committee on the Promotion of Gender and Race Equality of the Federal Senate of Brazil

“Closing the gaps in the legal protection of gender-based sexual violence from an intersectional and international standards perspective”

- **Ana Elena Obando Mendoza**, Legal Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Equality Now

Announcement of in-person activity: “Open and inclusive parliaments: Experiences and strategies in Latin America”

- **Ilna Trombka**, Director General of the Federal Senate of Brazil

Moderators:

- **Maryan Henriquez Ayala**, Gender Policy Coordinator of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile and Member of the ParlAmericas PNGE-Staff
- **Kathy Ramos**, Director of the Gender Equality Unit of the National Assembly of Panama and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the ParlAmericas PNGE-Staff
- **María Cristina Rosado**, Coordinator of the Legal Committee for Women’s Equity of the Congress of the Republic of Colombia and Regional Coordinator for South America of the ParlAmericas PNGE-Staff

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- Protocols and programs to prevent, address, and eradicate gender-based violence in parliaments are essential to strengthening legislatures as institutions and workplaces free from violence and discrimination, especially in a context characterized by intensified power dynamics, politicized decision-making mechanisms, underrepresentation of women and marginalized populations, and irregular working hours.
- In order to strengthen the tools for addressing gender-based violence, it is necessary to incorporate an intersectional lens.
- **Recommendations** on including a perspective on the human rights of persons with disabilities in protocols: implementing accessible communications, providing training for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff with disabilities on their rights, consulting persons with disabilities to learn about their experiences interacting with established mechanisms and protocols, and expanding the diversity of accessible services and facilities.
- **Initiatives** that consider the intersections between gender-based violence and racism: communication campaigns on language use; providing training on racism, gender, and their linkages; and disseminating interviews on the experiences of parliament employees who are women and/or racialized individuals.
- Aligning legislation on gender-based violence with international and regional standards serves to strengthen the regulatory framework and internal protocols of parliaments.



[FULL AGENDA](#)



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