



European Committee
of the Regions

For more women in politics

8 March 2021 | 9:15-11:15 | 14:00-15:45 CET

#Power2Her

International Women's Day 2021

Platform: Interactio

Interpreting: EN, FR, DE, ES, IT, PL

09:15-09:30: Political Opening:

Speakers:

- **Mr Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, President of the European Committee of the Regions.

Moderator: Ms Sally Kneeshaw, URBACT Programme Expert.

09:30-11:15: How to enhance gender parity at local and regional political level?

Europe has roughly a million local and regional elected office-holders, but only about 30% of them are women. In 2019, women held only one third (33%) of seats in regional assemblies in 20 EU Member States. In addition, several European countries continue to have more than 80% male representation in regional assemblies. Therefore, it is crucial to tackle the barriers women face in entering politics and actively engage local and regional politicians in this matter. This session will present the main findings of the [Gender Equality Index 2020](#) on power in politics. Concrete actions from the ground to facilitate the participation of women in the local and regional political sphere will be presented and discussed by local, regional and European politicians.

Speakers:

- **Ligia Nobrega**, Project Manager - Gender Expert, European Institute for Gender Equality;
- **Concepción Andreu Rodríguez**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (ES/PES), President of the Regional Government of La Rioja, Rapporteur for the CoR Opinion "A Union of Equality: Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025";
- **Evin Incir**, Member of the European Parliament (SE/S&D), Member of the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs;
- **Rafał Kazimierz Trzaskowski**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (PL/EPP), President of the capital city of Warsaw;
- **Hélène Ryckmans**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (BE/The Greens), Member of the Parliament of Wallonia;
- **Alison Gilliland**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (IE/PES), City Councillor, Dublin;
- **Elisabet Nebreda Vila**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (ES/EA), Secretary for Foreign Action and the EU in the Government of Catalonia;
- **Maxi Carl**, participant in the CoR Young Elected Politicians Programme (DE/PES), City Councillor, Hannover.

Moderator: Sally Kneeshaw, URBACT Programme Expert.



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14:00-15:15: Are the web and social media a safe place for women politicians?

According to a study on *The female political career* by the Women Political Leaders global network, the representation of women leaders in traditional media represents an obstacle to gender parity. The incredible impact of social media, along with their low entry cost, means that they can act as a political equaliser. In fact, more than 85% of female legislators use social media to communicate with their constituents. On the other hand, digital communication is also the main tool used to deliver threats of death, rape and beatings against female politicians. This session will present the impact that online violence plays in excluding women from having a voice in political life, and present methods and strategies for addressing it.

Speakers:

- **Dan Arnaudo**, leading adviser on technology, the information space, hate speech and online violence, [National Democratic Institute](#);
- **Léa Bodossian**, advocacy support, [I Am Here International](#);
- **Jelena Drenjanin**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (SE/EPP), Member of the Huddinge local assembly;
- **Daniela Ballico**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (IT/ECR), Mayor of Ciampino;
- **Niina Ratilainen**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (FI/The Greens), Member of the Turku city council;
- **Jana Degrott**, participant in the CoR Young Elected Politicians Programme (LU/Renew), City Councillor, Luxembourg.

Moderator: Lucia Kleštincová, Member of the Equality Task Force of the European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli, European Commission.

15:15-15:45: Leading by examples: women politicians acting as role models.

Elected female politicians can serve as role models to inspire other women to be active in politics. Role models affect psychological engagement and the motivation of women to run for elections. Two politicians from the local/regional and European level will have ten minutes each to motivate other female politicians to engage in politics.

Speakers:

- **Samira Rafaela**, Member of the European Parliament (NL/Renew), Member of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality;
- **Jasna Gabrič**, Member of the European Committee of the Regions (SI/Renew), Mayor of the Municipality of Trbovlje.

Moderator: Lucia Kleštincová, Member of the Equality Task Force of the European Commissioner for Equality Helena Dalli, European Commission.



European Committee of the Regions

Created in 1994, after the entry into force of the Maastricht Treaty, the European Committee of the Regions is the EU's assembly of 329 regional and local representatives from all 27 Member States, representing over 447million Europeans. Its main objectives are to involve regional and local authorities and the communities they represent in the European Union's decision-making process and to inform them about EU policies. The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council have to consult the Committee in policy areas affecting regions and cities. It can appeal to the Court of Justice of the European Union as a means of upholding EU law where there are breaches to the subsidiarity principle or failures to respect regional or local authorities.

Edited by the Directorate for Communication of the European Committee of the Regions

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