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# **The Problem of Gender Inequality in Political Representation and the Role of the Public Sector in Its Solution**

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# Gender Situation in the Ukrainian Parliament

- Current convocation: 47 women elected (11.1% of the total).
- Previous convocation: 44 women elected (9.9% of the total).
- First convocation: 11 women elected (only 2.3% of the total).



# Average Amount of Women in Parliaments

- in the world
- in Europe

22%

25%



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# Ukraine's Specificity of How the Kind of Electoral System Affects the Election of Female Candidates

Elections in multi-mandate constituencies are more favorable for the election of female candidates than for single-mandate constituencies.

The problem is that the majoritarian component of the electoral system, with its rigid competitive struggle, supplemented by stereotypes about women in politics, the presence of elements of the use of an administrative resource that grow into various abuses and violations of the law, does not facilitate the election of women to parliament.



# Women Elected to the Parliament

majoritarian  
component

4%

party lists

96%



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# Balanced Participation of Women And Men

This definition describes the balanced participation of women and men in the sense of 40% representation of both sexes in any body for decision-making in political and public life. This percentage thus establishes the parity threshold of 40% of women and 40% of men, the remaining 20% are open to any gender within the framework of flexible approaches



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# Functions of Gender Mainstreaming Organizations are:

- to engage allies and supporters including amongst the power structures, party leadership and assets
- to stimulate and support their demands, as well as articulate arguments in such a way as to convince the parties of the legitimacy of these requirements on the one hand, and the threat to them of loss of support (especially in terms of votes)

## **In Ukraine, on March 24, 2016, the Public Council on Gender Issues was created.**

The public council includes representatives of the Inter-faction MP's Equal Opportunities, Ukrainian and international public organizations, expert on gender equality and non-discrimination. The task of the council is to work in several ways to improve the situation of women and establish gender equality in Ukraine. In addition - the creation of a gender-based map, as well as the development of a comprehensive methodology for gender mainstreaming. On April 11, 2016, a Public Council on Gender Issues was held. The event was held at the initiative of the Interparliamentary MP "Equal Opportunities" in cooperation with the National Democratic Institute (NDI)



Important initiatives to increase women's participation in decision-making are implemented at the level of civic organizations lobbying this before the government and the parliament, and make appropriate efforts for gender balance among their own leadership. **An example is the Association of Ukrainian Cities (a public organization that brings together 456 partner cities), which traditionally was gender-neutral.**



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In 2012, the Association established a section on ensuring equal rights and opportunities for women and men, adopted **the Strategy for the Equal Rights and Opportunities of Women and Men**, which resulted in amendments to the Statute of the Association for the Representation of Women - City Mayors in the Board of the Association by introducing special temporary measures (5% quota for women in the Board of the Association). **In December 2012, the Board of the Association elected 5 female city mayors, representing almost 10% of the total number of the Board (although during the 20 years of the Association there was not a single woman in its Board)**



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# Public Sector Organizations as Gender Mainstreaming Organizations

- women's organizations
- human rights organizations
- trade unions
- other civil society organizations

# Various Ways And Methods To Promote Women's Participation In Political Life include:

- identifying women as candidates
- conducting trainings on working with the media
- developing networks for promoting women in politics
- helping to civic and electoral education with gender mainstreaming



# Thank you



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13

