

AGENDA

Parliamentary exchange: *Multi-party caucuses for gender equality*

Ottawa, Canada | October 20-21, 2016

Wednesday, October 19, 2016

Arrival of international delegates from ParlAmericas' Caribbean membership and transportation to the official hotel, Crowne Plaza Gatineau-Ottawa.

Thursday, October 20, 2016

8:30 am Meet in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza-Gatineau hotel for transportation to the Sir John A. MacDonald building (room 200)

9:00 am – 9:30 am **Opening session and official photo**

- Welcoming remarks by Alisha Todd, Director General of ParlAmericas
- Welcoming remarks by the co-chairs of the All-Party Women's Caucus, Canada

9:30 am – 10:30 am **Session 1: Promoting gender-sensitive parliaments: The case for multi-party caucuses for gender equality**

- Introduction to the working sessions and presentation by facilitator Sonia Palmieri
- Q&A and open dialogue

This session will outline key concepts and challenges associated with institutionalizing gender equality in parliamentary work. It will examine the role of dedicated gender mainstreaming infrastructure, specifically multi-party caucuses and their benefits as vehicles to amplify women's voices and advocate for gender equality issues through a less formalized structure (which can also complement the work of gender committees).

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am – 12:30 pm **Session 2: Building momentum for multi-party gender caucuses**

- Presentation by Catherine Fortin-LeFaivre of [Equal Voice](#) on strategies for collaboration across party lines; Q&A
- Group work on consultative processes to lay the foundations for productive gender caucuses

This session will explore successful cross-party initiatives to promote women's political participation, and how lessons learned can be applied to the formation of a parliamentary caucus for gender equality. Delegates will also assess the (anticipated) relationship of the gender caucus to other parliamentary bodies within their national context and potential mechanisms for coordination. They will evaluate windows of opportunity for initial planning and action with key allies, and how to overcome difficulties that

may arise in fostering political will or securing resources.

- 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm Reception hosted by the chairs of the All-Party Women’s Caucus (Sir John A. MacDonald building, room 200)
- 2:15 pm – 2:45 pm Attendance at Question Period in the House of Commons, Parliament of Canada
- 2:45 pm – 3:15 pm Tour of Centre Block, Parliament of Canada
- 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm **Session 3: Establishing the objectives and operations of gender caucuses**
- Presentation by Sonia Palmieri on the diverse objectives, models of organization, and scope of work conducted by gender caucuses in the Americas and Caribbean region
 - Group work (by delegation) and report-back
- This session will cover the process of determining the purpose and structure of gender caucus’ meetings, leadership, membership, and decision-making. Delegates will draft an outline of standing rules as an exercise in identifying the goals and procedures of a gender caucus in their country. They will then compare their rules with delegations from other countries and analyse shared and alternative guidelines for the functioning of a caucus.*
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm Visit to the Canadian Museum of History (Grand Hall, First Peoples Hall, and special exhibition “Nice Women Don’t Want the Vote”)
- 7:30 pm Dinner (location TBC)

Friday, October 21, 2016

- 8:30 am Meet in the lobby of the Crowne Plaza-Gatineau hotel for transportation to the Sir John A. MacDonald building (room 200)
- 9:00 am – 9:15 am Recap of previous day’s working sessions
- 9:15 am – 10:30 am **Session 4: Setting priorities for action in gender caucuses**
- Overview of good practices and risk management by Sonia Palmieri
 - Open dialogue
- This session will provide guidance on agenda-setting and strategic planning for the collective work carried out by gender caucuses in areas like advocacy, research, or capacity building. Possible issues to champion will be considered in relation to global commitments such as CEDAW and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.*
- 10:30 am – 10:45 am Break
- 10:45 am – 1:00 pm **Session 5: External partnerships to strengthen the work of gender caucuses**
- Presentation by Clare Beckton, Executive Director of Carleton University’s [Centre for Women in Politics and Public Leadership](#)

- Presentation by Catherine Fortin-LeFavre of [Equal Voice](#)
- Presentation by Lebrechtta Nana Oye Hesse-Bayne of the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership
- Question and answer session
- Exchange of experiences and open dialogue

This session will consider gender caucuses' engagements with stakeholders and networks outside of parliament, such as NGOs, women's movements, academia, the private sector and media. Delegates will reflect on opportunities to expand outreach around specific policy issues in partnership with civil society actors in their countries, as well as strategic communications to increase the visibility of these multi-sector alliances.

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Lunch (in meeting room)

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Session 6: Case studies on influencing institutional culture, policies and legislation

- Overview of regional accomplishments of gender caucuses by Sonia Palmieri
- Exchange of experiences and open dialogue

This session will explore how gender caucuses have shaped the parliamentary agenda and procedural affairs in favour of women's political participation (e.g. anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies). It will likewise consider how gender caucuses have raised awareness and contributed to positive change for gender equality in society more broadly.

3:30 pm – 4:30 pm

Session 7: Conclusions

- Overview by Sonia Palmieri of recommendations on ensuring the durability of effective gender caucuses
- Presentation of next steps by each country's delegation

This session will highlight the best methods for guaranteeing the sustainability of gender caucuses, and the importance of accountability measures including documenting and evaluating impact through predetermined indicators. To conclude the working sessions, each delegation will present the primary actions they will undertake to establish or strengthen the gender caucus in their country.

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Evaluations and closing remarks on behalf of ParlAmericas and the Canadian All-Party Women's Caucus