

ADDRESSING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WOMEN, GIRLS AND LGBTI PERSONS: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS

REPRESENTATION IN DECISION-MAKING

Many governments have excluded community organizations from important discussions even though the latter often hold key information about vulnerable populations needed to make thoughtful and informed policies. Currently, the majority of national-level parliamentary committees established to handle the COVID-19 pandemic do not have enough female or LGBTI representation.

Actions Parliamentarians can take:

- Consult with women and LGBTI civil society organizations on how to best meet community needs;
- Call for the creation of special task forces or other governmental bodies focused on women and LGBTI issues to incorporate into the governmental response structure;
- Allocate resources to community-led monitoring and reporting initiatives on the rights of women and LGBTI persons at the local and national levels;
- Consider affirmative action procedures to make the parliamentary election process more inclusive of key stakeholders, such as women and LGBTI persons.

Country-Specific Practices:

Africa

South Africa: The government has provided relief funds for non-governmental service providers.

Europe

Georgia: The Georgian Parliament has adopted a 25% gender quota to ensure that women will be better represented in the legislative assemblies.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Chile: The President of the Senate and the Chairwoman of the Gender and Labor Committees of the Chamber of Deputies convened a roundtable discussion on gender and COVID-19 along with 80 civil society organizations.

To learn more about PGA's Gender, Equality and Inclusion Program, or to share your country's experience and policies, please contact:

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