

# How gender equal is your parliament? Find out with our gender-sensitive parliaments tool



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National parliaments across the EU women make up less than a third of parliamentarians. This is bound to have an impact on parliamentary decisions. One way to balance the decision-making power in Europe is to have more gender-sensitive parliaments.

Parliaments not only make laws but they are also working places. Like other organisations, they have their own rules, customs and ways of working. These all need to consider the different needs of both women and men, who might have different opportunities to enter the parliament or influence decision-making.

A gender-sensitive parliament is not only about having a higher proportion of women. A good example of one would be a parliament that encourages more women to choose a career in politics and welcomes them too to the top levels of decision-making across a wide range of portfolios.

**A gender-sensitive parliament**

- Respects and delivers on gender equality
- Has no barriers to women's full participation
- Includes both women and men in the parliamentary and support work
- Is aware that discrimination and inequality affect women and men differently
- Takes efforts to pursue gender equality both internally and externally through gender-sensitive policies
- Sets a positive example by promoting gender equality and women's empowerment among society both nationally and internationally

**How can the tool help?**

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) has developed a tool to help parliaments assess their organisation and working procedures and see how gender sensitive they are. To determine the level of gender equality in your parliament, you first need to collect facts. The tool can help you find out its strengths and weaknesses. With this knowledge, you will know what you would need to change to make your parliament more gender equal.

**How does the tool work?**

To assess the level of gender sensitivity you must answer a series of questions in five areas:

1. Equal opportunities to ENTER the parliament
2. Equal opportunities to INFLUENCE the parliament
3. Women's interests and concerns have adequate SPACE in the parliamentary agenda
4. The parliament performs gender-equal LEGISLATION
5. The parliament performs gender-equal EXECUTIVE function

© The tool is available in 16 languages downloading from <http://www.eige.europa.eu>

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## Further information

[Go to the online tool](#)



[Read the news article 'Is your parliament doing enough to advance gender equality?'](#)



[Browse EIGE's gender mainstreaming platform](#)



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## Downloads



[How gender equal is your parliament? Find out with our gender-sensitive parliaments tool](#)

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## Metadata

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