Women in Politics
Where do we stand?

Gender & Power

In the political domain, power is often concentrated among men, which can limit progress toward gender equality. This table illustrates the gender gaps in various countries and territories across the UNDP ECA region. It shows that, despite efforts, there remain significant disparities in the representation of women in politics.

Gender & Age

The youngest members of ECA parliaments (as of October 2022) were in Moldova, Turkey, and Kyrgyzstan. These young representatives are crucial in shaping future policies and reflecting the diverse needs of their constituencies.

Members of Parliament

Many ECA countries and territories have enacted quota systems to boost gender equality in politics. As of October 2022, North Macedonia has the highest percentage of women (40.0%) among its Members of Parliament, while Kyrgyzstan follows closely with 33.3%.

Challenges

While women do hold political positions, they often face challenges such as harassment and violence. When governments implement quota systems, they can sometimes be met with resistance or backlash, as seen in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Opportunities

Countries like North Macedonia, where women hold significant roles in politics, demonstrate the potential for change. Promoting gender quotas can help create a more inclusive political landscape and lead to equitable representation.