

Provisional programme

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

Thursday 8 November 2018

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
0910-0930	Chamber of the House of Commons Group photograph Safety Briefing Parliamentary Doorkeeper Representative
0930-0945	1. Welcome and introduction Penny Mordaunt Secretary of State for International Development, Minister for Women and Equalities, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom Harriet Harman Mother of the House, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom
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. Chaired by: Andrea Leadsom Leader of the House of Commons, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom Speakers: Marta Lucía Ramírez Blanco Vice-President, Colombia Bardish Chagger Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, Member of Parliament, Canada Diane Abbott Shadow Home Secretary, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom Heba Hagrass Member of Parliament, Egypt Aishatu Dukka Member, House of Representatives, Nigeria Ledia Hanifa Amaliah Member of Parliament, Indonesia

Suad bint Mohammed Al Lawati
State Council Vice-Chairperson, Oman

Catherine Martin
Chair of Ireland's Women's Parliamentary Caucus, Ireland

Ya Kumba Jaiteh
Member, National Assembly, Gambia

Simona Petrik
Member of Parliament, Slovakia

Tamara Adrián
Member, National Assembly, Venezuela

Tea/coffee in the Members Dining Room

1045-1110

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

Co-chaired by:
Helen Whately

Vice-Chair of the Conservative Party, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Ala Talabani
Head, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, Iraq

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

Co-chaired by:
Chloe Smith

Minister for the Constitution, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Tabata Claudia Amaral de Pontes
Federal Deputy, Brazil

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

Co-chaired by:

Yvette Cooper

Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Yeo Bee Yin

Minister for Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, Malaysia

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

Co-chaired by:

Sarah Newton

Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Hayat Abdelrahim

Member of National Assembly, Sudan

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.

Chair:

Maria Miller

Chair, Women and Equalities Select Committee, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Speakers:

Women's economic empowerment

Lindiwe Zulu

Minister of Small Business Development, South Africa

Lana Prlić

Member, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Senator Risa Hontiveros

Chair of the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, Philippines

Ending violence against women and girls

Aida Touma Sliman

Member of Parliament, Head of Knesset Committee on the Status of Women and Gender Equality, Israel

Oana Bizgan

Member of Parliament, Romania

Marisa Glave

Congresswoman, Peru

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

Heidi Nordby Lunde

Member of Parliament, Norway

Marie Rose Romée Sawadogo Ouedraogo

Member of Parliament, Burkina Faso

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

Shiva Maya Tambahangphe

Deputy Speaker, House of Representatives, Nepal

Nikki Kaye

Opposition Spokesperson for Education, New Zealand

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

Co-chairs:

Amber Rudd

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Barbara Rwodzi

National Assembly, Zimbabwe

Group F: Ending violence against women and girls

Committee Room 10

Co-chairs:

Angela Crawley

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury

Speaker of Parliament, Bangladesh

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

Committee Room 11

Co-chairs:

Dawn Butler

Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Jessie Kabwila

Member of Parliament, Malawi

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

Committee Room 14

Co-chairs:

Kate Osamor

Shadow Secretary of State for International Development, Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Nafisa Shah

Member, National Assembly, Pakistan

1545-1610

Tea/coffee in the Members Dining Room

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.

Chair:

Rushanara Ali

Member of Parliament, United Kingdom

Speakers – from sign-up list

Áslaug Arna Sigurbjörnsdóttir

Member, Althing, Iceland

Closing remarks:

Andrea Leadsom

Leader of the House of Commons, Member of Parliament, South Northamptonshire, United Kingdom

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.