



# Women's direct participation in politics

Women's direct participation in political decision making process is essential for gender equality. Thus, the third amendment to the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972 requires political parties to set the goal of reserving at least 33 percent of all committee positions for women including the central committee, progressively achieving this goal by the year 2020.

While Bangladesh takes pride in women leadership in many of its key positions— including the head of the government, opposition leader, Speaker of the Parliament— women's direct participation in the parliamentary election remains far behind the commitment made in the RPO.

This Policy Breakfast aims to be an excellent opportunity to put the issue on the table on what holding back women to participate in the politics as in direct election, what can be done to curb political and electoral violence against women and how the political participation of women in direct election can be increased.



IID Policy Breakfast series promotes evidence-informed and solution-driven debate among key influencers of policy community under Chatham House rule for candid discussion.

## Theory of change:

### Women's direct participation in politics

Goal



Enabling space for women's increased and meaningful political participation within the political party system

Objective

Women gain more meaningful roles and leadership positions within political parties

Intermediate results



Institutional Level

Increased ability of political parties to identify, attract, recruit, and support female members



Socio-Cultural Level

Changes perceptions on women's participation in politics and political parties



Individual Level

Strengthening women's capacity, skills, and knowledge to participate in political parties

Based on NDI TOC



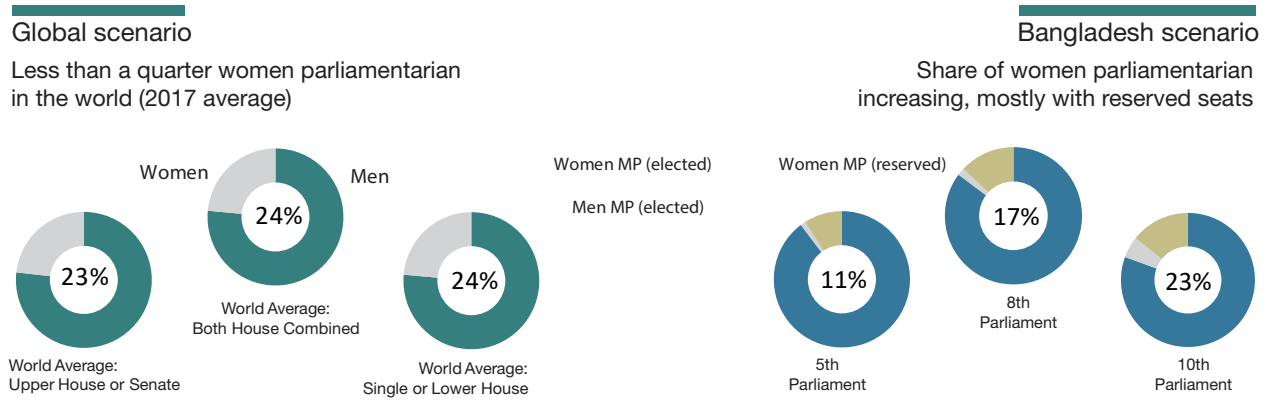
**why do women need parties?**

**why do parties need women?**

- Gateway to political leadership
- Inform the policy agenda
- To gain party supporters
- Develop inclusive platform
- To win elections

**Yet – Women continue to be under-represented**

**% of women in parliament**



Less representation, because of less nominations! **46 times male candidates** } 201 female candidates against 9209 male candidates in past 5 parliament elections

**Women are more winnable**

More female candidates won against male candidates, than the other way round

**In 9th Parliament**  
18% male winners as percentage of total male nominations  
**32%** female winners as percentage of total female nominations

**In 10th Parliament**  
55% male winners as percentage of total male nominations  
**62%** female winners as percentage of total female nominations

