

The background features a large, light-brown archway with intricate, repeating patterns. To the left, there is a vertical border with a repeating floral and scrollwork pattern. The overall aesthetic is traditional and ornate.

EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR STRONGER POLITICAL PARTIES

Women and Political Parties

The National Democratic Institute

INTRODUCTIONS/ GROUND RULES

- Introductions
- Ground rules
- Ice breaker exercise



Photo: NDI

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the need for and status of women's participation within parties
- To identify barriers for women in political parties
- To consider entry points for promoting women's leadership and participation within political party structures

TOPICS

- Why women?
- Global and national trends
- Barriers to participation
- Strategies for empowering women
- Engaging men



Photo: Marie-Eve Bilodeau, NDI

KEY TERMS

- Political party
- Electoral cycle
- Women's wing
- Quota
- Reserved seat
- Parliamentary caucus
- Gender
- Gender equality
- Empowerment

WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION: BENEFITS

- Higher standards of living
- Concerns of marginalized voters represented
- Collaborative leadership styles
- Work across party lines
- Peace building
- Better decisions



Photo: NDI

WHY DO WOMEN NEED PARTIES?

- Parties are gateway to political leadership
- Parties inform the policy agenda
- Yet parties are often the greatest challenge
- Women continue to be under-represented

EXERCISE: WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES

- True or False?



Photo: NDI

WHY DO PARTIES NEED WOMEN?

- To gain party supporters
- To help develop a platform that includes interests of all voters
- To win elections!

WOMEN IN POLITICS: GLOBAL TRENDS

- Women in parliament: 20.3%
- Rwanda: 56.3%
- 33 parliamentary lower chambers with 30% or more
- Presiding officers: 15.1%
- 7 countries: no women
- 16.7% of ministerial posts
- 17 heads of government



Photo: Mark Wilson, Getty Images

UKRAINE COUNTRY DATA

- 63% of Ukrainian voters are women
- 7.5% of MPs are women
- 0% of Ukrainian ministers are women
- 0% of Ukrainian governors are women

WOMEN LEADERS

| Party | Women Leaders | % of Members |
|-------|---|--------------|
| MQM | Rabta Committee 1. Dr. Nasreen Jalil 2. Ms. Mumtaz Anwar | 18% |
| PML | Central Cabinet 1. Dr. Hamida Khorho, Senior Vice-President 2. Mrs. Yaqut Jamil-ur-Rehman, Vice-President 3. Begum Mehnaz Rafi, Vice-President 4. Ms. Nilofer Bakhtiar, President, Women's Wing | 14% |
| PML-N | Central Cabinet 1. Begum Tehmina Daultana, Vice-President 2. Begum Ishrat Ashraf 3. Ms. Najma Hameed | 4% |
| PPP | Central Executive Committee 1. Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, Chairperson 2. Begum Nusrat Bhutto Rahbar | 5% |

UKRAINE TODAY



Photo: Sergei Supinsky, AFP/Getty Images

UKRAINE: FUTURE?

- 30% of MPs are women
- 30% of governors are women
- 30% provincial councilors are women
- 50% local elected officials are women



EXERCISE

Women's political participation:
identifying helping and hindering forces



Image: Inter-parliamentary Union

OBSTACLES TO WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION



Photo: NDI

- Legal
- Economic
- Educational
- Social/cultural/
religious

OBSTACLES TO WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

- Time
- Space
- Physical security
- Lack of confidence
- Political parties

EXERCISE

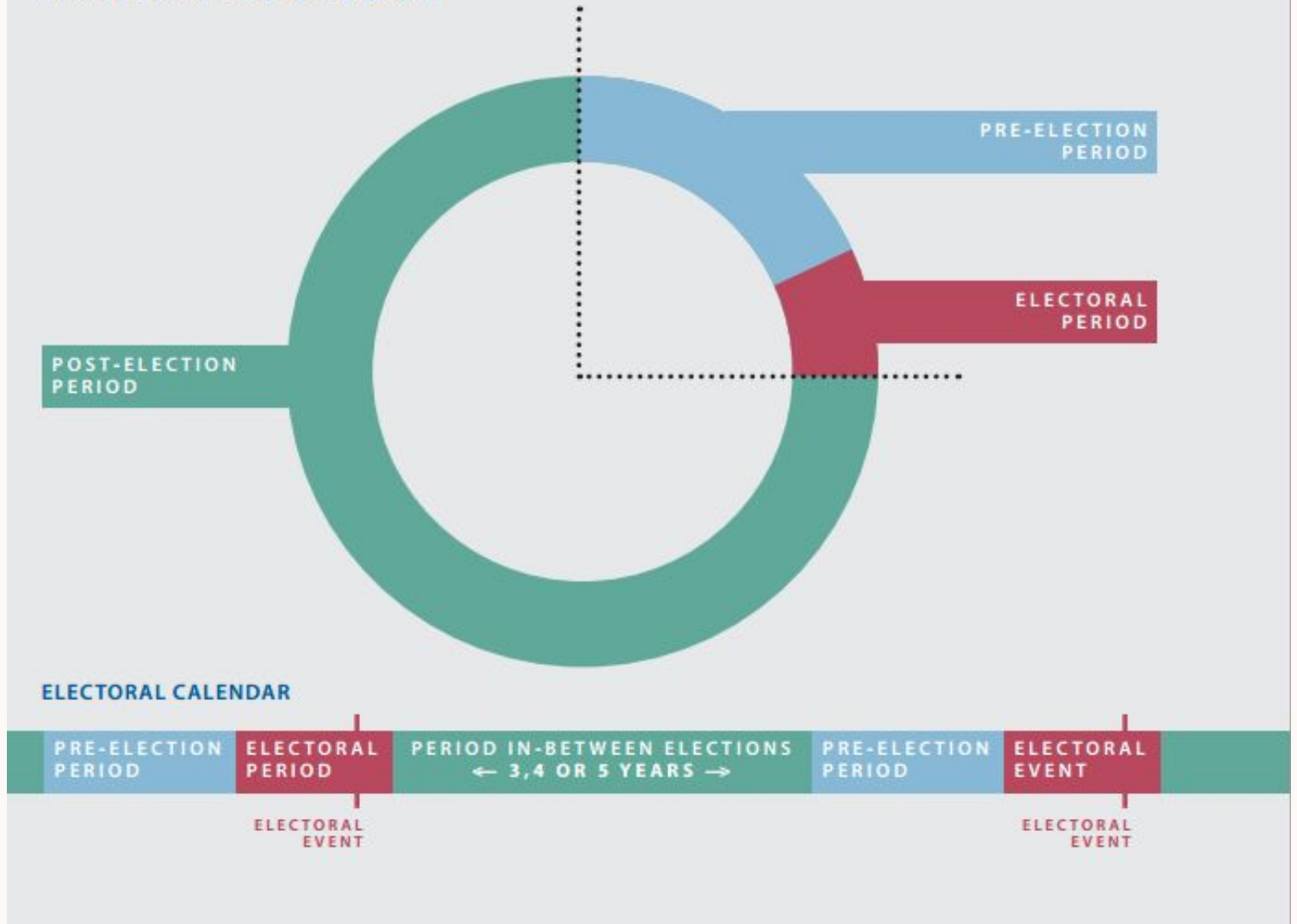
Who does what within the party?



Photo: Amy Hamelin, NDI

THE ELECTORAL CYCLE

FIGURE 2: THE ELECTORAL CYCLE⁶



INTERNAL PARTY ORGANIZATION

- Revise legal framework
- Ensure participation in decision-making
- Set targets for participation in conventions
- Establish/strengthen women's wings
- Mainstream gender in policy development

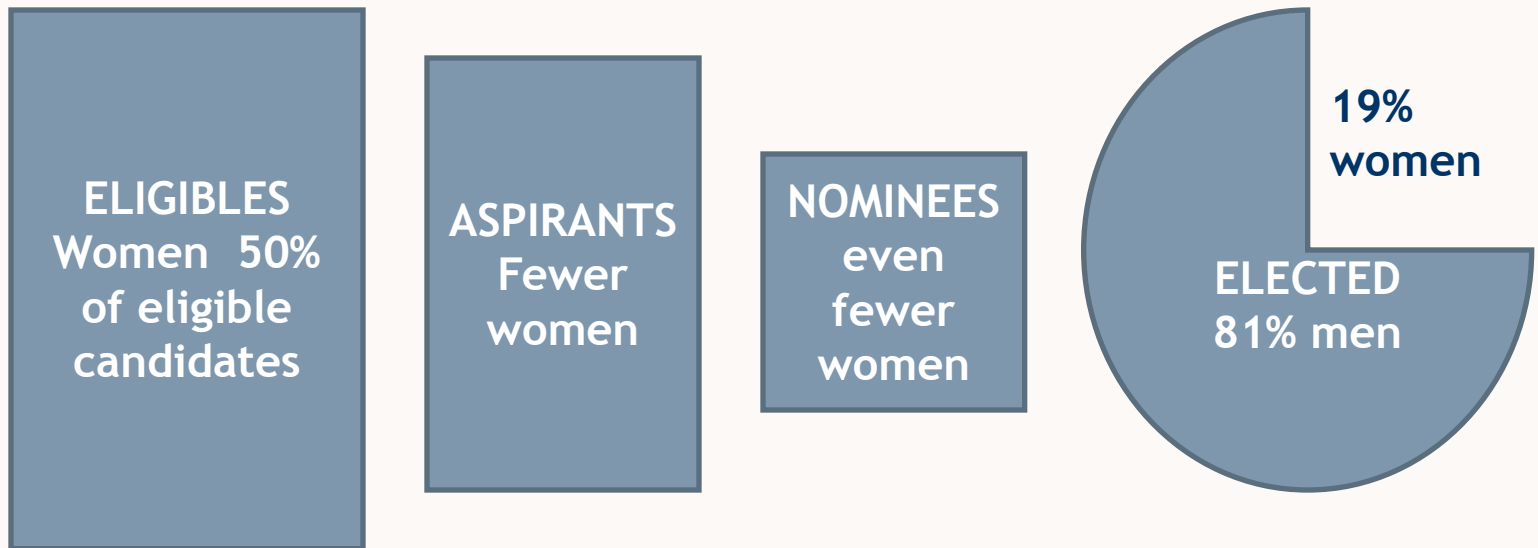
INTERNAL PARTY ORGANIZATION EXAMPLES

Australia: Labor Party adopted quotas guaranteeing women's participation in governing boards.

Serbia: G17 Plus women's wing is recognized in the party bylaws.

PRE-ELECTORAL PERIOD

Candidate Recruitment and Nomination Stages



CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATION

- Key Issues
- Quotas
 - Candidate Quotas
 - Reserved Seats
 - Placement and Enforcement



Quotas May Be:

- ✓ Voluntary – adopted by parties
- ✓ Legislated – legally required

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATION STRATEGIES

- Party support for quotas
- Guidelines for candidate recruitment
- Implementation and placement in winnable positions



Photo: Amy Hamelin, NDI

CANDIDATE RECRUITMENT AND NOMINATION STRATEGIES

- Work with CSOs to monitor compliance
- Cultivate strategic alliances with men
- Expand the pool of viable candidates
- Encourage sharing of experiences

FUNDING OF PARTIES AND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

- Key Issue: Raising funds to win the nomination and finance campaign
- More challenging for women
 - Lower economic status
 - Limited fundraising experience and networks



Image: www.pixababy.com

FUNDING OF PARTIES AND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

- Establish fundraising networks
- Establish internal party fund
- Provide subsidies to women
- Limit nomination and campaign expenditures

FUNDING OF PARTIES AND ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

- Public funding of parties
- Funds for training women
- Gender responsive budgeting



Image: www.pixababy.com

EXAMPLE: EMILY'S LIST

- American organization
- Seeks to elect Democratic women
- 1985: 25 women raised \$350,000
- 2010: 700,000 members raised \$82 million
- Provides funding and training



Photo: www.emilyslist.org

ELECTORAL PERIOD

- Key Issues
 - Access to funding and media
 - Capacity building for women
 - Targeting women voters
 - Articulating positions on gender

ELECTORAL PERIOD STRATEGIES

- Train and mentor women candidates
- Ensure women's visibility
- Identify and disseminate positions on priority issues for women



Photo: NDI

ELECTORAL PERIOD STRATEGIES

- Gender sensitive electoral monitoring
- Gender sensitive voter information



Photo: Megan Doherty, NDI

POST-ELECTORAL PERIOD

Gender Responsive Governance

- Formulate policy
- Set governance priorities
- Address the concerns of women



Photo: NDI

GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES

- Undertake a gender equality assessment
- Provide training to newly elected members

GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES

- Promote gender-sensitive reforms in parliament
- Ensure gender mainstreaming in party policy
- Retain women and give them access to vacancies



Photo: AFP/Getty Images

GENDER RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE STRATEGIES

- Support women's cross-party networks and caucuses
- Form strategic partnerships with CSOs
- Sensitize party members and work with men

EXERCISE: POLITICAL PARTY ASSESSMENT



Photo: NDI

EXAMPLE: BURKINA FASO

- Women's mobilization
- Candidate quotas
- Partnership with men
- Gender neutral quota language



Burkina Faso At a Glance:

National Assembly: 127 members (20 women/
16%)

Electoral System: Proportional Representation

EXERCISE: ENGAGING MEN ROLE PLAY



Photo: NDI

EXERCISE: PRIORITIZING RECOMMENDATIONS AND DEVELOPING ACTION PLANS



Photo: NDI

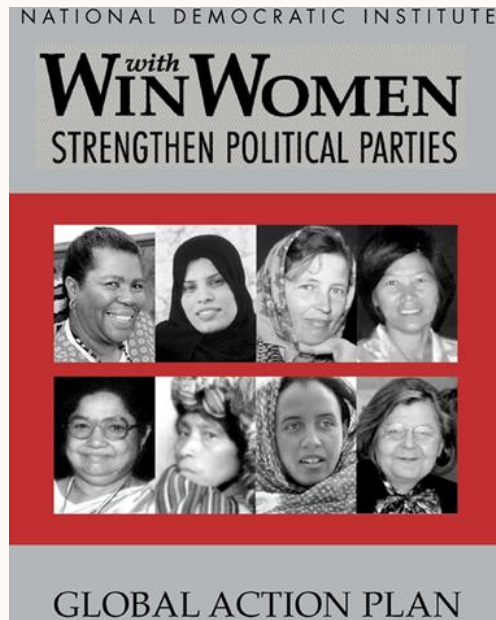
PUBLIC OPINION RESEARCH

Ukraine (2010)

- Do you think that higher female representation in local councils is needed?
 - ✓ 47% of respondent said yes
 - ✓ 25% said no
- Is the gender of a candidate important?
 - ✓ 59% do not care

NDI RESOURCES

- Empowering Women for Stronger Political Parties
- Win with Women Global Action Plan
- iKNOW Politics: www.iknowpolitics.org



EMPOWERING WOMEN FOR STRONGER PARTIES *REVIEW*

- Link between women's participation and good governance
- Women's participation benefits parties
- Challenges can be addressed throughout the electoral cycle
- Contextualized approaches

