

## 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 12<sup>th</sup> Gathering of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### Next online session:

Friday, October 2, 2020, 10:30 am EST (All languages)

8:30 (GMT-6)	9:30 (GMT-5)	10:30 (GMT-4)	11:30 (GMT-3)	
Belize	Cayman Islands Jamaica	Anguilla Antigua and Barbuda The Bahamas Barbados British Virgin Islands Ottawa, Canada Dominica Grenada	Guyana Haiti Montserrat Saint Kitts and Nevis Saint Lucia Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Trinidad and Tobago Turks and Caicos	Bermuda Suriname



#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 structured as interviews, one in [English](#) and one in [Spanish](#), are available, featuring a parliamentarian and a young woman leader. These establish a foundation

for the overall theme of the Gathering on advancing gender equality through the engagement of youth in political processes.

The English keynote interview features **Ms. Ashlee Burnett**, youth leader and gender equality activist and chair of the Caribbean Women in Leadership ([CIWiL](#)) Trinidad and Tobago chapter, who speaks with the **Honourable Jean Augustine**, a Grenadian-Canadian former parliamentarian and minister and prominent social justice advocate. In their conversation, Ms. Burnett and Hon. Augustine explore prominent themes related to young women’s leadership and political participation; they share learning from their respective journeys as leaders and social justice advocates.

The interview is available in [video](#) and [podcast](#) format for participants’ convenience.



**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.

<p><b><i>Wednesday, September 23</i></b>  <b><i>10:30 EDT</i></b>  <i>English working group sessions</i></p>	<p><b><i>Friday, September 25</i></b>  <b><i>10:30 EDT</i></b>  <i>Spanish working group sessions</i></p>
<p>Discussion group themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Girls, STEM, and the future of work</li> </ul>	<p>Discussion group themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Gender-based violence</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climate change and disasters</li> <li>● Women in leadership and decision-making</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protecting women’s health</li> <li>● Promoting co-responsibility in care work</li> <li>● Women in leadership and decision-making</li> </ul>
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**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 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.

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|---------------------|---|
| 10:30 - 11:00 am    | <p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Germán Blanco Álvarez, President of the Chamber of Representatives (Colombia) and co-host of the meeting</li> <li>● 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</li> <li>● Maya Fernández Allende, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Chile) and President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality (PNGE)</li> <li>● Elizabeth Cabezas G., Member of the National Assembly (Ecuador) and President of ParlAmericas</li> </ul>  |
| 11:00 am - 11:45 am | <p>Presentation of working group conclusions by rapporteurs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Senator Julie Miville-Dechêne (Canada)</li> <li>● Ivannia Rivera, Member of the Chamber of Deputies (Dominican Republic)</li> <li>● Senator Ranard Henfield (The Bahamas), Vice-President for the Caribbean of the ParlAmericas Open Parliament Network</li> <li>● Nielsen Pérez Pérez, Member of the Legislative Assembly (Costa Rica)</li> <li>● Senator Yokymma Bethelmy (Trinidad and Tobago)</li> <li>● Senator Verónica Camino (Mexico), Vice-President for North America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality</li> <li>● Maritza Espinales, Member of the National Assembly (Nicaragua), Member of the ParlAmericas Board</li> </ul> |
| 11:45 am - 1:00 pm  | <p>Panel discussion: Making parliamentary politics more youth-inclusive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Moderator: Juan Diego Vásquez, Member of the National Assembly (Panama)</li> </ul>   |

- Panellists:
  - Ms. Nancy Mitchell, member of the Prime Minister’s Youth Council (Canada)
  - Senator María Eugenia Catalfamo (Argentina)
  - Ms. J’Nelle Belizaire, participant in the President’s 10 program (Antigua and Barbuda)
  - Ms. Naomi Ephraim, participant in the President’s 10 program (Antigua and Barbuda)

Q&A

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|----------------|--|
| 1:00 - 1:15 pm | Presentation of final declaration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Senator the Honourable Cathisha Williams (Grenada)</li> <li>● Adriana Matiz, Member of the Chamber of Representatives (Colombia)</li> </ul>   |
| 1:15 - 1:20 pm | Evaluations  |
| 1:20 - 1:30 pm | Closing and announcement of upcoming ParlAmericas activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Karina Arteaga, Member of the National Assembly (Ecuador), Vice-President for South America of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality</li> </ul> |



*The gathering documents, resources and publications are available at [www.parlamericas.org](http://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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