



## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate publication*

Ottawa, Canada, February 24, 2023

### **ParlAmericas held the training session "Strengthening the legislative advocacy of feminist organizations in Latin America: processes, tools and experiences"**

The session "Strengthening legislative advocacy of feminist organizations in Latin America: processes, tools and experiences" brought together more than 170 participants - feminist organizations representatives, parliamentarians, parliamentary officials and activists - to share good practices and strategies in legislative advocacy processes for the advancement of gender equality.

Senator **Verónica Noemí Camino Farjat** (Mexico), president of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality, inaugurated the session by emphasizing that "the demands of the feminist movement in the search for justice and equality have been the basis of the regional gender agenda and many parliaments are now debating issues with the support of feminist organizations, reflecting the importance of citizen participation in the parliamentary gender agenda."

Michelle Volpin, Project Manager - Gender Equality at ParlAmericas, presented the report "[What we heard: Survey of Latin American feminist organizations on their relationship with parliaments](#)", based on a survey of more than 150 activists working on the gender agenda in the region, which addresses both challenges and opportunities during the legislative advocacy process.

The session featured a presentation by former parliamentarian **Guadalupe Valdez** (Dominican Republic), who echoed the relevance of effective and creative articulation between citizens and parliaments for the advancement of gender equality, based on honesty, transparency, efficiency and accountability. In turn, **Valentina Enciso** (Colombia), Political Action Coordinator of [Fundación Artemisas](#) shared her work in the creation of the platform [En Colectiva](#), a feminist open parliament strategy.

Following a series of questions from the organizations, a collective interview was conducted with the participation of former parliamentarians, sharing their experiences of working with feminist organizations. Moderated by former senator **Marcela Sabat** (Chile), the interview was conducted by former Member of the National Assembly **Gina Godoy** (Ecuador), former parliamentarian **Ana Matilde Gómez** (Panama) and former Member of the Legislative Assembly **Nielsen Pérez** (Costa Rica). They provided strategies and recommendations for consensus-building on different issues on the legislative gender agenda and stressed the importance of inclusive participation mechanisms with an intersectional perspective.

An interactive activity was held in break out rooms, moderated by **Friné Salguero** (Mexico), Executive Director, [Simone de Beauvoir Leadership Institute](#); **Ana Lima** (Uruguay), National Coordinator, [CLADEM](#) and **Justina Lee** (Argentina), Management Director, [Ecofeminita](#), who shared their experiences in legislative advocacy. In these spaces for dialogue, participants collectively reflected on effective strategies to advocate causes and propose legislative reforms, consolidate networks and alliances and place issues on the public and legislative agenda, taking into consideration the political contexts.

To learn more about ParlAmericas work, visit [www.parlamericas.org](http://www.parlamericas.org) and follow @ParlAmericas on social media.



ParlAmericas es la institución que promueve la diplomacia parlamentaria en el sistema interamericano. Compuesta por las 35 legislaturas nacionales de América del Norte, Central y del Sur, y el Caribe, ParlAmericas promueve el diálogo político cooperativo, facilita el intercambio de buenas prácticas legislativas y produce recursos personalizados para apoyar a los parlamentarios en su trabajo. El Secretariado Internacional de ParlAmericas tiene su sede en Ottawa, Canadá. Para obtener más información, visite [www.parlamericas.org](http://www.parlamericas.org) o escribir a [info@parlamericas.org](mailto:info@parlamericas.org).