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GENDER ACTIVITIES

Summary report on the 2026 IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians

Advancing parity: Breaking the barriers of gender stereotypes and negative social norms

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Assembly of Serbia jointly organized the 2026 IPU Global Conference of Women Parliamentarians (GCWP), held on 2–4 June 2026 in Belgrade, Serbia, under the theme *Advancing parity: Breaking the barriers of gender stereotypes and negative social norms*.
2. The Conference brought together 410 participants, including 193 parliamentarians (155 women and 38 men) from 61 countries. Participants included the Deputy Prime Minister of Serbia, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Serbia, the President and Secretary General of the IPU, and other IPU office holders, as well as ministers and representatives of the Government of Serbia, Deputy Speakers of the National Assembly, parliamentarians from Serbia and across the globe, representatives of international and civil society organizations, and women and men leaders from different sectors.
3. The Conference built on the momentum generated from the 2025 GCWP held in Mexico City, offering a platform to follow up on the [Plan of action for gender parity in parliaments](#) adopted at the 2025 Conference and endorsed by the IPU Governing Council. It also served as a contribution to the forthcoming General recommendation No. 41 on gender stereotypes of the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.
4. The debates focused on the important role parliaments play in the push towards parity by addressing stereotypes and negative social norms that shape unequal power relations, create different expectations from men and women, fuel the exclusion of women from decision-making, restrict opportunities for diverse groups of women, and reinforce stigma, sexism, harassment and violence against women in politics.
5. Participants deplored the fact that stereotypes and negative social norms at the intersection of sex, age, disability, ethnicity, colour, origin and socioeconomic background, among other characteristics, were keeping particular groups of women away from political participation and leadership, with IPU data showing that young women's participation in parliament had recently decreased.
6. Participants identified priority areas for parliamentary action: the risks posed by gender-biased artificial intelligence and technological developments; inequalities in law and practice, including in family relations, property, inheritance, land ownership, economic and financial independence, and nationality; the underrepresentation of young women and women from marginalized and historically excluded groups; the need to shift the burden of caregiving responsibilities from falling mostly on women to falling equally on men and women; the elimination of violence against women and girls, and of violence against women in politics in particular; the need for more investment in equality in education and employment, including through the elimination of stereotypes in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and the need for equal pay.

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7. In addressing these priorities, participants agreed to work in partnership with men and women in parliament, across the parliamentary ecosystem and beyond, including with governmental institutions and civil society organizations, as well as with other sectors such as the media, the private sector and international organizations, and with actors from the world of sports and the digital space.

8. Participants further called upon parliamentary institutions and their men and women members to take a set of actions towards: advancing parliaments that are gender-sensitive and free from stereotypes and negative social norms; legislating for parity and against discrimination, violence and stereotypes; and overseeing government action.

9. Detailed recommended actions can be found in the [2026 GCWP final document](#), which was presented at the closing of the Conference by the Rapporteur, Ms. Ivana Stamatović, member of the National Assembly of Serbia and member of the IPU Bureau of Young Parliamentarians, and was endorsed by the participants.