



Webinar "Gender parity in politics: the state of play

29 May 2020

15:00 – 16:00 CET

EU Member States are committed to promoting the equal participation of women and men in decision making at all levels and in all fields. However, women remain significantly underrepresented in local decision-making bodies across the EU. They account for only 1/3 of political decision-makers in Europe and around 15% of mayors. In an effort to promote gender equality, which is a core value of the EU, a fundamental right and a key principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Commission recently presented the [EU Equality Strategy 2020–2025](#). The strategy represents a step towards equal participation and equal leadership of women and men in the European society and it is the first strategy in this area of equality, delivering on the commitments made by President von der Leyen in her political guidelines.

To contribute to the promotion of gender balance, the European Committee of the Regions adopted the ["Strategy for a gender balance in Members' participation in the CoR"](#), aiming at enhancing gender parity in the nomination of CoR Members. Local and regional authorities also have a crucial role to play in the achievement these objectives, as they are key actors to ensure a well-functioning democracy and a more effective policy-making.

Questions

Are European Member States moving forward on gender equality?

What is the situation at local and regional level?

Agenda

- **Ms Jaimie Just**, Policy Advisor on Equality and Diversity, *Council of European Municipalities and Regions*: key findings of the study *"Women in Politics: Local and European Trends"*;
- **Ms Sally Kneeshaw**, URBACT Programme Expert: presentation of the initiative "Gender Equal Cities";
- **Ms Concha Andreu**, CoR Rapporteur of the Opinion *"A Union for Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025"*: *Video message on the "European Strategy on Gender Equality"*

Moderator: Paula Campos, *Coordinator of the Young Elected Politicians Programme, Directorate for Communication, European Committee of the Regions*



"Women in Politics: Local and European Trends", CEMR

Jaimie Just is Policy Advisor on Equality and Diversity at the [Council of European Municipalities and Regions](#). She started her career with CEMR in 2016, after gaining experience in gender equality at the European Women's Lobby. She coordinated the CEMR study "Women in Politics: Local and European Trends" that aims at evaluating the progression of women's representation in decision-making at all levels of government in Europe.

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"Gender Equal Cities", URBACT

Sally Kneeshaw is a London based policy consultant specialising in urban innovation, sustainability and inclusion, with over 25 years' professional experience working on strategic development for the European Commission, cities, international networks and NGOs.

Sally is currently Programme Expert and leader of the Gender Equal Cities initiative for [URBACT](#), the European exchange and learning programme for cities. She also works for the [London Borough of Lambeth Business, Culture and Investment Team](#), the [Greater London Authority Social Integration Network](#) and the Capital Enterprise [OneTech](#) project.

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