Effective Engagement in Parliamentary Processes
A series of virtual workshops for women’s organisations in the Caribbean

Workshop 1: Parliamentary Advocacy

Organized by ParlAmericas in partnership with UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean and Equality Fund

Friday, September 9, 2022 | 9:30 am - 11:30 am AST (UTC – 04:00)

What you’ll learn in this session:
✔ Overview of the legislative process and value/importance of engaging with parliament
✔ What issues/types of ‘asks’ can be brought to parliament/parliamentarians
✔ Formal mechanisms for public participation in parliaments
✔ Strategic moments for advocacy in the legislative process
✔ Partisanship and changes in government
✔ Effective engagement with individual parliamentarians

Opening of workshop series by organizing partners
● Tonni Ann Brodber, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean
● Tamara Huggins, Director - Women’s Voice and Leadership - Caribbean, Equality Fund

Presentation of What We Heard, report on the results of survey of Caribbean women’s organisations on their engagement with parliaments
● Lisane Thirsk, Deputy Director - Gender Equality & Communications, ParlAmericas International Secretariat
Introduction and community agreements by the session facilitator

Brief introductions by all participants

Why engage with parliaments?

- Lisane Thirsk, Deputy Director - Gender Equality & Communications, ParlAmericas International Secretariat

Topics:
- Value of public participation for democratic institutions
- Parliaments as representative bodies, and your right to be heard
- Success stories

Overview of the legislative process and formal opportunities for participation

Presentation and questions and answers with:
- Ms. Chantal La Roche, Senior Legal Officer, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

Topics:
- Overview of the function of parliament and the legislative cycle
- What issues/types of ‘asks’ can be brought to parliament/parliamentarians
- Strategic moments for advocacy in the legislative process
- Formal mechanisms for public participation in parliaments

Feature speaker: Making a strong case to parliamentarians

Presentation and questions and answers with:
- Member of Parliament Marsha K. Caddle, Barbados

Topics:
- Communications techniques - how to be heard by decision makers and frame issues strategically
- Capitalising on opportunities presented by the parliament
- Making a difference within politicized or partisan spaces

Closing and evaluation of the session

Stay tuned for the dates of the next workshops in this series on advocacy strategies, and partnership and coalition-building!

Follow us on social media! @ParlAmericas @unwomencarib @equality_fund

In partnership with Canada