



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

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# My power for women's power From a call for action to concrete action

(adopted by the 22nd Meeting of Women Parliamentarians  
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## *I have signed the call – what can I do next?*

### **1. Make my commitment visible/vocal**

- Publish the call for action on my website / Facebook page / Twitter account or on my parliament's website in the language of my country
- Raise awareness on the call for action in my parliament and among my men and women colleagues
- Publicize the call for action in the media through interviews and radio and TV programmes
- Publicize and showcase my individual commitments and actions
  - On my website/Facebook page/Twitter account
  - Via IPU (@IPUparliament, #womenMPs, #mypowerforwomen or postbox@ipu.org)

### **2. Take action**

- **Legislate for equality:**
  - Launch and co-sponsor legislative initiatives to advance gender equality, enhance women's political participation and combat violence against women
  - Initiate or support proposals to amend discriminatory legislation
  - Consult and engage key stakeholders, in particular civil society and women's groups, on the creation or revision of specific legislation on gender equality
- **Ensure government action delivers to both men and women:**
  - Request that gender equality objectives be clearly stated in governmental policies
  - Request the collection and provision of sex disaggregated data
  - Question policies, plans and budgets in terms of their impact on both men and women
  - Ask for gender impact assessments of laws and policies
  - Ensure adequate budgets and human resources are allocated to enforce laws and implement programmes
  - Hold consultations and public hearings with key stakeholders, in particular civil society and women's groups, on progress made and difficulties encountered in implementing laws and policies

→ **Represent and give voice to all:**

- When meeting constituents, make sure to meet women, girls, men and boys without forgetting the marginalized and the vulnerable among them
- In committee work, request that women's organizations and associations are heard alongside other stakeholders, on any subject matter

→ **Empower women in politics and in society:**

- Support more women to run at the next election, to act as party leaders and to chair parliamentary committees
- Raise awareness on gender equality among men and women colleagues and constituents, and among boys and girls; discuss with them social norms and stereotypes with a view to changing mentalities and finding the means to reconsider the traditional roles of men and women
- Support women in communities by listening to them and empowering them
- Condemn violence against women, harassment, discrimination and inequalities

→ **Make my parliament more gender-sensitive:**

- Organize a debate on gender-sensitive parliaments to raise awareness among men and women MPs and to promote implementation of the Plan of Action for Gender-sensitive Parliaments (IPU, 2012)
- Propose a self-assessment exercise to evaluate how gender-sensitive my parliament is
- Use every opportunity to raise the awareness of fellow members of parliament, the Speaker and party whips on the importance of having more women in decision-making positions in parliament, as heads of delegations, chairs of committees, and directors of departments.
- Review internal policies and rules to make sure they are responsive to the needs and interests of both men and women and that they favour an environment free from discrimination, harassment and inequalities
- Build expertise on gender equality inside parliament
- Encourage partnership between both sexes when promoting gender equality

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***I have signed the call – what IPU can do for me?***

- Inform the global parliamentary community of individual pledges, actions and other follow-up activities held at the national level
- Give visibility to actions taken during IPU Assemblies, with regular monitoring of the implementation of this plan of action at the Meetings of Women Parliamentarians
- Collect individual pledges/actions and make them available on a dedicated section of its website

- Provide legal advice and technical and financial support to parliaments wishing to move to action to advance gender equality and empower women
- Provide information and examples of good practices developed in the field of parliamentary action for gender equality and women's empowerment
- Support actions to make parliaments more gender-sensitive by organizing parliamentary debates and performing self-assessment exercises