



BACKGROUND

The presence of women in Sri Lanka's Parliament is significantly low, constituting a mere 5.3%, with only 12 out of 225 members being women. Women in Sri Lanka encounter significant obstacles to political representation, and the nation is globally positioned among the lowest in terms of the proportion of women in national legislatures. Hence, targeted action is required to address the issue of underrepresentation of women in governance.

Women in Politics Sri Lanka



Recommendations by the WPC 9th Parliament of Sri Lanka - December 2023

1

NATIONAL LIST

ENSURE THAT 50% OF THE NATIONAL LIST ARE WOMEN FROM VARIOUS PROFESSIONS. THE TOP TWO CANDIDATES CANNOT BE FROM THE SAME SEX - USE THE ZIGZAG METHOD.

2

NOMINATIONS LIST

ENSURE THAT AT LEAST 30% OF THE LIST OF NOMINATIONS FOR CANDIDATES ARE WOMEN.

3

CLOSED PARTY LISTS

THE CANDIDATES IN NATIONAL LISTS MUST NOT BE CHANGED POST-ELECTIONS.

4

CO-LEADERSHIP MODEL

APPOINT MALE AND FEMALE CO-LEADERS FOR EACH PARTY.

5

GENDER QUOTAS

INTRODUCE A TEMPORARY QUOTA OF 25% FOR WOMEN, UNTIL A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD IS CREATED FOR MEN AND WOMEN TO CONTEST. ALL PARTIES MUST VOLUNTARILY APPOINT AT LEAST 33% WOMEN TO THEIR DECISION-MAKING BODIES.

6

SGBV

MAINTAIN A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY AGAINST SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV).

7

ELECTORAL REFORMS

REFORM THE ELECTORAL SYSTEM, PREFERABLY ADOPTING THE NEW ZEALAND MODEL AS APPROPRIATE. LAWS MUST MANDATE AT LEAST 25% WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT AND 1/3 WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING BODIES WITHIN PARTY STRUCTURES.