

Inter-parliamentary meeting

Gender-based Political Harassment: Building Awareness in Parliaments

January 26-27, 2016 | Castries, Saint Lucia

ParlAmericas is pleased to share the highlights of a high-level meeting organized by its Group of Women Parliamentarians and hosted by the Parliament of Saint Lucia, during which former and sitting parliamentarians from more than 10 countries across the Caribbean and Canada discussed experiences and strategies to overcome the problem of gender-based political harassment. Among the distinguished participants were the Hon. Dame Billie Miller of Barbados, the Hon. Jean Augustine of Canada, and a number of ministers and speakers of parliament. The delegates were joined by subject matter experts from regional and international organizations (UN Women, CIM/OAS, CIWiL, UWI).

Delegates exchanged perspectives on the challenges faced by women in parliaments, media portrayal of women's political leadership, best practices in developing anti-harassment policies and codes of conduct in political parties, as well as related legal frameworks. On the second day, each delegate developed a strategic work plan to empower women in the political sphere within their national context, building on gender-sensitive parliamentary projects.



See agenda [here](#)

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Delegate testimonies

“I knew first hand of the political harassment since I have been a victim of it for more than two decades. I was astounded by the widespread aspect of [it] across the region and around the world. I am now more empowered about the numerous strategies which I can devise and implement in my quest to eradicate such a scourge. I am energized to share my experiences with other MPs...I shall use every opportunity to work with my constituents to minimize their acceptance of [political harassment].”

“This type of forum is an organized way of engaging women to stand up and participate in positive action to end political harassment and encourage more women to enter elective politics.”

ParlAmericas is an independent forum for parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean that creates a supportive professional community through regional forums, training opportunities, year-round discussions, and follow-up actions. For further information about ParlAmericas' gender equality work, please contact the International Secretariat.