



ILJ Honduras consisted of three stages:

- A series of virtual training sessions with the objective of providing an overview of the central tools and themes of the program and promoting interaction between specialists, community leaders, and parliamentarians involved in national and regional politics.
- An in-person meeting of young Honduran women leaders together with national and regional women politicians and parliamentarians, which included discussions, exchange of experiences, and working groups on the challenges and opportunities for women's political participation to achieve gender equity.
- An in-person event at the National Congress of Honduras, which involved the presentation of a shared statement drafted by the young participants as well as a tool to promote an intersectional approach to legislative work in Honduras, which they also developed collaboratively.

YOUTH LEGISLATIVE IMPACT PROGRAM - HONDURAS

Between October and December 2022, 50 young Honduran women participated in the Youth Legislative Impact (ILJ, by its Spanish acronym) program *Strengthening the political leadership of young Honduran women* — an intensive training series on gender equity, women's political rights, legislative work, transformational leadership, political advocacy, and inclusive decision-making, organized by [ParlAmericas](#), the [National Congress of Honduras](#), and the [Honduran Women's Political Forum](#) (FMPPH, by its Spanish acronym).

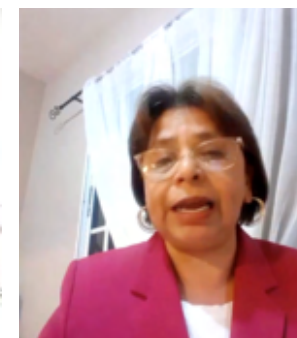
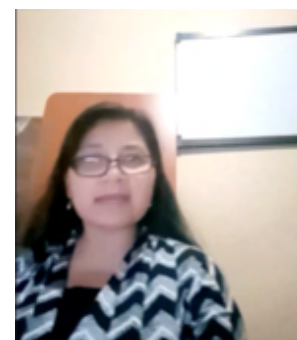
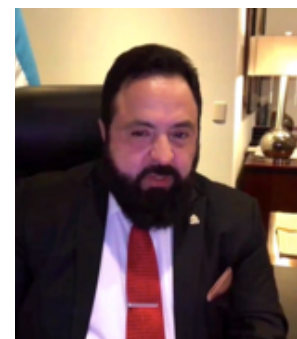
ILJ Honduras was the second Latin American experience of its kind in a series of national-level initiatives implemented to strengthen women's political leadership in the Americas and the Caribbean through joint projects between ParlAmericas and women's political forums, funded by the Government of Canada. The first ILJ was held in [Panama](#) between June and September 2021, in collaboration with the National Forum of Women in Political Parties of Panama and the National Assembly of Panama. ILJ is designed to support young women leaders in developing the knowledge, skills, and networks needed to advance their potential as current and future agents of change in Latin America.

1st ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

Introduction to the course and key concepts for leadership with a gender equity perspective

The session covered key concepts for inclusive leadership, addressing various topics related to the human rights of women and girls, intersectionality in decision-making, and multi-party and intergenerational dialogue.

Member of Congress Luis Redondo (Honduras), President of the National Congress, and Senator Véronica Camino (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE), delivered the welcoming remarks. Delmy Ordoñez, member of the FMPPH, Honorina Rodríguez, member of the FMPPH and representative of UN Women Honduras, and Sara Cognuck González, UNICEF consultant, participated in a panel discussion on inclusive leadership. Doris Gutiérrez, presidential appointee and President of the FMPPH, delivered the closing remarks.



KEY CONCEPTS

Effective and inclusive leadership was defined as leadership that considers, among other factors, a gender perspective and intersectionality in decision-making.

Gender perspective: In view of the asymmetries inherent to gender relations that exacerbate inequalities and reinforce stereotypes, this conceptual tool helps ensure that laws and policies respond to the unique experiences of all persons and are sensitive to the specific needs of different population groups. It takes into consideration pluralism to guide the development of laws and policies and increase their effectiveness, with the aim of creating more egalitarian societies.

Intersectionality: An analytical tool that recognizes that systemic inequalities are shaped by overlapping social factors such as gender, ethnicity, and social class. Consequently, both the disadvantages and privileges that a person has at any given time and place cannot be understood by examining the various elements of their identity in isolation. Rather, attention should be given to the comprehensive review of power relations that impact them, including macro-level forces such as histories of colonization and poverty and micro-level forces such as a person's health status and the structure of their family or community.

International instruments related to gender equity

- [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)
- [Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women \(Convention of Belém do Pará\)](#)
- [Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action](#)

2nd ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

Strategies and approaches for women's political participation and consensus building

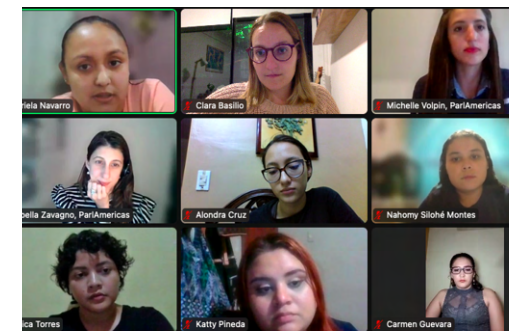
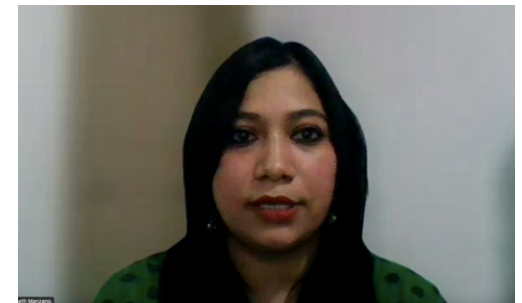
The session covered recommendations on strengthening women's political participation in advocacy, negotiation, and alliance- and consensus-building. Tools for eradicating gender stereotypes and addressing political violence were also discussed.

Karla Medal, Technical Advisor to the Committee on Gender Equity of the National Congress of Honduras, and Lisbeth Anayanci Manzano, member of the FMPPH and alternate member of the Central American Parliament, gave the welcoming remarks. Migdonia Ayestas, Coordinator of the National Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras, presented evidence on the current national situation and proposals for the prevention, recognition, and eradication of political violence, with the objective of strengthening safe spaces throughout the various spheres of political participation, to ensure they are free from violence.

Member of Congress Fátima Mena (Honduras), Vice-President of the National Congress and member of the Committee on Gender Equity, and the Honourable Member of the National Assembly Kayra Harding Bart (Panama), First Vice-President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the PNGE, shared their perspectives on challenges and strategies related to the political process from the electoral stage to the performance of legislative duties. Both parliamentarians stressed the importance of building consensus to advance the gender equity agenda, emphasizing ties with civil society and women activists both within and outside parliaments.

FEATURED QUOTE

"When a woman enters politics, that woman changes; when many women enter politics, politics changes."
Michelle Bachelet.



3rd ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

National Congress of Honduras: functions, structure, and processes

The session covered constitutional division of powers, procedures, composition, and internal organization of the National Congress of Honduras. Senator Antares Vázquez Alatorre (Mexico), ParlAmericas Board Member, offered the welcoming remarks, sharing reflections on her experience as a woman politician, her motivations for joining the legislative branch, and the greatest challenges to advancing gender equity in the parliamentary sphere. Ana Pineda, constitutional lawyer and specialist in human rights, provided a detailed overview of the work of the National Congress within the democratic system. Her presentation, moderated by Delmy Ordoñez, member of the FMPPH, analyzed the following functions: popular representation, legislating, governance and internal oversight, budgeting, oversight and decision-making regarding the integration of other branches of government or public bodies, as well as in the process of developing, approving, and enacting laws.

In an interview moderated by Honorina Rodriguez, member of the FMPPH and representative of UN Women Honduras, Member of Congress Silvia Ayala (Honduras), member of the Committee on Gender Equity of the National Congress, introduced the committee's priorities, major challenges faced by women politicians in Honduras, and good practices for building alliances not only within parliament but also with external actors, such as academia, youth, and various movements, in order to contribute to the advancement of the gender equity agenda at the national level. Closing remarks were delivered by Aracely Leiva, member of the FMPPH.



4th ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

Citizen participation and youth

Michelle Volpin, Project Manager - Gender Equality of ParlAmericas shared perspectives on youth involvement in politics and strengthening inclusive dialogue for parliamentary work. Haydeé Hernández Pérez, Head of the Technical Unit for Gender Equality and Equity of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, and Néstor Hernández, President of the National Council of Honduran Youth (CONJUVEH, by its Spanish acronym), discussed strategies, lessons learned, and good practices to promote citizen participation with a gender perspective.

Youth participants engaged in a working group activity to examine various priority issues for young people: the development of agreements on diversity, promotion of intergenerational dialogue, and considering the political environment as a space for achieving positive changes, including those linked to the gender equity agenda. The participants documented their ideas in a **collaborative mural**.

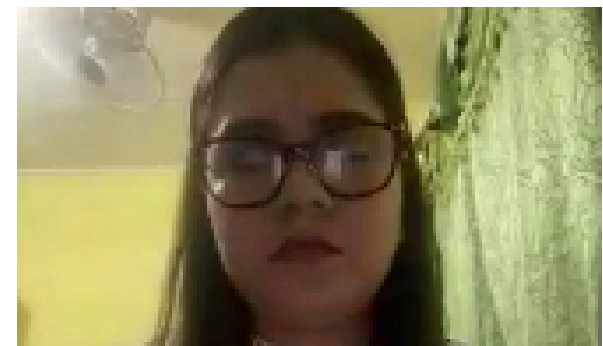
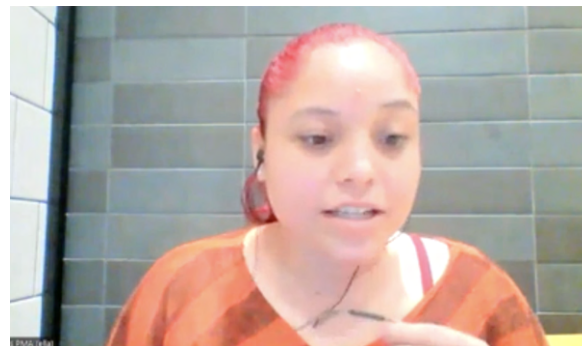


5th ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

Political leadership and advocacy from an intersectional perspective

Senator María Eugenia Catalfamo (Argentina), ParlAmericas Board Member, gave the welcoming remarks and provided the participants with recommendations on how to strengthen their leadership skills. Marinés Tapiero, ILJ Panama participant, and Andrea Chacón, Office Advisor to Member of the Legislative Assembly Priscilla Vindas (Costa Rica), participated in a panel moderated by ILJ Honduras participant Lissy Rodriguez, sharing key lessons learned from their experiences as young people involved in parliamentary work. They offered tools for effective and assertive communication, highlighting the need for male allies to advance the equity agenda.

In order to implement the tools shared in the program, the young women participants carried out a simulation advocacy exercise which featured a public hearing on the participatory urban planning of a fictional "Equity Park". Participants engaged in role play to represent a variety of community actors, highlighting the diverse needs and interests of the different population groups, with the purpose of incorporating an intersectional approach throughout the exercise to analyze power dynamics and put their leadership skills into practice.

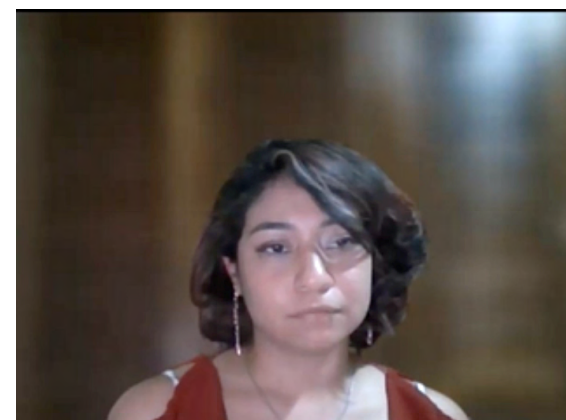
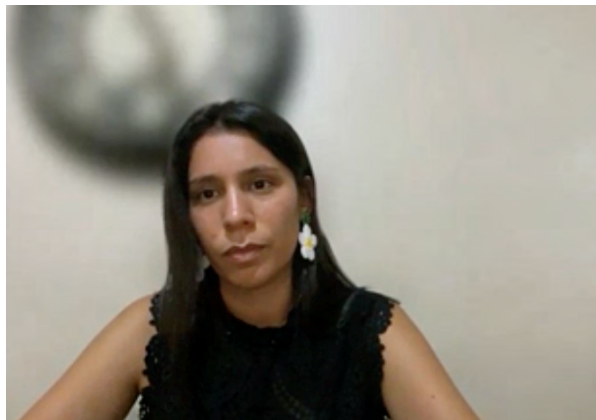


6th ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

Women leaders with purpose: transforming ideas into action

During the segment, Reflections on language in the drafting and negotiation of policy documents to promote gender equality, moderated by ILJ participants Fernanda López Lobo and Maria Fernanda Castro, the intervention of Former Member of the National Assembly Gina Godoy (Ecuador), President of the PNGE during the 2015–2017 period, stressed the importance of safeguarding the rights enshrined in international agreements and conventions to advance the gender equality agenda at the national level. Based on her experience as an activist and former parliamentarian, she highlighted the political value of consolidating agreements between different social actors and provided recommendations for collective bargaining. The [Sustainable Development Goals checklist](#) of the National Assembly of Ecuador was also presented as an example of a tool that supports legislative action.

Participants carried out a writing exercise, Our language: Words as identity and purpose, with the aim of developing political discourse. To conclude this session, Honorina Rodríguez, member of the FMPPH and representative of UN Women Honduras, Julieta Castellanos, Local Consultant for the ILJ program, and Michelle Volpin, Project Manager - Gender Equality of ParlAmericas, introduced a methodology for collaboratively drafting a statement on legislative action for gender equity and creating a tool to promote social inclusion in parliamentary work from an intersectional perspective—two instruments that would later be presented by ILJ participants to the National Congress of Honduras as part of the closing event.



IN-PERSON MEETING

Meeting of young Honduran women in Tegucigalpa with women politicians from the region

On December 8, 2022, the young Honduran participants from departments across the country met in Tegucigalpa, where they had the opportunity to interact with national and regional women politicians and parliamentarians. This meeting included various activities that facilitated discussion, exchange of experiences, and analysis of perspectives on leadership and political advocacy. In addition, working groups were organized around the theme of *Gender equity as a transformative engine of politics in Latin America*, with the participation of Senator Verónica Camino Farjat (Mexico), President of the PNGE, the Honourable Member of the National Assembly Kayra Harding Bart (Panama), First Vice-President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the PNGE, Members of Congress Silvia Ayala (Honduras) and Kathia Cribelli (Honduras), and expert Ana Pineda, together with representatives from the FMPPH.



YOUTH LEGISLATIVE IMPACT PROGRAM: THE HONDURAN EXPERIENCE

In-person event at the National Congress of Honduras

The closing event of the program, *ILJ: The Honduran experience*, was held on December 9, 2022. President of the National Congress Luis Redondo (Honduras), delivered the welcoming remarks, together with Senator Véronica Camino Farjat (Mexico), President of the PNGE, and Ivonne Pinto, member of the FMPPH. During the keynote address, the Honourable Member of the National Assembly Kayra Harding Bart (Panama), First Vice-President of the National Assembly and Vice-President of the PNGE, shared her perspectives on inclusive political leadership and multi-party dialogue for consensus-building in the parliamentary arena. Similarly, Member of Congress Scherly Arriaga (Honduras), Chair of the Committee on Gender Equity of the National Congress, addressed the importance of preventing, penalizing, and eradicating gender-based violence and promoting greater participation of women in electoral and decision-making processes.

During the event, a panel entitled *Women in Honduran politics: Strategies for integrating the gender perspective across different issues* was moderated by Senator Verónica Camino Farjat (Mexico), with the participation of Member of Congress Silvia Ayala (Honduras), Chair of the Committee on Sports and Social Welfare of the National Congress, Member of Congress Angélica Smith Mejía (Honduras), Secretary of the Board of Directors of the National Congress, and Delmy Ordoñez, member of the FMPPH.

ILJ participants read their prepared statement entitled *A shared vision to promote the participation and leadership of young Honduran women* and presented their collaboratively developed tool: *A brief guide to promoting an intersectional approach to legislative work in Honduras*.

The closing event concluded with the presentation of diplomas to the young ILJ participants by members of Congress, officials of the National Congress, ParlAmericas, members of the FMPPH, and representatives of the Canadian Embassy in Honduras.



[STATEMENT](#)



[VIDEO RECORDING](#)



[TOOLKIT](#)





Deputy Luis Redondo (Honduras), president of the National Congress

"New horizons are opening up for political dialogue, managed by young Honduran women. Now you are the ones who represent the new processes of individual and collective consciousness to empower and promote gender equity, inclusion, community participation and constructive and planned social mobilization. Each and every one of you have been chosen to consolidate solidarity in Honduras. Just as I am here today, I hope that the Honduran women present here today can also be here, leading this power of the State."



Member of the National Assembly Kayra Harding Bart (Panama), First Vice-President of the National Assembly and Vice-President for Central America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

"In all our countries, we continue to fight for our rights. We seek to continue motivating women. We want them to keep dreaming: dreams come true when we work, strive, train and share what we learn with other women. That is the big step you have taken. You can make a difference, with a gender focus, without forgetting that we are demanding rights and opportunities."



Iliana Monserrat Licón Leiva, ILJ Honduras participant

Sisterhood requires us to accompany each other from the different spaces we occupy. We are good at talking about gender equity, education and health, but we are also good at talking about foreign relations, security, defense and economy. We have references of women in these areas, who day by day break stereotypes and gender norms. It is our duty as young women to support them in this mission. [...] Being young and making the decision to get involved in politics can be overwhelming, so I am grateful for the experience of the program to train us in political advocacy with an intersectional lens and to safeguard democratic values. Because we were, we are, and because we are, we will be. For more women in politics, for more young people in politics. Because the mission is to build a country together."



Senator Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat (Mexico), president of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

"When women unite, there is no human power that can stop them. Advocacy, negotiation and consensus building are vital: we must seek the greatest coincidences within our differences. This is a challenge and a talent that you are beginning to develop today, never stop exercising it. [...] Never cease to engage the dialogue: always insist, persist, do not give up. Your future depends on you."



Monica Alexandra Torres Rojas, ILJ Honduras participant

"One of the objectives of the program was to create spaces for dialogue with an intersectional and intercultural approach. We have learned that it is not only about occupying spaces but also about searching, finding and even creating spaces where we remember that the individual is also collective. We have identities: as women, as citizens, as future professionals. Each of our identities is also a political identity. May each of our experiences nourish us to create more spaces for dialogue so that together we can create and transform our reality."



Lissy Mariela Rodríguez Villalvir, ILJ Honduras participant

"Behind a powerful woman is herself, fighting every day. Today, we are a reflection of that quote, since each of us has successfully built a shared vision to promote the social and political inclusion of young Honduran women. Through valuable learning spaces, we have increased our knowledge and skills, and empowered ourselves as youth leaders, committed to the imperative of continuing to build alliances to achieve collaborative strategies and reach our goals."

YOUTH LEGISLATIVE IMPACT PROGRAM: THE HONDURAN EXPERIENCE

In-person event at the National Congress of Honduras



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This activity was made possible thanks to the generous support of the National Congress of Honduras and the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada.

FMPPH and ParlAmericas would like to extend their gratitude to the panellists who shared their valuable knowledge and time, and to the many organizations and individuals who promoted the event. Each of these contributions was essential to making this program a regional benchmark in women's political participation and the development of inclusive political leadership. We extend our special thanks to all the participants in the program.



ABOUT THE HONDURAN WOMEN'S POLITICAL FORUM (FMPPH) AND PARLAMERICAS



Honduran Women's Political Forum

The Honduran Women's Political Forum (FMPPH) is a multi-party space that integrates all political parties represented in the National Congress, with the purpose of promoting the active political participation of women to enable their incorporation and influence in decision-making spaces in the country, as well as contribute to the broader empowerment of Honduran women.

The main objective of the FMPPH is to strengthen and empower Honduran women through training on women's rights, particularly on issues related to their full political participation with equal opportunities



ParlAmericas

ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes parliamentary diplomacy in the inter-American system. Composed of the 35 national legislatures in North, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, ParlAmericas promotes cooperative political dialogue, facilitates the exchange of good legislative practices, and produces tailored resources to support parliamentarians in their work. The International Secretariat of ParlAmericas is headquartered in Ottawa, Canada.

ParlAmericas promotes gender mainstreaming in legislative agendas and procedures through its Gender Equality Program and in close collaboration with civil society partners, promotes women's political leadership, including the next generation of women leaders.