



VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS: EXPERIENCES AND WAYS FORWARD FOR WOMEN LEADERS

END VIOLENCE AGAINST #WOMENINPOLITICSTOO!

Co-hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, UN Women Europe and Central Asia Regional Office, and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), this side-event will include interventions from women politicians and leaders, who have been, and still are, involved and active in actions to end violence against women in politics and for peaceful change. The panellists will discuss their experiences with harassment and violence in politics, solutions to address this violence, and methods to rise above to continue their important work in the public sphere.

Violence and abuse of women as a result of political participation is a pervasive global issue. It affects women in all countries and at all levels. In recent years, studies point to a sharp rise in

violence against women in politics and in elections around the world—online and offline. Violence against women in political and public life is a distinct form of gender-based violence that is intended to stop women from accessing power and silence their voices in decision-making. An essential part of the solution to violence against women in politics is increasing the ability of women leaders to safely speak out against their abusers, to remove the culture of silence around the abuse, change social norms around harassment and intimidation of women in the public sphere, and in turn, for legal frameworks to provide adequate complaint, protection and support mechanisms as well as effective remedy and recourse.

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