



Recommendation 2152 (2019)¹

Promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Recalling that gender-based violence affects women in all aspects of life and that the world of politics is no exception, the Parliamentary Assembly draws the attention of the Committee of Ministers to its [Resolution 2274 \(2019\)](#) on promoting parliaments free of sexism and sexual harassment.
2. The Assembly welcomes the inclusion of gender equality, the fight against gender-based violence and the promotion of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (CETS No. 210, “Istanbul Convention”) among the priorities of the presidency of the Committee of Ministers.
3. The Assembly reiterates its unfaltering support for the Istanbul Convention and welcomes the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1 on preventing and combating sexism. It looks forward to the organisation of a meeting bringing together the international and regional mechanisms to combat violence against women to be held in 2019 under the auspices of the Council of Europe.
4. The Assembly recalls that the 2018 World Forum for Democracy on the theme “Gender equality: whose battle?” enabled participants to discuss the links between greater gender equality, balanced representation of women and men in politics and the fight against gender-based violence.
5. As a follow-up to the World Forum for Democracy and to the regional study “Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe”, which it jointly conducted with the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 2018, and considering that the specific issues of sexism and violence against women in politics have been largely neglected until recently, the Assembly encourages the Committee of Ministers to ensure that this issue is adequately taken into account in the context of the relevant Council of Europe intergovernmental work.
6. In order to strengthen monitoring and data collection, the Assembly:
 - 6.1. recommends that the Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (GREVIO) address the issue of violence against women in politics in its country visits, reports and recommendations;
 - 6.2. encourages the Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations to develop a model for national non-governmental organisations and civil society groups to collect data and information on violence against women in politics.
7. Likewise, with a view to enhancing knowledge, exchanging information and sharing promising practices, the Assembly invites the Committee of Ministers to ensure that the issue of sexism and violence against women in politics is included in the dialogue between the appropriate Council of Europe bodies and other regional mechanisms to combat violence against women.
8. Finally, the Assembly asks the Committee of Ministers to ensure that its activities in the area of electoral assistance and co-operation also cover sexism and violence against women in the context of elections.

1. *Assembly debate* on 9 April 2019 (13th Sitting) (see [Doc. 14843](#), report of the Committee on Equality and Non-Discrimination, rapporteur: Ms Thorhildur Sunna Ævarsdóttir). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 9 April 2019 (13th Sitting).

