



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.



The Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) are pleased to invite you to take part in a side-event they are organizing during the 59th Session on the Commission on the Status of Women on:

***Empowering the next generation:***

***Paving the way for young women in decision-making at all levels***

The Beijing Declaration and Plan of Action call for the equal participation of men and women in decision-making, including political decision-making. Twenty years after the commitments made in Beijing, women's participation in politics has increased but equality is still far off.

Will the chances of achieving equality in politics improve with the new generations? Is access to politics easier for young women today compared to the past?

Recent IPU studies show low participation of youth in national parliaments and highlight a significant correlation between age and sex for women's participation in politics. Surprisingly, the difference in participation between young women and young men MPs under 30 years is low compared to the gap between older women and men parliamentarians. Does this bode well for the future in terms of equality? This has yet to be seen as men and women MPs under 30 years old account for fewer than 2 per cent of all parliamentarians.

A determining factor in achieving equality in political decision-making is ensuring that women are empowered to participate in all political spaces, including informal and grassroots movements. Making sure that strong links exist between formal and informal political spaces is thus of paramount importance.

If the ideals of Beijing are to live on, how can we ensure that the new generation of politicians carries the torch? This raises the question of young women's participation and the sensitization of young men MPs to gender equality.

The side event will explore initiatives that have been or could be taken to enhance the participation of young women in politics. It will address the nexus between formal and informal political life, exploring the extent to which informal political movements can provide fertile ground for the next generation of young men and women to effect transformational change for gender equality and women's well-being. It will also discuss how to ensure that the young generation of politicians commits to pursuing women's rights and gender equality objectives.

**Date and time: Tuesday 10 March 2015, from 4.45 to 6 p.m.**

**Location: Conference Room E, GA Building, United Nations, New York**

**N.B. Meeting Room E does not have interpretation facilities and the side event will be held in English only.**