

WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEADERSHIP PROJECT



In 2018, ParlAmericas launched a project to promote women's political leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean. The project aims to support multi-partisan women's organizations in their delivery of programming that builds environments which enables women's leadership in politics and other sectors where they are underrepresented. The project's activities also strengthen the institutional capacities of these organizations as they fulfill their work in collaboration with national parliaments, gender bureaux, multilaterals, and other regional and local civil society organizations.

Through this project, ParlAmericas is currently accompanying the [Caribbean Women in Leadership](#) (CIWiL) and the [National Forum of Women in Political Parties](#) (FONAMUPP) in Panama. The joint initiatives carried out with these organizations build on the successes of ParlAmericas' work on gender mainstreaming and civil society engagement.

Project activities include:

- Workshops to encourage and support electoral candidacies by women;
- Leadership initiatives with young women;
- The facilitation of knowledge exchanges and meetings; and
- The development of communications, advocacy and fundraising tools and systems for the sustainability of activities beyond the project's duration.





The Forum of Women in Political Parties (FONAMUPP) of Panama is a non-governmental, non-profit organization with the objective of promoting the political participation of Panamanian with equal opportunities and conditions. FONAMUPP has been active for 25 years and has played a strong role in advocating for electoral reforms in favour of parity.

In the words of FONAMUPP’s training beneficiaries:

“Before I didn’t have the knowledge to get up and speak in public, for example, how to give a speech. Now it’s not just a matter of having overcome fear, it’s the fluid way of speaking to an audience. Much of this has to do with FONAMUPP.”

“Before the women were passive and didn’t dare to participate in politics. However after receiving the trainings, the women put themselves forward, spoke, shared their opinions and want to move forward because they feel they are supported by an organization.”

“Personally, I think the trainings have impacted me by making me a person with political value. I’m now much more sure of myself; we have developed a series of traits such as courage.”

Summary of 2019 activities

- 5 chapter strengthening meetings
- 1 working session on communications
- 1 working session with the women’s arms of political parties
- 150+ women beneficiaries of project activities





Caribbean Women in Leadership

Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL) is a non-political, multi-partisan and independent institution established to monitor, strengthen and increase women’s political participation and leadership in the region. CIWiL aims to create a sustainable, effective and efficient women’s leadership base, and to achieve gender equality through advocacy, networking, research and capacity building.

In the words of CIWiL’s training beneficiaries:

“I appreciate the knowledge on how to be a leader – and not just a leader, but a transformational one.”

“I found all the topics useful and they will help to equip me for my political journey. I feel a sense of courage emerging.”

“It motivated me to the point where I now know that it is possible. It provided information that I would not be privy to had I not attended this workshop.”

Summary of 2019 activities

- 4 workshops for prospective women candidates
- 1 working session on chapter building and youth engagement
- 2 national chapters established
- 100+ women beneficiaries of project activities

