Designing inclusive futures in partnership with youth

A series of online events for parliamentarians in the Americas and Caribbean celebrated on the occasion of the 12th Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

September 2020

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#ParlAmericasGEN

Background

Women’s and youth perspectives and priorities are often overlooked in public policies and decision-making, and young people – especially young women – are also generally underrepresented in political office. This online Gathering will take place in the context of global challenges and uncertainties in which young people and women are disproportionately impacted, yet are playing catalyzing roles by putting forward more equitable solutions to strengthen our democracies, social protection systems, and economies.

This Gathering will explore questions such as:

1. What are the greatest needs for younger generations as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. How can youth-led initiatives and organizations be consulted in more meaningful ways?
3. What are the most innovative practices being employed in the region to promote meaningful participation by young women in electoral and other democratic processes?
4. What does a youth-friendly and gender-inclusive parliament look like?
5. What are the ideological divides between generations fighting for social equality, and how can these be overcome?

Keynote interviews

Two intergenerational dialogues, one in Spanish and one in English, will be released on Friday, September 18, in video and podcast formats and circulated to participants for viewing at their convenience. These dialogues will be structured as interviews featuring a parliamentarian and a young woman leader, and they will establish a foundation for the overall theme of the Gathering on advancing gender equality through the engagement of youth in political processes. The speakers will address different strategies, including young women’s electoral participation, youth parliaments, and other leadership programs, as well as reflecting on effective consultation mechanisms with youth-led groups.
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 & FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020, 10:30 am to 1:30 pm EDT (UTC - 4)

Working group sessions: Advancing Gender Equality Solutions with Youth Partners

This session will provide an opportunity for participants to engage in focused work on a gender equality topic of interest to them in collaboration with parliamentary colleagues and youth advocates. Participants will register to take part in a breakout discussion group, which will be divided by language and have a maximum of 15-20 participants each, that corresponds with themes explored in UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Generation Equality frameworks. Representatives from youth CSOs will be part of each group and will deliver short presentations on their organizations’ activities related to the group’s theme; this will be followed by a structured discussion to identify strategies for intergenerational collaboration and strengthened partnerships between parliaments and youth. A rapporteur will be elected by each group to capture the main points of their dialogue and deliver a brief presentation of these during the following week’s plenary.

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<th>Wednesday, September 23</th>
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<td><strong>10:30 EDT</strong></td>
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<td>English working group sessions</td>
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<td>Spanish working group sessions</td>
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**Discussion group themes:**
- Girls, STEM, and the future of work
- Climate change and disasters
- Women in leadership and decision-making

**Discussion group themes:**
- Gender-based violence
- Protecting women’s health
- Promoting co-responsibility in care work
- Women in leadership and decision-making

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. EST (UTC - 4)

Plenary session (with interpretation)

This session will build on the learning from previous Gathering activities to explore youth-inclusive and gender-responsive parliamentary and political mechanisms. The plenary will begin with a rapporteur from each of the working groups held the previous week delivering a short presentation on the key points discussed in their respective sessions. A panel of experts will then discuss how different strategies -- such as political party recruitment, hiring practices in parliaments, internship and mentorship programs, youth advisory groups, and children’s programs -- can be employed to bring youth voices into legislative and political conversations in a sustainable way. The Gathering will conclude with the reading and approval of the final declaration, reflecting the discussions among parliamentarians and youth participants throughout the sessions.

10:30 - 11:00 am

Opening remarks
- Germán Blanco Álvarez, President of the Chamber of Representatives (Colombia) and co-host of the meeting
- The Honourable Chester Humphrey, President of the Senate (Grenada), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Network for Gender Equality, and co-host of the meeting
Welcome by youth facilitator (TBC)

11:00 am - 11:45 am Presentation of working group conclusions by rapporteurs

11:45 am - 1:00 pm Panel discussion: Making parliamentary politics more youth-inclusive
  - Moderator TBC
  - Panellists TBC

  Q&A

1:00 - 1:15 pm Presentation of final declaration

1:15 - 1:20 pm Evaluations

1:20 - 1:30 pm Closing and announcement of upcoming ParlAmericas activities

The gathering documents, resources and publications are available at www.parlamericas.org. For easy access through your mobile phone, we invite you to download a QR reader application (or scan the code using your phone’s camera).

Please note that certain sessions may be audio-recorded to become podcast episodes. Find ParlAmericas on iTunes, Google Podcasts, or Spotify to listen to sessions and presentations from our past gatherings held across the hemisphere.

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