

PA, ODIHR, Finnish Parliament hold event in Helsinki for gender equality in parliaments



More than 60 parliamentarians and experts from Europe and Central Asia gathered this week at the Finnish Parliament for a two-day workshop on gender-sensitive parliaments, organized by the OSCE/ODIHR with support from the OSCE PA and OSCE field operations. Entitled “Realizing Gender Equality in and by Parliaments,” the workshop highlighted the critical role of national parliaments in driving progress toward gender equality.

The workshop provided a platform for Members of Parliament to reflect on how to embed gender equality more effectively within parliamentary work. Discussions highlighted the importance of institutional reforms, gender-sensitive legislation and oversight, addressing violence against women in politics, and engaging men as active partners in advancing equality.

“A gender-sensitive parliament does not only mean equal participation of women and men,” said OSCE PA President Pia Kauma (Finland). “It is much more than that. It reflects the diverse needs and experiences of all people in its work, structures, policies, and culture. That is why advocating for

gender-sensitive parliaments does not mean favoring women. It simply benefits democracy, good governance, and peace and security.”

Tarja Filatov, Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Tea Jaliashvili, ODIHR’s First Deputy Director, and Saara-Sofia Sirén, Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender and Member of the Finnish Parliament, also spoke at the event, underlining the need for parliaments to redouble efforts to achieve the full and equal participation of women in politics and decision-making. OSCE PA Deputy Secretary General Gustavo Pallares was a speaker during the closing session and Programme Officer Anastasiya Griadasova spoke during the second working session on the subject of parliamentary bodies for gender equality.

At the close of the workshop, participants endorsed the Helsinki Pledges on Gender-sensitive Parliaments in the OSCE Region. Participants agreed that the Helsinki Pledges should be discussed widely in parliaments across the OSCE region and used as a basis for action and dialogue.

Final report of the 24th Winter Meeting published online

The final report of the OSCE PA’s 24th Winter Meeting, held in Vienna on 20-21 February 2025, is available as a PDF and Flipping Book. To download or view the document, please click here: <https://bit.ly/3z6LCA5>

Hundreds of parliamentarians to debate Euro-Atlantic security in Porto

The OSCE PA’s 32nd Annual Session is scheduled to take place 29 June - 3 July 2025 in Porto, Portugal, under the general theme of “Commemorating 50 Years of the Helsinki Final Act: Responding to a New Reality in the OSCE.” With high-level speeches during the plenary sessions, the event will feature the participation of hundreds of parliamentarians from North America, Europe and Central Asia.

The largest event on the Assembly’s calendar, the Annual Session will culminate in the adoption of the Porto Declaration on 3 July, containing recommendations to national governments, parliaments and the international community in the fields of security, human rights, and economic and environmental concerns.

Important topics to be debated include: Russia’s full-scale invasion of Ukraine, critical infrastructure and nuclear safety, water scarcity and migration, artificial intelligence and misuse of technology, developments in the Middle East, the situations in Moldova and Georgia, demographic change, organized crime, gender equality, youth radicalization and violent extremism, energy security, good governance, maritime security, protecting people in armed conflict, minorities and vulnerable groups, reproductive health, child trafficking and sexual exploitation, climate change, and OSCE institutional co-operation.



The Assembly will also elect its leadership, including a new President. The meeting is open to the press and will also be streaming online. More information, including the reports, draft resolutions and supplementary items to be considered, is available at www.oscepa.org.

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