

#ParlAmericasGEN

TITLE: "With All That's Going on Right Now...":
The Challenge of Political Leadership During Crisis

THEMES: Leadership and political participation of
women, conflict analysis from a gender perspective

DATE: December 5, 2023

LOCATION: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS: More than 30 current and former
women parliamentarians, and representatives of
civil society from the Americas and the Caribbean

ORGANIZING PARTNERS: Parliamentary Centre
and Global Centre for Pluralism



This activity is aligned with SDGs 5, 16, and 17.



A virtual seminar for women parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean on the Defence, Peace, and Security agenda

This meeting brought together current and former women parliamentarians and civil society representatives to promote a constructive dialogue from a gender perspective on relevant issues in the defense, peace, and security sectors. In the context of converging crises, such as the war between Israel and Hamas and the escalation of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and the war between Russia and Ukraine, and their impacts worldwide, the meeting offered a space for discussion and exchange of good practices related to ethical and responsible leadership.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks:

- Member of Parliament **Anita Vandenbeld** (Canada)
- Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

Panellists:

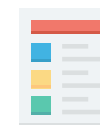
- Member of the Chamber of Deputies **Margarita Stolbizer** (Argentina), Rapporteur to the 148th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union's Committee on Peace and International Security
- **Meredith Preston McGhie**, Secretary General, Global Centre for Pluralism

Moderator:

- **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic), former parliamentarian

Closing remarks:

- Member of Parliament **Stephanie Kusie** (Canada), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality



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MAIN CONCLUSIONS

- The weakening of our democracies - exacerbated by the phenomena of extreme polarization, the proliferation of hate speech, and the persistence of authoritarian models - is one of the determining factors of current crises.
- The internationally agreed concept of [human security](#) requires States to provide people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific, and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all population groups.
- Before, during, and after conflict, human rights violations - including violations of women's rights - increase while institutions are weakened. Parliamentary diplomacy is a key tool for conflict prevention as it can contribute to the adoption of measures that strengthen institutions in times of peace.
- It is essential to recognize women not only as potential victims of threats but also as active agents of change, contributing to the achievement of international agreements in line with UN Security Council [Resolution 1325/2000](#). Despite being one of the groups most affected by conflict, women are still underrepresented in decision-making on defense, peace, and security.
- Pluralist leadership is based on the recognition of and commitment to the dignity of all people who make up society, guaranteeing their sense of belonging. It is necessary to build spaces where people can have discussions based on compassion, respect, and empathy, and where they feel heard. Human-centred peace arises from listening, compromise, and an openness to change so that people can find their way even in contexts where they may disagree.
- Societies thrive when diversity is valued. Our societies are diverse in terms of culture, religion, language, ethnicity, and many other factors. Pluralism is reflected in actions that respond positively to these differences and is conceived as an ethic that can shape not only our individual choices but also collective decisions.

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ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



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ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



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