



OUR VOICE

**WOMEN IN THE HOUSE.
WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA HAS NO WOMEN IN NATIONAL PARLIAMENT.
THIS IS A PROBLEM FOR OUR COUNTRY.**

WHY?

- Women and men are two wings of a bird, with women's equal participation in leadership the bird can fly higher and further!
- Women have a right to participate in decisions that affect their lives.
- When women lead, everybody benefits and communities are safer and more equal.
- To ensure women's priorities and solutions are considered in decision-making, women must be present.
- Women and men can share the responsibilities of leadership and work together to create solutions that will benefit their communities.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

The Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government is currently reviewing the electoral laws. This is an opportunity for change.

Temporary special measures (TSMs), such as quotas and reserved seats, have been used successfully in other countries to increase women's representation in parliament. TSMs work! In Timor Leste, women make up 32.3% of the national parliament since TSMs were introduced.

OUR VOICE IS STRONGER WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER FOR CHANGE - JOIN US!

This is a joint brief from the following organisations working to promote women's leadership in PNG and the Autonomous Region of Bougainville: Voice for Change, Eastern Highlands Family Voice, Nazareth Centre for Rehabilitation, Wide Bay Conservation Association, and Bougainville Women's Federation.

We are members of Our Voice, which is a joint campaign working to increase the representation and effective participation of women in decision-making at the local level in five countries across Asia and the Pacific, including Papua New Guinea.

WHAT DO WE RECOMMEND?

Reserved seats for women are introduced at the national level in PNG

22 seats, elected by all voters, are reserved for women (one seat per province plus one for National Capital District and one for the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.)

OR

A "safety net" model of a minimum of 10% of seats for women is introduced.

Local Level Government reform for 50/50 representation

Each ward should elect one male and one female representative, with the leadership roles for each Local Level Government rotating between male and female representatives.

Other measures to support women's representation

- Introducing a political parties women candidates' quota of at least 20%;
- Preventing violence against women during elections: for example, women-only polling stations;
- Supporting local women's rights organisations;
- Introducing a national gender advisory board to promote the needs of women and girls from all regions of PNG; and
- A public awareness media campaign in support of women's leadership and compulsory training on gender equality for all members of parliament.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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