



## Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

*...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland*



# Women in Politics

Yvonne Galligan  
Centre for Advancement of Women in Politics  
Queen's University Belfast

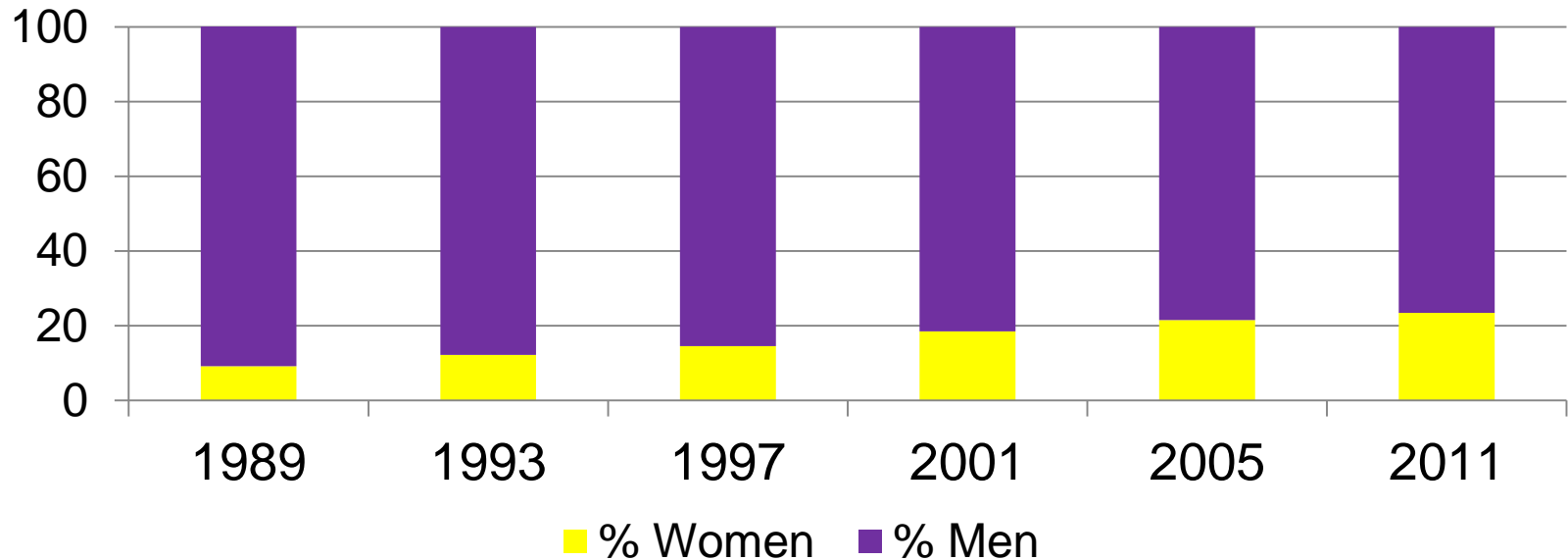
# Women in Politics comparisons

**Table 1. Women in Devolved Assemblies, 1998-2012 (%)**



# Local Councils

**Table 2. Local Council Election Results 1989-2011,  
by gender (%)**



# Why does gender parity in elected office matter?

Democratic principle, and a matter of social and gender justice. Symbolically an indicator of women's status in society.

Women bring different views and insights to all challenges. Expands diversity of debate and solutions.

Women bring insights from their experiences and social situation, so can give voice to women-specific issues. Parliament becomes more responsive to citizen's interests



# General Action Plans

- Constitutional Rights
- Electoral System
- Legal Quotas
- Party Rules and Recruitment Processes
- Capacity Development
- Parliamentary Reform

In combination (and as relevant) provide legal, procedural and supportive actions



# Parties

Quotas – voluntary party gender thresholds for candidates in 50+ countries worldwide, including Austria, South Africa, Germany, Sweden, Mozambique and the Netherlands

Norwegian Labour Party *Women Can Do It* programme, in over 20 countries, trains women candidates

Campaign for Gender Balance + Liberal Democrat Women, develops and mentors women potential candidates



# Civil Society

## Women for Election (Ireland)

tailored training and support programme for women seeking to enter public life.

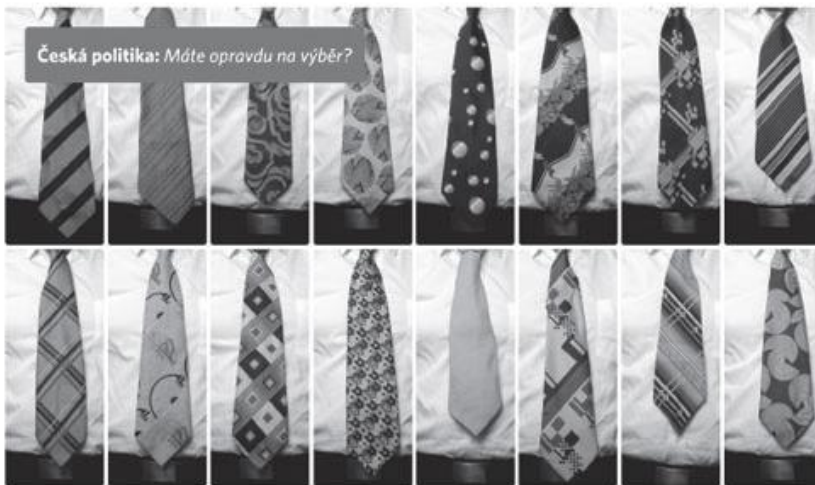


## Shariky (Lebanon)

Gives women participants the confidence, network and skills to run successful campaigns.



# Public awareness campaigns



■ Ženy tvoří přes 50 % populace České republiky. V nově zvolené Poslanecké sněmovně však zasedá jen 15,5 % poslankyň.

■ Vyrovnaný podíl žen by přinesl do našeho veřejného života odlišné zkušenosti a nový přístup k řešení politických otázek!



Občanské sdružení **Fórum** 50% usiluje o společnost s vyrovnaným zastoupením žen a mužů v politice a ve veřejném životě. Více na [www.podstataprocent.cz](http://www.podstataprocent.cz).

Medise girmek için  
**ERKEK  
OLMAK  
ŞART MI?**  
3

Toplumun yarısını kadınlar oluşturuyor. Ancak kadınların, 1935 yılından bugüne TBMM'de temsil oranı ortalama % 2,2. Türkiye, parlamentoda kadın temsilinde 167 ülke arasında 163. sırada. Kadınların eksik temsil edildiği meclisler demokratik çözümler üretmiyor. Demokrasi için; gerçek ve eşit temsil için siyasete kadınları destekleyin.

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# Gender-sensitive Parliaments

Parliaments have cultures and work practices that reflect the society, and so have ingrained gender biases.

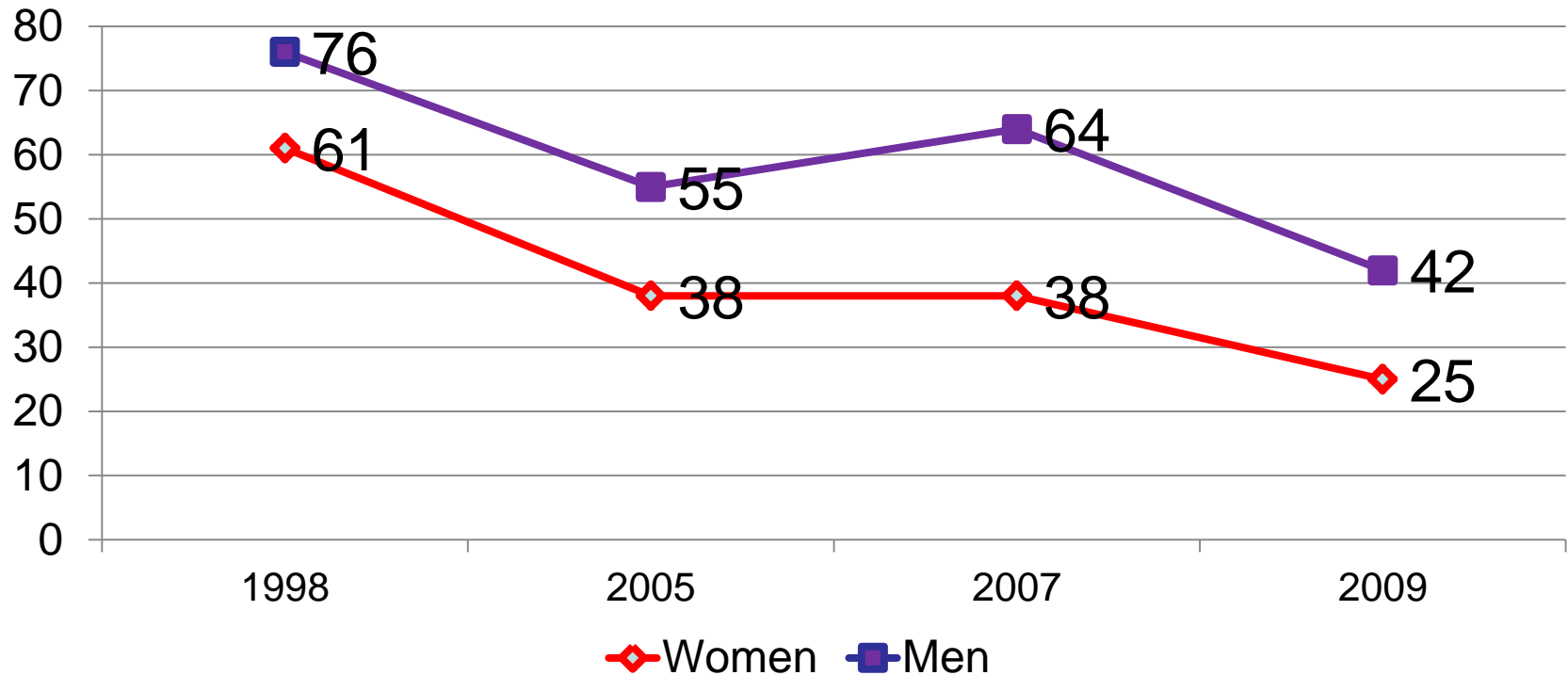
Swedish Parliament investigated the disadvantages experienced by women MPs and came up with a 15-point plan for change

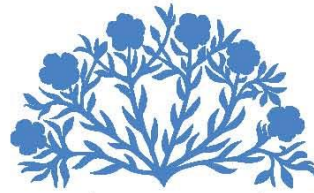
G-S parliaments focus on three measures – gender mainstreaming (including budget), gender equality in leadership, gender training for all



# Why is it an issue in NI?

Table 3. Interest in politics by gender (%)





Northern Ireland  
Assembly



The Open University



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