



Agencija za ravnopravnost spolova Bosne i Hercegovine

Gender Equality Pledge for Political Parties

We, the leaders of political parties signed below, hereby demonstrate our commitment to gender equality. We fully acknowledge the need for, and value of, equal participation of women and men in public and political life. As political leaders recognizing gender equality as a cornerstone of democracy, we pledge the following:

1. To fully respect the BiH Law on Gender Equality and to ensure adherence to legally defined levels of women's participation in decision making bodies, including, but not limited to, executive structures and legislative and representatives bodies.
2. To equally promote men and women candidates and to provide all with equal access to campaigning tools, media and financial assistance, in order to ensure fair treatment of party members running for office.
3. To actively advocate for gender equality issues, demonstrating genuine commitment and serious intentions towards gender mainstreaming and progressing towards gender equality.
4. To not consider women politicians solely responsible for promoting gender equality issues, recognizing the important role men play in progressing towards gender equality.
5. To include topics of gender equality in political party programmes, internal documents and trainings as a means to enhance understanding of the importance of gender equality issues among party members.
6. To not tolerate sexist remarks, hate speech or any form of discrimination by, or directed towards, party members, demonstrating commitment to principles of non-discrimination.
7. To welcome co-operation with gender institutional mechanisms, NGOs, media and citizens as partners in promoting gender equality.

Recognizing the need for further investment in the implementation of public policies in the area of gender equality; that social development can have a different impact on women and men; and that women face specific forms of gender-based discrimination, we further pledge the following:

8. To support equality and equal opportunities for men and women, including those belonging to vulnerable groups, in the labour market, recognizing Bosnia and Herzegovina's low rate of participation of men, and especially women, in the labour market.

9. To support the development and implementation of policies where women receive proper maternity leave benefits and to support policies that increase the quantity and quality of facilities for Preschool and Early Childhood Education.
10. To support programmes and policies that reconcile professional and private life for women and men.
11. To provide support to safe houses, SOS helplines and multi-disciplinary teams in efforts to protect victims of domestic violence in BiH – the vast majority of whom are women.
12. To ensure policies focusing on social inclusion take into consideration the special needs of Roma women, women with disabilities, women from rural areas, migrant women, women victims of war and internally displaced women, recognizing the multiple forms of social exclusion women face in BiH.