



**WOMEN IN POLITICS**  
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## National Assembly-CSO Cooperation Platform Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming of the Reform on the “Law on Political Parties”

### COMMUNIQUE

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On September 30 the regular meeting of National Assembly-CSO Cooperation Platform (hereinafter, the Platform) took place in Yerevan, aimed at presentation of recommendations for the reform of the “Law on Political Parties” regarding the equal representation of men and women in parties.

The initiative was implemented within the framework of “Women in Politics” project. The project is implemented by UNDP in Armenia and RA Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructures in partnership with OxYGen Foundation and with financial support from the UK Good Governance Fund.

The meeting was attended by representatives of civil society organisations, area experts, partners from the state and international institutions, as well as by Lena Nazaryan- the Vice President of the National Assembly, Kristine Grigoryan- the Deputy Minister of Justice, Hamazasp Danielyan- MP and the Electoral Reform Task Force head, and MPs: - Maria Karapetyan, Sona Ghazaryan, Taguhi Ghazaryan, Heriknaz Tigranyan.

Lena Nazaryan presented the main priorities of the event, and Hamazasp Danielyan-the priorities of the working group established in the NA, which includes participants from NGOs- Platform meeting participants. The speakers also reported on the expected changes in the law on parties and related changes before the end of the year, and the whole process will last 1-1.5 years. Amazasp Danielyan noted the importance of both the initiative and involvement of the regulations to support women political participation suggesting to present best international practices, solutions formed on fundamental principles and values of democracy during the next meetings.

**Summary of main recommendations by OxYGen Foundation, ProMedia Gender NGO, Helsinki Citizens' Assembly-Vanadzor and UNDP.**

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- To include in the Law the demand to have gender-sensitive principles in founding documentation and internal regulations of parties, as a mandatory prerequisite for the establishment of intra-party democracy.

- To include in the Law the demand on equal representation of men and women in the decision-making bodies of the party, not less than men's and women's proportional representation in the respective party.
- To introduce the gender quota into the "Law on Political Parties" as a temporary supporting means for the parties aiming to be represented in the National Assembly.
- To introduce special incentives in the law, including additional state subsidies or other privileges, for the parties which implement a special policy to expand women's participation and ensure their advancement.
- To set the level of women's representation among the state funding criteria for political parties based on results of the National Assembly elections and proportional system elections of Local Self Governance bodies. To introduce additional funding for parties that have ensured 40-50% representation of women in their electoral lists and de-facto elected body.
- When getting state funding the party can aim for a higher financing, equal to the percentage it exceeds the quota set by the Electoral Code. This provision should apply to both National Assembly and Local Self Governance elections.
- To introduce sanctions for the parties which do not undertake measures to expand women's participation and ensure their advancement.
- The party should have a Policy on Inclusion and Representation as a mandatory document.

**Other recommendations:**

- There is a need to apply quota also for Local Self Governance bodies, particularly given the declining dynamics of women's representation as a result of community enlargement.

**Decisions, further steps:**

- Expected changes on the "Law on Political Parties" and related changes will be submitted before the end of the year, and the whole process will last 1-1.5 years.
- On October 11, aiming to have a more participatory process for the discussions on "Law on Political Parties", an extended meeting will be organized in cooperation with Electoral Reform Task Force, involving non-parliamentary forces, which will also present their recommendations on the Reform.
- International best practices of gender-mainstreaming of the "Law on Political Parties" will also be presented at upcoming meetings.

The detailed recommendations highlighted during the meeting are available below in Armenian:



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The next meeting of the Platform is due in October. The information on the date and time will be circulated in due course. Besides the new topic for the discussion, the meeting will aim to reflect on the previous discussions on the "Law on Political Parties", women's reproductive health rights and domestic violence.