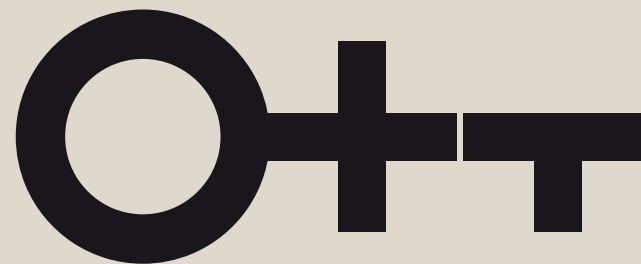


The Just Politics agenda for more women in politics



We recommend that national and donor governments along with southern and northern civil society work together to enable, support and strengthen the political participation of women by:

1

Addressing barriers to the political participation of women

- Re-defining politics with women in the centre and changing the political culture
- Developing policies and programmes that improve women's economic status
- Ending all forms of violence against women, but in particular gender-based political violence
- Challenging attitudes and power relations which associate women disproportionately with responsibility for domestic work and caring responsibilities
- Implementing policies that promote gender equity
- Promoting women from different backgrounds as leaders

2

Enabling women to participate in political life

- Supporting women to become aware of their rights and of their role in politics
- Encouraging women to become involved in political activities at the local, national, regional and international levels
- Supporting women to develop the tools needed to make their voices heard
- Maintaining robust and diverse women's and feminist groups to lead the way
- Developing, maintaining and adequately funding government and civil society's local, national, regional and international women's organisations and institutes

3

Increasing women's representation in formal politics

- Promoting the notion of 50+ (half or more) representation of women in politics
- Reforming internal party legislation and national electoral legislation to promote women's candidatures and enforcing sanctions for non-compliance
- Promoting affirmative actions such as proportional representation systems and electoral gender quotas and enforcing sanctions for non-compliance
- Initiating advocacy to maintain pressure on government and political parties to democratise and support the role of women in politics

4

Supporting women to be effective political actors

- Training and mentoring new women representatives
- Creating alliances and networks of women and men representatives, both within and between parties, to unite around gender issues and to share information
- Identifying and supporting progressive women and men gender champions who are in politics to engage more with women's and feminist organisations
- Contesting negative or stereotypical portrayals of women and women politicians in the media
- Supporting local women's groups to lobby and support elected women once they are in power to keep the focus on the women's agenda

5

Maximising accountability to women

- Women's and feminist organisations ensuring accountability by monitoring progress on gender equity targets and holding governments accountable to international human rights and gender equity agreements
- Using voters' or women's manifestos and the media to hold parties accountable for election promises
- 'Naming and shaming' to highlight the issue of corruption which seriously hinders women's political participation
- Lobbying for increased transparency, wider consultation, greater accountability and more effective gender analysis in all decision-making especially in trade and aid
- Developing and using appropriate indicators to measure progress on gender equity goals