
Women MPs of the world conference: strengthening visibility, driving change

Thursday 8 November 2018

Provisional programme

To be held at the House of Commons, Westminster

This historic one-day event, taking place at the House of Commons in the centenary year of women's suffrage in the UK, will bring together women parliamentarians from around the world to celebrate their achievements, discuss how to strengthen visibility, and further empower women parliamentarians to continue to drive change nationally and internationally. The event aims to inspire the next generation, contribute to women's meaningful participation in parliaments globally, and demonstrate how elected women around the world are shaping the political agenda and making a difference to women and girls in their home countries.

Delegates will discuss how to advocate for greater representation of women in parliament and public life, as well as exploring the specific challenges facing women MPs and how these might be overcome. The morning will focus on listening to women MPs' experiences and what can be done to help them become more effective, deal with harassment and abuse, balance family and political responsibilities, and help more women to be active in politics. The afternoon will explore how women parliamentarians are already spearheading policy change and how to amplify this, by shining a spotlight on four policy areas that affect the lives of women and girls: promoting women's economic empowerment; ending violence against women and girls; championing efforts to enable all women to have access to voluntary family planning; and breaking the barriers to girls' education.

Women's equality and empowerment is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and is also integral to every aspect of inclusive and sustainable development. Ensuring that women parliamentarians continue to expand their reach and impact is therefore key to achieving the Goals by 2030. This historic event will create a network of women parliamentarians around the world, providing opportunity for impactful international collaboration, and building a blueprint for further cooperation. By sharing knowledge and best practice, this gathering will strengthen and support the efforts of women parliamentarians to drive change in their own countries and communities as well as globally.

Wednesday 7 November

From 1300 Registration at Millennium Gloucester Hotel, London

1500-1730 Welcome tea, Millennium Gloucester Hotel

1900-2030 Evening reception offsite

Thursday 8 November

0815-0900 Arrival at the Palace of Westminster
Registration and tea and coffee available

Chamber of the House of Commons

0910-0930 Group photograph

0930-0945 **1. Welcome and introduction**

0945-1045 **2. Women in parliament: celebrating progress, shaping the future**

This plenary session will pay tribute to the women who built the foundations for the current generation of women parliamentarians, or who are inspiring the next. The plenary will be a celebration of MPs' achievements and a sharing of their experiences, looking at how to further empower women leaders, and encourage more women into parliament.

1045-1110 Tea/coffee in the Members Dining Room

1115-1230 **3. Being a woman parliamentarian today: working groups**

Participants will discuss different issues facing women parliamentarians. The four working groups will run in parallel.

How can strong foundations for women's full and equal participation be built in each area? What are the mechanisms that keep women out of decision making? What are the levers women can use to build more equal participation? How to build progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 5.5 – ensuring women's full and effective participation, and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life?

Each working group will be co-facilitated by two women parliamentarians - one from the UK and one from a visiting country.

Group A: Empowering women leaders (1): how can women MPs be as effective and powerful as possible in their parliaments? How to represent their constituents most effectively? How to balance being an MP with family and personal responsibilities?
Committee Room 14

Group B: Getting more women into parliament: how to support routes to election for women? How to build community support for and acceptance of women's leadership?
Committee Room 11

Group C: Empowering women leaders (2): how can women MPs be as effective and powerful as possible in their parliaments? How to represent their constituents most effectively? How to balance being an MP with family and personal responsibilities?

Committee Room 10

Group D: Countering backlash: how to deal with bullying and harassment, both online and offline? How to engage with men to change the narrative?

Committee Room 9

1230-1330

Networking Lunch in the Members Dining Room

1340-1440

4. Policy focus: what difference are women MPs making?

Tackling gender inequality through promoting women's economic empowerment, ending violence against women and girls, championing access to voluntary family planning, and breaking the barriers to girls' education.

Chamber of the House of Commons

This policy-focused plenary session will highlight the ways women in parliaments shape the political agenda to tackle gender inequality. Working groups will follow, allowing participants to discuss in further detail. The plenary will highlight successes, and the working groups will gather solutions that will make a real difference to the lives of women and girls around the world.

1445-1545

5. Policy focus: working groups

Four working groups will focus on sharing concrete policies and ideas on what works to achieve progress in the four policy focus areas.

Each working group will be co-facilitated by two women parliamentarians - one from the UK and one from a visiting country.

Group E: Promoting women's economic empowerment

Committee Room 9

Group F: Ending violence against women and girls

Committee Room 10

Group G: Voluntary family planning: championing women's choices and holding governments to account

Committee Room 11

Group H: Breaking barriers to ensure at least 12 years of quality education for every girl

Committee Room 14

1545-1610

Tea/coffee

1615-1715

6. Changing the future for women in parliament: next steps, commitments and actions

Chamber of the House of Commons

Delegates will reflect in plenary on the days' discussions and share their personal commitments and calls to action.

1800-2000

Reception at Durbar Court, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation-only event.