



Press Release
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Caribbean and Canadian parliamentarians to exchange best practices on multi-party caucuses for gender equality – October 20 and 21

Today and tomorrow parliamentary delegations from Canada and five Caribbean countries – Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, and The Bahamas – will be participating in working sessions in Ottawa, Canada, on establishing or strengthening multi-party caucuses for gender equality. The exchange is organized by ParlAmericas in collaboration with UN Women’s Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean and the All-Party Women’s Caucus of the Parliament of Canada.

The Honourable Robert D. Nault, MP, Chair of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas, remarked, “Our gender equality programming has continued to expand in recent years to the benefit of the entire region. This ParlAmericas meeting will have a positive impact in Canada and across the Caribbean through the policies and initiatives that will come from strong cross-party gender caucuses that are being established by the participating delegations. I look forward to participating in these discussions”

Parliamentary caucuses for gender equality are groups that respond to the local priorities and objectives of women in politics and serve as a venue through which parliamentarians work across party lines in the collective promotion of gender-sensitive parliaments and legislation. These caucuses are at various stages of development in each of the countries to be represented at the meeting, and the parliamentary exchange was designed to support these initiatives.

“This will be a valuable opportunity with female parliamentarians across our continent to share challenges and successes we’ve experienced, and foster a broader support network outside of our parliament,” said Ms. Sheila Malcolmson, MP, member of the Canadian Section of ParlAmericas and a Co-Chair of the Canadian All-Party Women’s Caucus.

According to another delegate of the meeting, Senator Sapphire Longmore of Jamaica, member of the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas, “Participation in ParlAmericas inspires new ways of thinking about gender and politics and supports the important work being done in the Caribbean region to establish gender caucuses that support transformative positive change towards equity for all.”

The two-day programme for the parliamentary exchange in Ottawa addresses the process of establishing a sustainable and effective gender caucus, including defining the caucus’ structure and strategic direction, building cross-party support and multi-sector partnerships, and influencing policy and institutional culture. The meeting is being facilitated by Dr. Sonia Palmieri, international specialist on women’s parliamentary participation, and will feature presentations by representatives of Equal Voice, the Centre for Women in Politics and Public Leadership at Carleton University, and the Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership.

For updates on the parliamentary exchange, follow the event hashtag: [#GenderCaucus](https://twitter.com/GenderCaucus)

ParlAmericas is a network of the national legislatures of member states of the Organization of American States (OAS). It serves as an independent forum for parliamentarians of the Americas and the Caribbean committed to cooperative political dialogue and participation in the inter-American system. For more information, visit www.parlamericas.org.