

WE NEED MORE WOMEN IN PARLIAMENTS AND AS POLITICAL LEADERS BECAUSE...



The WIP Leadership Campaign resides
under the patronage of Mr **Sigurður Ingi
Jóhannsson**, Prime Minister of Iceland.

September 2016

WIP Leadership Campaign

The WIP Leadership Campaign aims to highlight the commitment of male Presidents and Prime Ministers around the world to increase the number of women in politics. Male world leaders pledge their commitment via the completion of the statement, **“We need more women in Parliaments and as political leaders because...”**.

The Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) would like to acknowledge the important role that Mr José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission (2004-2014) and Member of the WIP Advisory Board, has taken in assembling these important testimonials.

The WIP Leadership Campaign resides under the patronage of Mr Sigurður Ingi Jóhannsson, Prime Minister of Iceland.

“During my term as President of the European Commission and Prime Minister of Portugal, I have put great emphasis on gender equality in politics. Firstly, it is an issue of democratic representation. It is simply not fair that more than half of our citizens are not adequately represented within our institutions. Secondly, we must stand for diversity. Women bring new perspectives and experiences to politics. This is why, in my capacity as a Member of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum Advisory Board, I invited all male Heads of State and Government around the world to contribute a testimonial, stating the importance they personally assign to this important element of democracy.

I am delighted to see that so many of the leading men in politics have contributed to this remarkable compilation of statements.”



JOSÉ MANUEL DURÃO BARROSO

WIP Advisory Board Member,
President of the European Commission (2004-2014)
and Prime Minister of Portugal (2002-2004)

“Iceland has a proven track-record in advancing gender equality and this has been instrumental in the progressive development of our society. For many years Iceland has been a proud leader, among other great nations, as the country that has had the best results in closing the gender gap by the ranking of the World Economic Forum. Strong, independent and courageous Icelandic women are mostly to thank for this success. Participation of Icelandic women in political decision-making is also among the highest in the world – meaning that more than 44% of our members of Parliament are women and the same number is true for all members of local governments, as of Autumn 2015. Last but not least, the Icelandic nation is very proud of the fact that Ms Vigdís Finnbogadóttir was the first woman in the world to be elected as a head of state in a democratic election.

As the Prime Minister of Iceland, I am extremely proud of this success and my hope is that we will continue to do better and that other nations see the importance of following Iceland's example. I am proud to be a part of the group of leaders in this publication and also to say that Iceland strongly supports this initiative of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP), in reminding us all that gender equality matters greatly to all of us – men and women.”



SIGURÐUR INGI JÓHANSSON

Prime Minister of Iceland

“The mission of Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP) is to increase the number and influence of women representatives in Parliaments across the globe. WIP profoundly believes that men – in particular, male politicians in positions of influence – are as much a part of that important change for the better, as women themselves.

I am delighted to present this ground-breaking WIP Leadership Campaign publication. Male Presidents and Prime Ministers from around the world have contributed far-reaching and challenging statements on the advancement of women into positions of political leadership. They share the belief that gender equality in politics is vital.

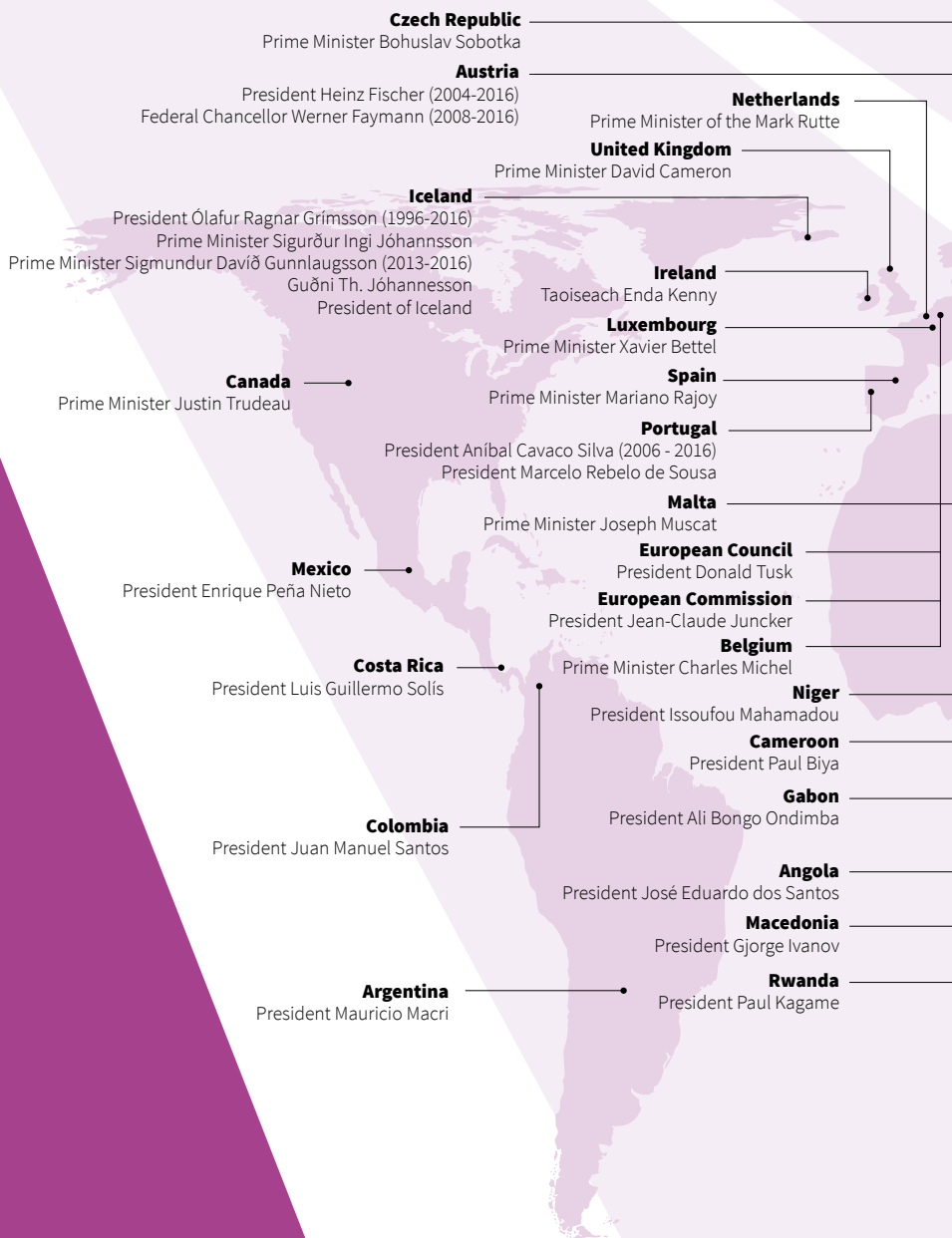
The WIP campaign is being launched at a crucial time, when the UN Global Goals begin to be implemented. WIP works with Parliaments, Governments and other partners to advocate political action to increase the number and influence of women in politics. I would like to encourage you to support this campaign and join WIP in the task of advancing society for women and men.”



SILVANA KOCH-MEHRIN

Founder of the Women in Parliaments Global Forum
Former Vice-President of the European Parliament

Please note that all male Heads of State and Government have been invited to send a testimonial for the WIP Leadership Campaign. This exhibition only includes the statements received as of 01/09/2016.



Italy

President Sergio Mattarella

Slovakia

Prime Minister Robert Fico

Latvia

Valdis Dombrovskis

Sweden

Prime Minister Stefan Löfven

Finland

President Sauli Niinistö

Prime Minister Juha Sipilä

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Prime Minister Denis Zvizdic

Montenegro

Prime Minister Milo Đukanović

Ukraine

President Petro Poroshenko

Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk
(2014-2016)

Albania

Prime Minister Edi Rama

Kazakhstan

President Nursultan Nazarbayev

Prime Minister Karim Massimov

Romania

President Klaus Iohannis

Japan

Prime Minister Shinzō Abe

South Korea

Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn

Mongolia

President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj

Bangladesh

President Abdul Hamid

Myanmar

President of U Thein Sein (2011-2016)

Thailand

Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha

Philippines

President Benigno Aquino III
(2010 - 2016)

Maldives

President Abdulla Yameen

Papua New Guinea

Prime Minister Peter O'Neill

Afghanistan

President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani

Bahrain

Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa

Azerbaijan

President Ilham Aliyev

Georgia

President Giorgi Margvelashvili

Ethiopia

Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn

Jordan

His Majesty King Abdullah II

Israel

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

Malawi

President Peter Mutharika

New Zealand

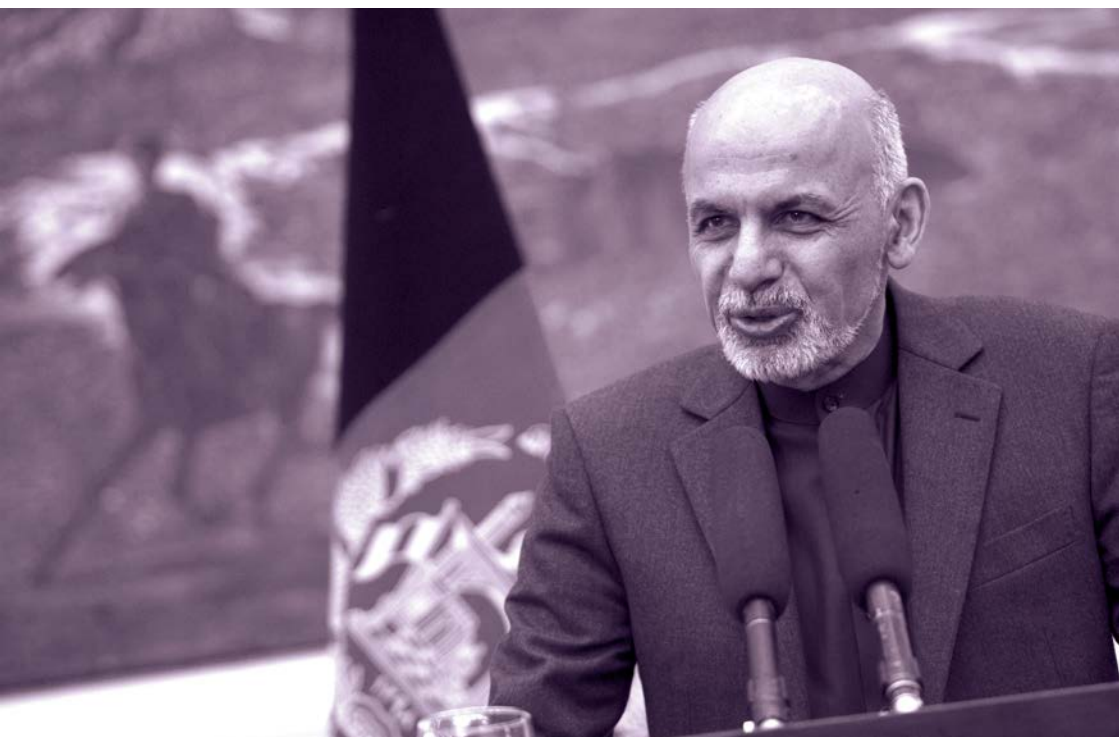
Prime Minister
John Key



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because we are for justice. First, it is simply not fair that more than half of the citizens feel not adequately represented. And second we stand for diversity. Women can bring to public office precisely that: their experience, their resilience and their sense and sensibility”.

JOSÉ MANUEL BARROSO

President of the European
Commission (2004-2014),
WIP Advisory Board Member



“We need more women in parliament and as political leaders because the legal equality of men and women enshrined in our constitution cannot be translated into rights and obligations, binding the citizens of a democratic polity, without continuous legislative innovation and credible mechanisms of accountability across the institutions of the state”.

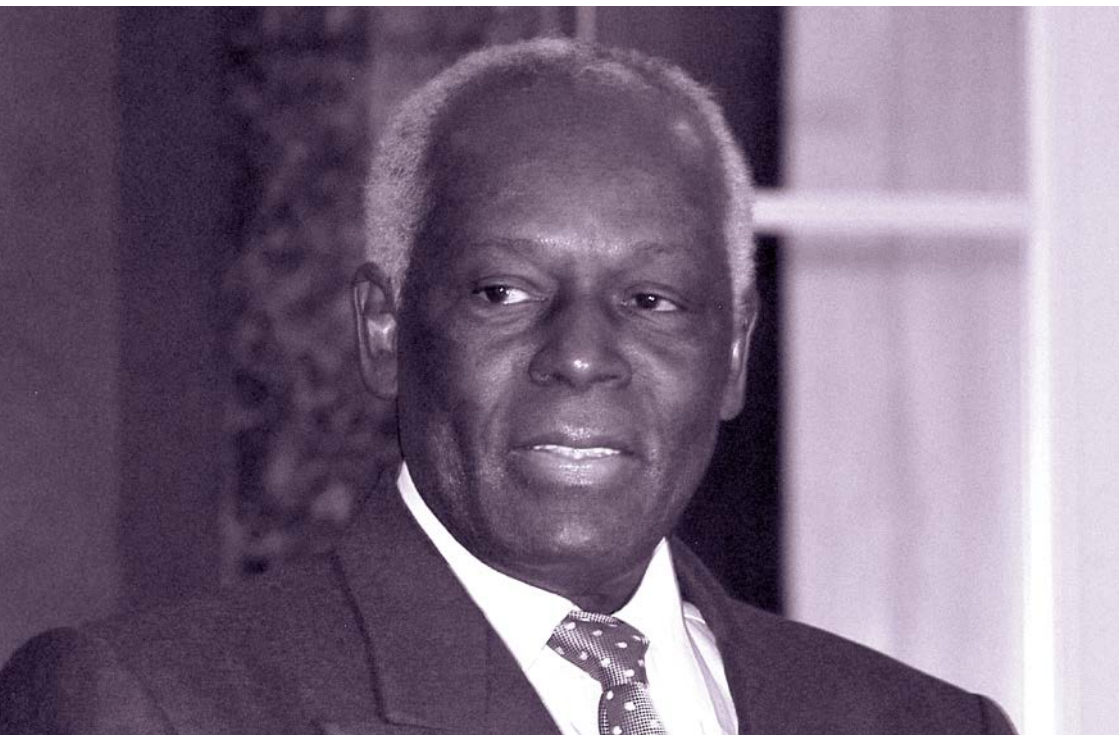
MOHAMMAD
ASHRAF GHANI

President of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because what these times of ours mostly call for are efficiency and accountability that, on the other hand, are imbued with refinement, a certain sense of aesthetics in governance, as well as a renewed and keen sense of social care and justice. We must have learned by now from the lives of women next to us, our grandmothers, our mothers, sisters, daughters, and, above all, our female colleagues that those virtues, which make for true instruments of action and policy making, are essentially feminine assets and an added value”.

EDI RAMA
Prime Minister of Albania



“We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because they play a key role in the education of new generations and in society building, contributing in its growth and well-being and in its social, economic and cultural development”.

JOSÉ EDUARDO
DOS SANTOS

President of the
Republic of Angola



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because women are the essence of life, freedom and care. We need more women in politics to bridge the gender gap and advance the rights of women. But also because we need their talents, drive and voices, so that men and women can build together a more equal and sustainable world. We need women in politics and in every table where decisions are made so that we can all lead better, happier lives”.

MAURICIO MACRI
President of Argentina



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because politics concerns women as much as it does men. To achieve full gender equality in our societies, politics must serve as an example: women belong in leadership positions, because we cannot afford to forget the skills and competences of the female half of our populations”.

HEINZ FISCHER
President of Austria
(2004-2016)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because gender equality also improves the quality of our democracies. Gender diversity among political decision-makers is key to good governance”.

WERNER FAYMANN
Federal Chancellor of Austria
(2008 - 2016)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because the role of women in the development of every society cannot be underestimated. It would be impossible to build up a democratic society based on pluralism and tolerance without women’s participation. Women and men are capable of overcoming complex challenges of the contemporary world only through joint efforts. Azerbaijan, as the first Muslim country in the Orient that granted women the right to vote in 1918, will always be committed to these principles”.

ILHAM ALIYEV
President of the
Republic of Azerbaijan



“We need to strengthen, at the international level, the presence and participation of women in senior political positions and in parliaments in various countries. This is based on our conviction that those who have been able to raise and prepare virtuous and productive generations, will not fail to perform at the highest political positions, and to effectively realise the prestigious position which Islam accords them. Women are half of society, and the primary partner of men in the achievement of Renaissance and Development. It is with this in mind, that over several decades, the Kingdom of Bahrain has been a pioneer, in advancing the political empowerment of women”.

**KHALIFA BIN SALMAN
AL KHALIFA**
Prime Minister of Bahrain



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because we have seen in Bangladesh how women’s leadership and participation in policy-making make a real difference in the lives of women on the ground”.

ABDUL HAMID
President of Bangladesh



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because it’s unthinkable to have democracies without our mothers, our wives and our daughters. Politics is at the service of society. That’s why it has to reflect this perfectly. Women and men are alike”.

CHARLES MICHEL
Prime Minister of Belgium



“Women are an important part of civil society, and they have already approved strong initiative, responsibility and great knowledge to positively affect all changes in society. This is a significant reason why women should take over their role as Parliamentarians and especially as political leaders.

Only 21 percent of women are Members of Parliament of BiH, while on the other hand, they make up 52 percent of the electorate. It is high time to strongly include women in the decision-making process and end the unnecessary domination of men.

However, power is not granted, it should be won, so this is the moment when the strengthened role of women in all spheres is more than needed”.

DENIS ZVIZDIĆ

Chairman of the Council
of Ministers of Bosnia and
Herzegovina



“Nous souhaitons plus de femmes dans les Parlements et comme décideurs politiques, car c’est une question d’équité et de respect du genre. L’égal accès des femmes aux postes de décision et la lutte contre toutes formes de discrimination sexiste participent indéniablement à la construction d’une société humaine plus ouverte et juste”.

PAUL BIYA
President of Cameroon



“We need more women in Parliaments and as political leaders because, quite simply, women represent half of the population, and they need to have input into the policies that affect them. Gender equality is essential to build and strengthen our communities. When women engage in the political process, societies thrive and prosper. There is still much work to be done for women to reach full social, political, and legal equality around the world, but having more women in positions of political leadership is a crucial step toward realising that important goal”.

JUSTIN TRUDEAU
Prime Minister of Canada



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because without their voices, without their skills, without their experience and perspective, we would not be able to consolidate peace and reconciliation. When faced with the exercise of power, women tend towards cooperation rather than competition; a necessary virtue for the harmonious development of society”.

JUAN MANUEL SANTOS
President of Colombia



“Necesitamos más mujeres en los parlamentos porque el mundo necesita de su capacidad, valentía, inteligencia y compromiso. Costa Rica apoya la campaña HeforShe, porque queremos un mundo donde las mujeres sean tratadas con respeto, dignidad, justicia e igualdad. Queremos un mundo donde las mujeres sean líderes en todos los campos del conocimiento y puedan desarrollar sus talentos: en la política, en las ciencias, la economía, el arte, la literatura y la tecnología. Un mundo donde su libertad sea reconocida, respetada y se convierta en el centro de su toma de decisiones y acciones.

Desde hace más de tres décadas estamos haciendo un esfuerzo en nuestro país, para lograr la paridad de las mujeres como tomadoras de decisiones en todos los órganos políticos, y aspiramos a un mundo donde la paridad no sea una concesión, sino un derecho inherente a su condición de ciudadana.

La mujer es compañera, es comprometida y se convierte, por lo tanto, en un factor político determinante, en todas las sociedades del mundo. Nos sumamos con entusiasmo a esta campaña y pedimos para las mujeres lo más importante: igualdad”.

LUIS GUILLERMO SOLÍS
President of Costa Rica



“We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because participation of Women in decision making processes is a matter of social justice and full enjoyment of human rights. Higher participation of women in politics leads to better and more efficient policy making and contributes to social development as well as the development of participatory democracy. Women often bring different experience and perspectives to the table. They are active at local level, in civic society, culture and other spheres of public life. We need to step up our efforts and actively promote balanced representation of women and men at all levels of politics by all possible means”.

BOHUSLAV SOBOTKA
Prime Minister
of the Czech Republic



“We need more women in parliament and as political leaders; simply because our general understanding is that women are more sensitive to justice and participation of cross sections of the society in developmental as well as democratization processes. Participation of women in politics and parliaments, where the gender gap still remains wider, should be considered as the parameter to check indisputability of the democratic processes in Africa. We all believe equality of women is the fundamental element of human rights as well as a litmus paper to test inclusivity of the whole governance exercise, which should recognize women constitute half of societies in the world”

**HAILEMARIAM
DESALEGN**

Prime Minister of the
Federal Democratic
Republic of Ethiopia



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because for me this is not only a question of fairness and equality but also of us taking better decisions: studies in the business world link gender diversity with better decisions and greater success”.

JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER
President of the
European Commission



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because each and everyone is entitled to voice their political beliefs and to enter the political process. Future generations are not going to ask whether you were a man or woman politician, because this is simply irrelevant. What they are going to ask though is, what did you do when you were in a position to do anything of worth”.

DONALD TUSK
President of the
European Council



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders. Women’s full and equal participation is essential to democracy and a prerequisite for peace and sustainable development. Finnish women were among the first in the world to fully exercise the right to vote and to stand as candidates in elections as early as 1906. Building on our national experience, I remain convinced that we must make the most of everyone’s potential, knowledge and skills”.

SAULI NIINISTÖ
President of Finland



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because our obligation is to build democracies based on equality, sustainable development and thinking over generations. In 1906, Finland granted women the right to vote as the third country in the world and the first in Europe and became the first country in the world to grant women the right to stand for election. This is the tradition we want to carry on”.

JUHA SIPILÄ
Prime Minister of Finland



“We need to have a larger number of women in our Parliaments as political leaders, first of all because there can be no true democracy or good governance if women are not included in the policy-making processes. We also need them because women bring along their experience of everyday life and their deep knowledge of the real needs of the population. Finally, women contribute to mainstreaming global issues in the works of each country’s Parliament”.

ALI BONGO ONDIMBA
President of Gabon



“We need more women in Parliaments and as political leaders because the idea of parliamentarism, in Georgia, is linked to women – an institution similar to parliament was founded in 13th century during the reign of one of the greatest rulers – Queen Tamar.

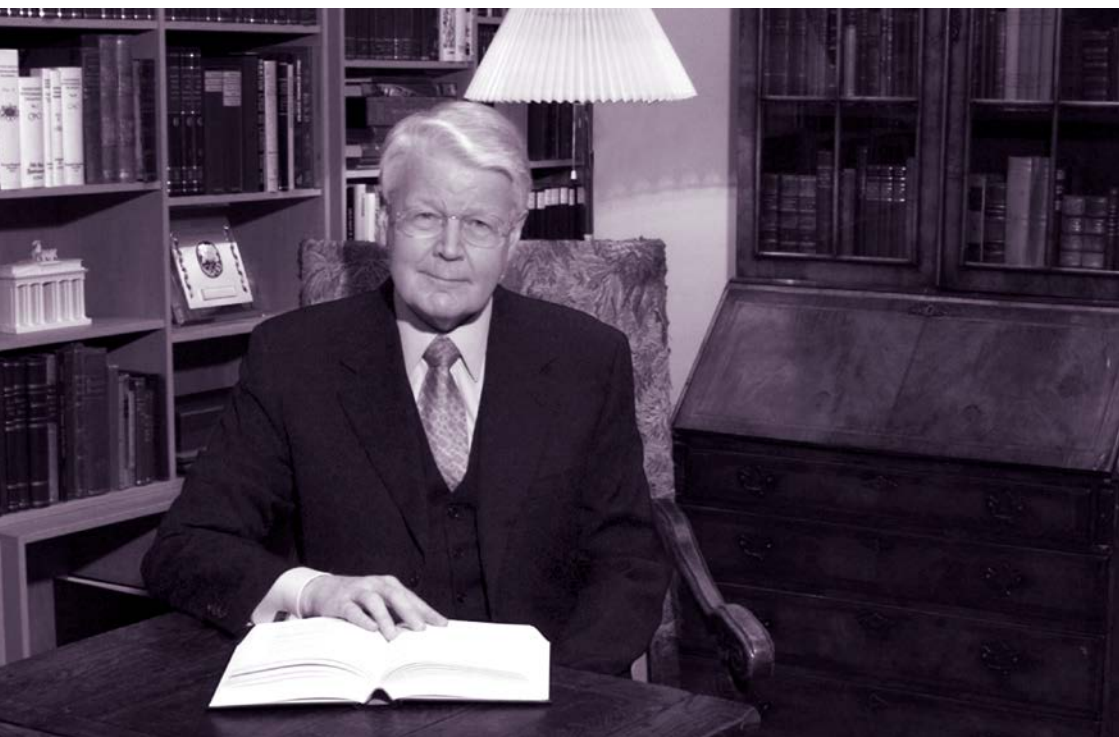
The number of women in the Constituent Assembly of Georgia (1918-1921) was quite impressive.

In times of the Soviet Union, many of the bravest dissidents, who fought against the regime, were women.

In the 90s, when Georgia restored its independence, women have significantly contributed to leading the state out of the economic and social collapse.

Precisely, considering our historical experience and the fact that women have always been taking crucial part in building this nation-state, we believe, that we need more women in Parliaments and as political leaders”.

GIORGI MARGVELASHVILI
President of Georgia



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because their involvement has made my country and others more humane, just, and equal, paving the way for prosperity and dynamic democracy, showing new generations how to move forward. In Iceland, women have already held all the highest offices of the state. All over the world there is still a long and difficult journey towards gender equality in political institutions; women suffer in poverty and oppression; victims without hope or real human rights. Our shared responsibility must therefore become a truly global endeavour”.

ÓLAFUR RAGNAR GRÍMSSON

President of Iceland
(1996-2016)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders not only because women make up half of the population - but also as we are for equality, human rights, security and prosperity. Women and men have different experiences and it is therefore important that we bring these experiences and perspectives into the decision making process and in all spheres of society”.

SIGURÐUR INGI JÓHANSSON
Prime Minister of Iceland



“We need more women in politics and political leadership because, simply, it is the way things should and must be. I am honoured to be the President of a country that values gender equality as one of its main foundations. In Iceland, women and men work hand in hand to make sure that girls and boys have equal opportunities in all walks of life. True, there is still work to do, and we men must not leave this important matter only to women. We must speak and act in such a way, that it is clear that we truly want a world of gender equality. I am proud to do so - not only as President, but also as a father, husband, son, and a supporter of women in politics and political leadership.”

**GUÐNI TH.
JÓHANNESSON**
President of Iceland



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because equality is not just a human right, it is essential to progress and prosperity. No society or democracy can claim to be completely developed or matured without gender equality. Politics needs women, just as women need politics and equal participation of men and women should be of vital importance for all of us regardless of gender. That’s not just rhetoric, that’s pure logic”.

**SIGMUNDUR DAVÍÐ
GUNNLAUGSSON**

Prime Minister of Iceland
(2013 - 2016)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because

we cannot continue to ignore the underrepresentation in government of half the world’s population. We know that when women are empowered and the voices of both men and women are heard and acknowledged, the nature and content of discourse changes and the quality of decision-making is enhanced for the betterment of society as a whole. We must ensure that political decision-making is shared by men and women, in line with their capabilities and not their gender”.

ENDA KENNY
Taoiseach, Ireland



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because well, isn't it obvious? Women are half of humanity. When they are represented, everyone benefits from their ideas, talents and dreams for a better world”.

BENJAMIN NETANYAHU
Prime Minister of Israel



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because they promote a continuous improvement of our societies and of the environment we live in. The full engagement of women in politics means instilling further understanding of the need to hand down in future generations a more just and united world, safeguarding the planet and its energy and food resources”.

SERGIO MATTARELLA
President of Italy



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because change in societal perceptions is necessary for women’s empowerment, and politics has a great impact on that. Also women’s participation in decision-making processes will undoubtedly create higher quality decisions compared to those made only by men.

In my party, a female member occupies one of the three highest positions and we have increased the number of appointments of female ministers. However, for Japan, there is still room for improvement.

Ever since I took the office in 2012, creating “a society where all women shine” is at the core of the policy pillars which I promote. I hosted the World Assembly for Women (WAW!) last year for the first time, and held the second WAW! This year with the theme of “WAW! For All”. This message encourages women and men to work together to create a society which is better for everyone. Empowering women will also enrich men’s lives.

I aim to increase the percentage of women in leading positions to 30% by 2020. We have already attained this target in the civil servant managerial candidate career track which reached 34.3% this fiscal year. In addition, a new bill was enacted to require private sector corporations to devise Action Plans for promotion of employment and appointment of women.

I am committed to revitalizing our societies by unleashing the “power of women” to the utmost extent and bringing diverse values and creativity to politics, economies, and communities”.

SHINZŌ ABE
Prime Minister of Japan



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because no lasting positive change can ever be achieved unless women are an integral part of it”..

**HIS MAJESTY
KING ABDULLAH II**
King of the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because we are for economic growth, social equality and prosperity. Women make up over half the world’s population, and as a driving force of entrepreneurship, social well-being and peace need to be well represented at all levels of power to fulfil their potential. It is obvious that empowerment of women results in fast economic growth”.

NURSULTAN NAZARBAYEV
President of Kazakhstan



“We need to increase the number of women in Parliaments and support greater empowerment of women in political leadership in public life. Gender equality is highly valued in our society and is necessary for sustainable development. True prosperity depends on women achieving their full potential in all spheres of life. The empowerment and autonomy of women makes the world a better place for all and we must accelerate these essential ends”.

KARIM MASSIMOV
Prime Minister of Kazakhstan



“We need more women in Parliaments and as political leaders because politics should be the starting point for shaping a society where women and men have equal opportunities to strive. Today we have many outstanding women leaders, but there is more work to be done in creating the right conditions for women to engage in politics”.

VALDIS DOMBROVSKIS
Prime Minister of Latvia
(2009 - 2014)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because it makes a modern society more democratic, more human and fairer”.

XAVIER BETTEL
Prime Minister of Luxembourg



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because we are for gender equality. The woman is a pillar of the family, but also an inseparable part of political life. The equal participation of women in politics is essential to building sustainable democracy and achieving greater human flourishing and social justice”.

GJORGE IVANOV
President of Macedonia



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because women are the key agents of sustainable economic development. When they are politically empowered and given the chance to exercise their rights, become leaders or make use of educational and employment opportunities, it is obvious that economies grow. It is for this reason that I commit myself to promoting our women’s capabilities, talents and energy”.

ARTHUR PETER MUTHARIKA

President of the
Republic of Malawi



**ABDULLA YAMEEN
ABDUL GAYOOM**

President of the
Republic of Maldives

“History has proven that communities which provide women the same opportunities as men tend to be more peaceful, prosperous and indeed, more likely to succeed. It is precisely for this reason that we must encourage more women in politics. With women comprising of over 50% of the world population, the promises of democracy cannot be truly realised if half of the population remains underrepresented in the political arena. I am proud to note that the exceptional levels of progress that the Maldives has achieved in the past decades can be largely attributed to the dedication and invaluable inputs of Maldivian women in all areas of our national development. While the efforts of the world community towards empowering women have been commendable, we still have a long way to go. The Maldives remains committed to working with our global partners to eliminate all forms of gender discrimination, while nurturing women’s leadership, involvement and empowerment”.



“We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because

strong democracies depend on the representation of society’s different perspectives and the nuances brought by diverse leaders to policy formulation and decision-making.

As the Prime Minister of Malta, I declared my government’s feminist conviction soon after I took office, as I am sure that our country’s strength and growth will depend on our ability to allow and encourage women and minorities to claim their space and make the most of their potential.

My government is firmly committed towards a full realization of the advancement of women and their rights, and towards gender balanced leadership.

I auger, that this campaign will serve the leave the desired impact on the advancement of the political empowerment of women”.

JOSEPH MUSCAT
Prime Minister of Malta



“Necesitamos más mujeres en los parlamentos y como líderes políticas, porque lograr la paridad de género en los congresos se reflejará en una mayor igualdad entre mujeres y hombres en todos los ámbitos, sectores y actividades de las sociedades.

Construir un mundo más equilibrado y justo, donde el género no sea causa de exclusión ni discriminación, es responsabilidad de todos.

Como Presidente de México, me siento orgulloso de que gracias a la Reforma Política-Electoral que concretamos en 2014, que obliga a los partidos políticos a garantizar la mitad de sus candidaturas para las mujeres, hoy ellas son el 42% de los representantes populares en la Cámara de Diputados.

Debemos seguir trabajando para que las mujeres se consoliden como agentes de cambio y desarrollo, y que su liderazgo se traduzca en mejores condiciones de vida para toda la humanidad”.

ENRIQUE PEÑA NIETO
President of Mexico



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because

women are the backbone of the family and the bedrock of a nation. Our mothers, sisters and daughters share a core value of caring for others. Have you ever heard of a woman bloody dictator or tyrant? I think not. If there were more women in power, we would have more harmony, more engagement and less suffering and less conflict. They bring a unique perspective often missing in global challenges”.

TSAKHIAGIN ELBEGDORJ
President of Mongolia



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because we need more sensibility, perseverance, sincere devotion to peace and tolerance, economic and overall development; because we need more cleverness in pursuing the answers to the contemporary challenges. In order to be more successful in this, an inevitable role of a woman in the history of human existence must be visible also in public affairs. Achievement of this goal will be an indicator of general progress per se”.

MILO ĐUKANOVIĆ
Prime Minister of Montenegro



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because they are playing a crucial role in transforming peace, development and democracy around the world. We shall never lose sight of the saying that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world”.

U THEIN SEIN

President of the Republic
of the Union of Myanmar
(2011 - 2016)



“We need more women in Parliaments and as political leaders because gender equality in politics is a necessary condition for a truly democratic society in which all voices are heard. In the Netherlands, close to 40% of Parliamentarians are women. Worldwide unfortunately almost 80% of Parliamentarians are men. This number is a cause as well as an outcome of the severe inequality between women and men in our world. We need to improve the gender balance because it benefits both women and men, both girls and boys. Female leaders serve as an inspiration for the next generation”.

MARK RUTTE
Prime Minister
of the Netherlands



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because they bring different experiences to the table. New Zealand has benefitted from women holding many of the top offices in our country, including two women Prime Ministers. Public offices should be more representative of the population”.

JOHN KEY
Prime Minister of New Zealand



“Nous avons besoin d’un grand nombre de femmes dans nos parlements et, en tant que dirigeantes politiques parce que: Il s’agit de redresser des lacunes qui ont longtemps prévalu, en permettant aux femmes de jouer leur véritable rôle dans le développement; Il s’agit de reconnaître que les femmes représentent le plus grand nombre de petits agriculteurs, alors qu’elles n’ont pas accès à la terre et aux ressources; Il s’agit de se convaincre que la pauvreté affecte surtout les femmes rurales qui forment l’écrasante majorité de nos populations; Il s’agit surtout d’une condition essentielle pour la réalisation de la vision contenue dans l’Agenda 2063 de l’Union Africaine, pour laquelle nous devons poursuivre et intensifier les actions de développement économique et social de nos pays et le bien-être auquel aspirent les peuples d’Afrique”.

ISSOUFOU MAHAMADOU
President of Niger



“We need more Womens in Parliaments and as political leaders because by empowering women, we will create a fairer and equitable society”.

PETER O’NEILL
Prime Minister
of Papua New Guinea



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because they bring a necessary face of humanity into the serious task of governance. They represent the voices of half the world’s population, and their perspectives on issues such as peace, social justice, and inclusive growth, among many others, have been proven to be catalysts of positive social transformation. We must amplify their voices further, to give citizens the world over governments that are truly representative of their people”.

BENIGNO AQUINO III
President of the Philippines
(2010 - 2016)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders

because we are, and we want to be, a democracy and a society in which all citizens participate in all spheres of public life. This is not only a fundamental requirement of the principle of equality and justice but also an obvious imposition of the principle of protection of human dignity. Women have the right – and duty – to participate actively in political life at all levels of governance. This does not arise from the fact that women have different qualities or characteristics from men. Neither is it for women’s particular “characteristics” that they should be called upon to carry out political functions.

It is, of course, because they are human beings. But is also because of their merit and their ability to perform tasks that, unfortunately, are still too often reserved for men.

In recent decades, there has been remarkable progress towards equality and dignity, but there is still a long way to go. We must be aware of this, so that we can join forces to combat instances of discrimination which are unacceptable at the dawn of this new millennium”.

ANÍBAL CAVACO SILVA

President of Portugal
(2006 - 2016)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because empowering more women will lead to the increase of democratic legitimacy of politics, politicians and political bodies around the world”.

MARCELO REBELO DE SOUSA
President of Portugal

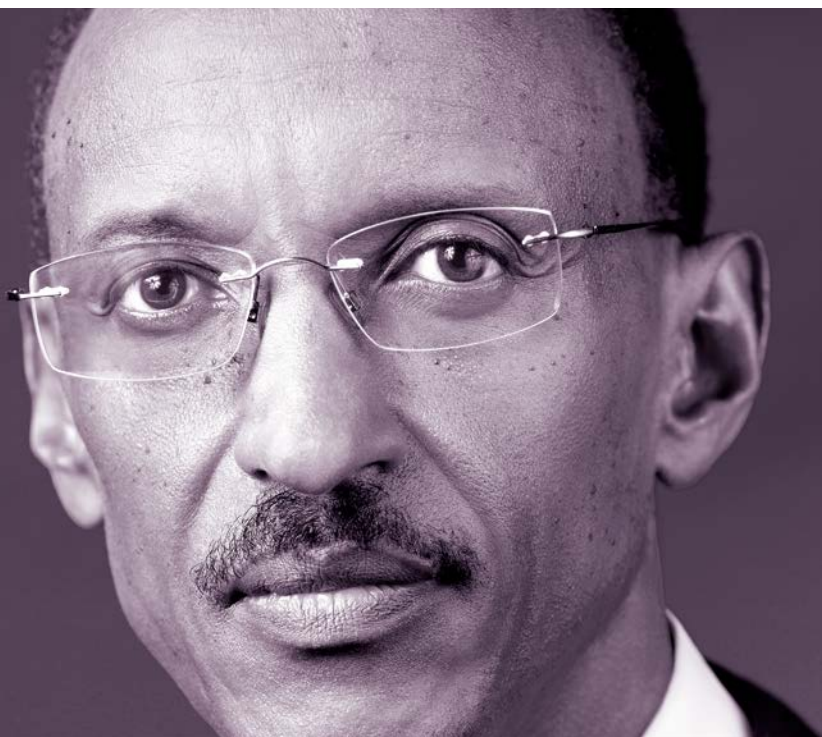


“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because of the enormous contribution they make to building a better, safer and more compassionate world.

Women are great leaders in their communities and societies, in different areas and domains, they inspire people and move things forward with their determination, ambition and generosity.

Having them more present in the political life and in decision making positions within the political institutions is a natural expression of their commitment. Empowering them is an acknowledgement of who they are in the world”.

KLAUS IOHANNIS
President of Romania



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders in order to bring the practical challenges facing communities into the public sphere with urgency and conviction. Socio-economic development would stall if women did not rise every day to provide healthcare, nutrition, and education for their families. When women are absent from political leadership, it is too easy to take these contributions for granted, instead of allocating public funds to scale them up. Gender equality ultimately benefits everyone in society, therefore it must also be a shared responsibility”.

PAUL KAGAME
President of Rwanda



“We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because they bring an indisputable asset to the whole society. Their broad – and often different – perspective, deep commitment and impressive encouragement to promote building a better future for everyone. Metaphorically, we lack their voices in the political chorus”.

ROBERT FICO
Prime Minister of Slovakia



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because sensitivity and a warm heart as well as a leadership of cooperation which illustrate the unique characteristics of women are vital in order to address pending challenges before us. The Korean government will make every effort in its policies to create a nation where all women can fully realize their dreams”.

HWANG KYO-AHN
Prime Minister of South Korea



“ Necesitamos más mujeres en los parlamentos y como líderes políticas, porque impulsar la igualdad de oportunidades entre mujeres y hombres en todos los ámbitos es imprescindible, en primer lugar, por razones de justicia y de Derechos fundamentales, pero también porque si queremos una sociedad que avance hacia un crecimiento inteligente, sostenible e integrador, necesitamos contar con todo el talento de las mujeres”.

MARIANO RAJOY
Prime Minister of Spain



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because the systemic discrimination against women is among the most blatant breaches of human rights worldwide. By offering one half of our populations the same opportunities as the other half, we can double the talent pool and unlock enormous potential for prosperity. To realise this, we need gender equality everywhere power is held: in parliaments, in governing boards, in unions, in civil society. The silencing of women in public debate must be stopped – and we need men and women to stand side by side to fight it”.

STEFAN LÖFVEN
Prime Minister of Sweden



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because we need gender sensitive laws and legislation to enhance gender equality, empower women and girls, and end violence against them”.

PRAYUT CHAN-O-CHA
Prime Minister of Thailand



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because women make up half of the world’s population, yet despite recent progress, remain under-represented in Parliaments across the world. Increasing women’s political participation helps give a voice to marginalised sections of society, creates female role models and ensures that women are equal partners in shaping the future of their country. Having more women represented in Parliament and more women in key leadership positions therefore remains both a moral imperative and an essential basis for democracy”.

DAVID CAMERON

Prime Minister
of the United Kingdom
(2010 - 2016)



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because the ensuring of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all spheres, good governances and functioning of democratic society cannot be properly guaranteed without balanced participation of women and men in political life and public decision-making. We need to involve women’s skills, competence, wisdom and love to construct democratic, legal, secure and stable societies”.

PETRO POROSHENKO
President of Ukraine



“ We need more Women in Parliaments and as political leaders because they bring strong commitments to equality, human rights and vision how to achieve these goals globally. We all are guided by their nationwide ideas, lead, struggle for the future of their family, community and country.”

ARSENIY YATSENYUK
Prime Minister of Ukraine
(2014 - 2016)

WIP

The Women in Parliaments Global Forum (WIP)

was established with the purpose of advancing society by building a global network between Women in Parliaments. It is a not-for-profit foundation, based in St. Gallen, Switzerland. Women need three things to fulfil their potential: communication, connection, community. At WIP, optimizing the power of communication and connection builds new communities of support for women in politics, everywhere.

WIP consists of Members of Parliaments at national levels, including those directly elected to the European Parliament. Membership is free and members are honoured by their participation. Today, according to the Inter-Parliamentary Union, more than 9,000 women are members of national Parliaments.

Parliamentarians have privileged insight into, and influence on, legislative issues as a result of continuous contact and exchange with their electorate and stakeholders. In today's volatile, complex and interdependent world, WIP strives to find new pathways to address global challenges and make the most of new opportunities presented to us.

Female Parliamentarians from around the world are attending the WIP Summits, which present a unique opportunity for participants to discuss pressing global challenges and to take part in political dialogue that reflect the influence and worldwide perspectives of today's female decision-makers.

WIP provides a unique platform for the exchange of ideas, experiences and best practices, through activities such as High-Level Summits, Regional Meetings, Advocacy Campaigns, Academic Studies and the prestigious WIP Awards.

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