



# Gender Equality and Political Processes: Why don't women vote for women?

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## SUMMARY

The participation of women in political life in Serbia has increased in recent years thanks to the legislative changes and the introduction of gender equality mechanisms. However, women usually occupy lower or essentially less influential political positions than men, what is visible in the parliament where there is no political party run by a woman. Also, the analysis of the ruling parties' programmes indicates that gender equality issues are marginalised and insufficiently developed, and that political parties do not recognize the problems of gender based violence, gender inequality in the market and discrimination of women in the media as relevant in their political activities. The change of political programmes, the introduction of quotas and the implementation of the existing ones at all party and government levels is necessary for the increased participation of women in political sphere and their stronger contribution to the development of gender sensitive political discourse. Additionally, strengthening of gender identity of female politicians and higher level of solidarity among women who rarely support female candidates at inter-party levels, thus weakening their one political position, is necessary. The establishment of Women's Parliamentary Network of Serbia represents a good example of political activism aimed at higher repositioning of relevant issues regarding the status of women on the political agenda.