

1325 DUTCH NAP PARTNERSHIP
2020 REPORT



NIMD and NAP 1325

The **Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD)** works to promote peaceful, just and inclusive democracies worldwide. To that end, and together with our global network, we work with the entire political sector in a country, from aspiring politicians to political leaders, and from national to local level. Currently, we run programmes in some twenty countries in Africa, Latin America, Southeast Asia, and the MENA of which most are recognized to be fragile and conflict affected settings (FCAS), as shown on this [FCAS-worldmap](#) (and attached).

As such NIMD recognizes the importance of the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), the 9 related UNSC Resolutions (1820 (2009), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2010), 1960 (2011), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), 2467 (2019), 2493 (2019)) and CEDAW General Recommendation 30 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda.

NIMD specifically aims to contribute to the participation pillar of NAP 1325: Full and equal participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making, including peace-processes, electoral processes (both candidates and voters), UN positions, and the broader social-political sphere.

NIMD contributes in different degrees to the following objective(s) of the Dutch NAP 1325-III:

1. Enhance protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations against violence and violations of their rights.
2. Decrease of harmful underlying gender norms, which are obstacles to sustainable peace.
3. Ensure that women have equal leverage in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, relief and recovery at all levels, and that their efforts are acknowledged and supported.



Our work on NAP 1325 and the WPS agenda

The year 2020 was marked by the global scale and impact of the Corona pandemic, which amongst others led to a reported increase of Gender Based Violence (GBV), and placed a heavier burden of unpaid care work on women. However, in light of the Women Peace and Security agenda (WPS), one of the areas most at risk of being negatively affected, is the participation of women in peace building efforts.

Below we report a selection of examples showcasing how NIMD and its partners continued their efforts in 2020 towards creating a conducive environment that allows for women's (political) participation and decision-making under the following NAP 1325 objectives:

- a. Increased understanding of gender-based (political) violence and the protection of women through training, sensitization, media outreach, and democracy education. This includes preparations for the (further) implementation of the WPS agenda in our own organization, policies and/or programmes.*

In 2020, NIMD finalized its **gender policy** and disseminated it among our country offices. In the policy, we make specific reference to NAP 1325: NIMD is one of the 50 Dutch civil society organizations working closely with the Dutch government in order to fulfil the UNSC 1325 clauses through its active involvement within this network and provision of consultations. NIMD also follows closely, alongside its country offices and partners, the implementation and inclusion of the UN 1325 mandates in their programme planning. Therefore, through our work, and cooperation with female and male politicians in political parties and state institutions, NIMD is in tune with the Netherlands' NAP 1325. NIMD echoes not just the Netherlands's but the international community's goal of: "helping break down harmful gender norms, enhance protection", and "giving men and women equal leverage in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, relief and recovery".



NIMD Colombia assisted with the preparation of two bills on violence against women in politics, as part of the ongoing support to actions to remove barriers for women's political participation. Unfortunately, a complete reform of the political and electoral systems, being one of the recommendations of the Special Electoral Mission created by the Peace Agreement, was not enacted. The programme will continue to lobby for this reform.

- b. Increased understanding of gender equality and gender norms with political actors in several programmes around the world, including Colombia, Mali, Burundi and Myanmar.*

NIMD, as consortium lead, was awarded a 5 year grant was awarded under Strengthening Civil Society for WPS partnership fund. The **Women Leadership and Participation for Peace (LEAP4Peace)** Consortium consists of the Burundi Leadership Training Program (BLTP), the Gender Equality Network Myanmar (GEN), the NIMD office in Colombia and Myanmar, Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) and NIMD The Hague. Leap4Peace aims to contribute to 'A conducive environment for women's full and meaningful inclusion in political and decision-making processes to sustain peace in Burundi, Colombia and Myanmar'. Attached you find the track records of the consortium partners.

Since 2016, NIMD has been engaged in **Honduras** in a long-term process to help to prepare the country's institutions for much-needed reforms. In 2020, we supported the National Congress's multiparty Technical Committee to develop a bill for a new Electoral Law. As part of this, we submitted an analysis of the current electoral legislation, including recommendations. The Technical Committee has now submitted the bill to Congress; it includes reinforcement of the gender quota and fairer registration for political parties, among other amendments. We are working with political parties to support the approval of this bill, ahead of Honduras's 2021 elections.

In **Uganda**, NIMD and Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) carried out a study on the [Cost-of-Politics-in Uganda](#). The study found that found that many Ugandans – particularly women and young people – are excluded from entering and participating in politics because they cannot afford it. Consequently, and as identified by our country representative: "The skyrocketing cost of politics is an enormous threat to the kind of inclusive politics that is necessary for equitable development and sustainable peace in Uganda." Such a [study](#) was also done in **Mali** and **Benin**. The study made evident that the negative impact of money in politics is on the rise, thanks to the exclusion of those who cannot afford to fund a campaign – especially historically economically disenfranchised groups such as women and young people. In candidate selection processes, the money needed to finance campaigns has started taking precedence over the ideological and political capacities of the candidates.

[Guatemala's Forum for women MPs](#) presented their strategic plan last year to develop laws towards gender equality in Guatemala. In addition to our support to the strategic plan, NIMD has been helping to strengthen the Forum by supporting the Congresswomen as they put forward policies to empower women and thus giving them a central role in efforts to boost the economy during the COVID-19 crisis.



c. Increased involvement of men and boys in the addressing of internal and external barriers in political parties for women political participation and policy making processes

Following years of work with political parties across the world to enhance their inclusiveness and based on the experience acquired in the program “Respect for Women Political Rights (WPR)”, NIMD finalized in 2020 the **Gender Roadmap for Inclusive Political Parties (GRIPP)**. This is a comprehensive method to support one or several political parties within a given country to progressively adopt the necessary measures to become truly gender inclusive. In 2021, we aim to make a start with the roll out of this tool in Colombia and Honduras.

The 2020 end evaluation of the Strategic Partnership programme highlighted the outcome from **Kenya**: that during the 1st July 2019 elections of NIMD’s partner Center for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD-K) Steering Committee, the political parties nominated and elected more high-calibre women to the leadership CMD-K. This election speaks to the very substantial contribution of CMD-K’s internal capacity, funding base, and programmatic coherence. CMD-K has a strong gender agenda in its strategic documents and its programmatic activities support women’s inclusion. NIMD’s support is credited for helping to build a solid institution with structures and a qualified staff base.

Little progress was made in **Burundi** towards the above objective because 2020 was dominated by the preparation and follow up of the general elections and the establishment of the institutions resulting from these elections. Our partner BLTP did carry out a study on the institutionalization of political parties in Burundi and its impact on the political participation of young people and women. The study concludes: “The new authorities, first and foremost the President of the Republic, are constantly expressing their desire to change the political conduct of state institutions in order to establish good political and economic governance. It is nevertheless worrying to realize that the contemporary political discourse makes very little mention of the place and role of Burundian women in the current political dynamics. It seems as if respecting quotas is enough for women's effective political participation. It is therefore crucial to increase the scope of women's demands by focusing advocacy on areas that can have a tangible impact on women's living conditions. This could ensure women's effective political participation”.

d. Women are agents of change and have increased capacities, skills, knowledge and resources for meaningful participation in conflict prevention, resolution, peacebuilding, relief and recovery through democracy schools in Colombia and Myanmar.

Although the start of 2021 paints a worrying democratic and peace picture for **Myanmar**, the 2020 elections showed that women’s participation and representation in Myanmar’s political system was increasing slowly but steadily. During the 8 November elections, the proportion of women parliamentarians at national level rose by six percentage points from the 2015 elections and is now close to 19%. While this is still below the global average, NIMD was particularly happy to have several female alumni of the Myanmar School of Politics (MySoP) among the elected parliamentarians ([empowering-female-leaders-at-the-myanmar-school-of-politics](#)). More than 200 MySoP alumni from



37 political parties were selected as candidates, out of which one-third were women. From these alumni 42 candidates were elected – and one-third of them were women.

Since working with political parties amidst the pandemic was a challenge, NIMD **Colombia** focused on women and youth to increase their knowledge and abilities to enter and remain in the political arena, by implementing two online Democracy Schools for Women and two Democracy Schools for Youth from political parties. Furthermore, NIMD Colombia fostered an alliance between State institutions and international organizations to prevent and mitigate gender-based violence against women in political parties, plus participated in the congressional hearings of two bills aimed to eradicate this phenomenon (above mentioned).

Together with the Electoral Observation Mission, NIMD Colombia published in 2020 the [annual report](#) on violence against political, social and communal leaders in **Colombia**. The report notes that in terms of “acts of violence against women who are political, social and communal leaders, there has been a consistent rise between 2017 and 2020 in cases of violence against women who occupy leadership roles. They went from 47 in 2017, to 62 in 2018, to 106 in 2019 and 120 in 2020. Furthermore, the equally consistent increase in the number of lethal acts of violence against women leaders is alarming (21 in 2017, 29 in 2018, 34 in 2019 and 35 in 2020). These numbers show that in only three years, events of lethal violence against women leaders have increased by 66.7%”. The study furthermore found that “Among the practices and aggressions that affect, inhibit or hinder the effective participation of women in politics (in different leadership roles), the following have been identified:

- a) gender stereotypes in politics that are used to intimidate and discourage their participation;
- b) the lack of support by social and political organizations, as well as other leaders in their communities and their own family members;
- c) the double standard with which they’re treated, compared to men;
- d) the economic violence they are the object of;
- e) the aggressions and sexual harassment of which they are victims;
- f) different practices that seek to displace them from leadership roles, so that men are the ones who are prominent and can aspire to popular election;
- g) a larger exposure to attacks, because of their feminist identity, and carrying a gender and women’s rights agenda;
- h) a differential effect, in the context of political polarization, stigmatization and political violence the country is currently experiencing.

Finally, in 2020 NIMD has continuously brought the importance of women’s political participation and the link between democracy and peace to the attention of the (Dutch) public via a number of blogs, human interest stories and interviews to be found on [NIMD news](#). We also contributed to the Vice Versa [Gender-Special](#) (p22) with two stories of women in political leadership positions in unstable and violent contexts.

