



Municipal Feminism: Towards the Political Participation of Women in all their Diversity

March 31, 2023, 14:00 - 16:00 h CET. Virtual meeting

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvduqrqD8tHdPEr4W1cCCHWRs6_PWxYZIk

Interpretation: English, French, Spanish and Portuguese

Guiding questions for the session

- What factors influence and enable women and gender-diverse peoples' participation in local government processes, in your city or territory?
- What are some of the barriers, in your city or territory, to women entering into local politics?
- What is the relationship between the feminist movement and public participation? How are local governments working with communities, feminist activists, and grassroots organizations to ensure all voices can be accounted for?
- How are policies and processes of participation and co-creation designed with an inclusive and intersectional gender perspective?
- Why is gender mainstreaming important and how to implement it participatory and equitably?
- Can you share examples or best practices from your city or territory on how to encourage or inclusively involve more women in local democratic decision-making processes? / Can you share what mechanisms are available in your territory to better represent residents' demands, with consideration for gender equity?

Context

Participatory democracy is the political practice in which citizens are directly involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives. The right to political participation is fundamental to achieving effective equality between all genders, as established in SDG 5, and the development of public policies based on processes of collective intelligence, co-creation and deliberation with a diversity of people, including the most marginalized communities, is central to the work of feminist local governance.

This session will explore the **notion of feminist participatory democracy, such as ensuring gender equity in local public policies and leadership and meaningful consultations with a variety of groups, including women, older persons, and persons with disabilities.**

Classic mechanisms of participatory democracy through assemblies, public debates and other forms of public expression can reproduce existing structural inequalities in society. It is therefore essential to incorporate a gender perspective in the design and implementation of participatory democracy practices. **In the last decade, local governments have led a wave**



of transformation through their interaction with the social movements linked to the interaction with social movements linked to feminism and the struggle for equal rights.

This has made it possible to establish new mechanisms to better represent residents' demands and expand the horizons of local democracy towards the actual co-creation of cities. Many of these innovations were driven by the feminist movement, which proposed new approaches to care, human rights, justice and social organization.

Participatory democracy policies have been vital in strengthening this dialogue and advancing the co-creation of cities as common goods. **Therefore, this meeting will be a good opportunity to share the concrete mechanisms developed to strengthen the local government-civil society dialogue, as well as the policies of "opening" institutions to direct participation, and establishing new policies of participatory democracy.**

The session will have two panels: first, the feminist approach in public policies will be addressed in a general way, with a focus on local government, and local leadership and in a second panel, concrete cases and good practices of inclusive gender perspectives in local participatory democracy processes will be presented.

This space for debate, solidarity and knowledge-sharing will allow for the convergence of strategies for the deployment of feminist local policies and practices and participatory democracy at the local level.



Agenda

Opening reflections

- **Joyce Trindade**, Secretary for Women's Promotion, Rio de Janeiro City Hall
- **Cida Gonçalves**, Minister of Women, Brazilian Federal Government

First panel: Gender Equity in Public Policies and Leadership

1. **Diana Marcela Ortiz**, Manager of Women and Gender, District Institute for Community Participation and Action (IDPAC)
2. **Anthony Berthelot**, Councillor of Nantes Metropole, in charge of international cooperation, Mayor of Indre
3. **Maria Helena Jose Carreia Langa**, Mayor of Mandlakazi, Mozambique and Vice President of REFELA Southern Africa
4. **Iryna Yarmolenko**, Advisor to mayor of Irpin, PM of IRS, Bucha city councillor
5. **Noraini Roslan**, President of Klang Municipal Council
6. **Laura Pfister**, Assistant Delegated to Equal Rights and the Fight against Discrimination, Grenoble

Second panel: Best Practices towards Local Feminist Participatory Democracy

1. **Heloisa Gomes Aquino**, Coordination of Policies for Women, City of São Paulo and **Luan Santos Araújo**, Coordination of Open Government, City of São Paulo
2. **Gladys Otae Addo Osei**, Adentan Municipal Assembly, President of Ghana Women Caucus (REFELA)
3. **Louise Jean-Albert**, Institute for Dialogue and Citizen Participation (ICPC)
4. **Zenaida Perez Gutierrez**, National Political Assembly of Indigenous Women (ANPMI)
5. **Anders Nordh**, Senior adviser, Finance and Governance Division, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
6. **Yande Kalengo**, Power Shifting Director, Restless Development

Open discussion