



Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality highlighted the importance of an intersectional approach to eradicating gender-based violence

OTTAWA (CANADA), May 30, 2023 - The 5th Virtual Meeting of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Staff Network on Gender Equality was held today, May 30, providing a forum for exchange and dialogue on the prevention of discrimination and gender-based violence in the parliamentary setting.

The agenda for the meeting, "[Addressing gender-based violence in parliaments from an intersectional perspective](#)," underscored the importance of initiatives that seek to prevent, address, and sanction gender-based violence through interventions by parliamentary staff. It included a presentation by **Stella Maria Vaz**, General Coordinator of the Standing Committee for the Promotion of Gender and Racial Equality of the Federal Senate of Brazil. Event participants also benefited from the contributions of guest experts **Ana Elena Obando** (Equality Now) and **Rosario Galarza Meza** (International Disability Alliance) to explore how consideration of the intersectional identities of persons affected by gender-based violence can strengthen local protocols and programs.

Highlights of the meeting included discussions on the key aspects of addressing gender-based violence from the perspective of human rights of persons with disabilities and initiatives aimed at eradicating racism and preventing gender-based violence. **Sulma Campos Mata**, director of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality of the Senate of Mexico and General Coordinator of the Network, gave the welcoming remarks at the meeting, and the moderators included:

- **Maryan Henriquez**, Coordinator of Gender Policies of the Chamber of Deputies of Chile;
- **Kathy Ramos**, Director of the Gender Equality Unit of the National Assembly of Panama and Regional Coordinator for Central America of the Network; and
- **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 Network.

To conclude the meeting, **Ilana Trombka**, Director General of the Federal Senate of Brazil, announced that the Senate will host the next ParlAmericas in-person meeting for parliamentary staff in Latin America, titled "Open and Inclusive Parliaments: Experiences and Strategies in Latin America," on August 10 and 11, 2023.

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