



INTERNATIONAL  
FORUM ON

# WOMEN'S POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

## FORUM REPORT

7 September 2017  
Budapest



**STRENGTHENING  
THE WOMEN'S  
MOVEMENT**

**THE ROLE  
OF POLITICAL  
PARTIES**

**ENGAGING  
YOUTH**



EMBASSY OF ESTONIA  
IN VIENNA

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## ABOUT THE FORUM

The International Forum on Women's Political Empowerment took place on 7 September 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. It aimed to raise awareness and facilitate dialogue on women's participation in political and public life in Hungary and beyond. The forum gathered around 200 participants (165 women and 35 men), including politicians, civil servants, gender equality advocates, representatives of civil society, academia and youth organizations, as well as students. Thirty Hungarian and international experts (23 women and 7 men) shared their knowledge on the topic, including guest speakers from Austria, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Norway, and Portugal.

OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), the Hungarian Women's Lobby, and the Embassy of Finland in Budapest organized the forum, in collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Corvinus University of Budapest, and the Embassy of Estonia in Vienna. The forum was also supported by the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Budapest and the Council of Europe.

The forum served as a platform to exchange good practices for advancing women's political participation. It explored persisting and emerging challenges as well as opportunities and good practices for political

parties, civil society and youth to strengthen gender equality, women's rights and women's access to decision-making.

## ABOUT THE REPORT

This report is based on the discussions held during the International Forum on Women's Political Empowerment, held on 7 September 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. It is a short summary of views expressed by experts, guest speakers and participants, as highlighted in their remarks and group discussions that followed.

### **THE FORUM SERVED AS A PLATFORM TO EXCHANGE GOOD PRACTICES FOR ADVANCING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION.**

The report aims to focus on identifying good practices and concrete recommendations for future action. It is not an exact record of all speeches and points raised during the full day of discussions and it does not necessarily reflect the views of the organizers.

#### **FORUM PARTICIPANTS**

engage in discussion



## BACKGROUND

Equal participation of women and men in political life is an internationally recognized human right, an indicator of the quality of democracy, and it is instrumental for economic development.

There is a strong international normative framework to promote women's equal participation and representation in politics. The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – to which Hungary is also party – lays down the state obligation to “take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life” (Art. 7) and encourages them to introduce temporary special measures – like quotas – to achieve de facto gender equality (Art. 4).

### **WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS HAVE A KEY ROLE TO PLAY IN PROMOTING WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION, AS THEY TRADITIONALLY DO TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT WOMEN'S RIGHTS.**

The 57 OSCE participating States, including Hungary, have recognized the “under-representation of women in the OSCE area in decision-making structures” and have committed to “consider possible legislative measures, which would facilitate a more balanced participation of women and men in political and

public life...” (OSCE Ministerial Council Decision 7/09 on Women's Participation in Political and Public Life). States have also committed to “encourage all political actors to promote equal participation of women and men in political parties, with a view to achieving better gender-balanced representation in elected public offices at all levels of decision-making.”

Despite international commitments, political participation and representation of women in Hungarian politics has been constantly low since the democratic transition. Women's representation in the Parliament of Hungary currently stands at 10.1%, with no improvement over the last 25 years. Hungary has the lowest representation of women in parliaments among all the OSCE participating States. Currently there are no women in the cabinet and the proportion of women among the state secretaries stands at 13%. No effective legislative and policy measures have been introduced to increase women's participation in political and public life in Hungary.

Political parties in Hungary, as in many OSCE participating States, still need to recognize their role and responsibility in promoting women as candidates for elections and public office as well as in addressing gender equality and women's issues in their party programmes and electoral platforms.

Women's organizations have a key role to play in promoting women's political participation, as they traditionally do to promote and protect women's rights. Women's organizations need to explore various

### **YOUNG WOMEN**

contribute to the forum debate



strategies for effectively advocating for women's rights, which is particularly challenging in countries where the space for the women's movement is shrinking as a result of restrictive measures targeting civil society actors.

New and different forms of political activism, for example online platforms and social media, are increasingly being used by youth and could serve as a good impetus for more inclusive and diverse politics in Hungary and beyond.

The International Forum built upon ODIHR's previous efforts in advancing women's political participation in Hungary. ODIHR has successfully co-operated with Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL) in the past, for example by co-organizing a seminar in 2014, entitled *Women's participation in politics – Hungarian and international panorama after the 2014 parliamentary elections and ahead of the local elections*. In 2013, ODIHR co-organized the event *Women's Participation Ahead of Hungary's 2014 Parliamentary Elections*, in co-operation with the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and Central European University's School of Public Policy.

2018 will be the year for the next national elections in Hungary. In light of this, the international forum was initiated by HWL and garnered support of ODIHR and other co-organizers, with the overall objective to

provide a platform for discussion among different stakeholders in Hungary and facilitate an exchange of good practices for political parties, civil society and youth to strengthen gender equality, women's rights and women's political participation in Hungary and beyond.



**DR. ENIKŐ PAPP**  
of the Hungarian Women's Lobby listens during the Opening Remarks

**HUNGARIAN  
AND  
INTERNATIONAL  
SPEAKERS**

**30**  
EXPERTS  
(23 WOMEN/7 MEN)

**200**  
PARTICIPANTS  
(165 WOMEN/35 MEN)

**BUDAPEST**

7 September  
2017

**POLITICIANS  
CIVIL SERVANTS  
GENDER EQUALITY  
ADVOCATES**

REPRESENTATIVES OF  
**CIVIL SOCIETY,  
ACADEMIA AND  
YOUTH  
ORGANIZATIONS**

# SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

## OPENING REMARKS

Opening remarks were delivered by the representatives of the main co-organizers of the Forum, including Corvinus University, the Embassy of Finland in Budapest, the Hungarian Women's Lobby and ODIHR.

In addition to welcoming the participants, the speakers highlighted the importance of women's political participation, focusing on the representative nature of democracy, the need to utilize the talents and contribution of all citizens (men and women) in decision-making and various spheres of life, and the economic and security benefits of gender equality and women's participation, as observed in Finland.

Speakers also referred to challenges to women's political rights, including extended politicizing of gender equality and women's rights, the lack of political will and of comprehensive policies to promote those, continued low levels of women's political representation, as is the case in Hungary, and the shrinking space for the women's movement working to protect women's rights, for example in the form of restrictive legislation targeting civil society organizations, which ultimately harm the very cause of human rights, including women's rights.

### **AMBASSADOR PETRI TUOMI-NIKULA**

of the Embassy of Finland in Budapest delivers the Opening Remarks



**DR. MARCIN WALECKI**  
of ODIHR delivers the Opening Remarks

The following main recommendations were considered during this session:

- ◆ Strengthen dialogue across sectors in order to find joint solutions furthering gender equality and women's political empowerment;
- ◆ Encourage all political actors, including political parties, to actively promote women as candidates for elected office, which is also to those institutions' benefit;
- ◆ Work to engage men as allies in advancing gender equality;
- ◆ Pay particular attention to promoting the participation of under-represented groups of women;
- ◆ Provide continued support to the women's movement, crucial to democracy and human rights.



## HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

The high-level panel featured lively contributions from guest speakers from Hungary, Germany, Estonia, and Finland.

The speakers highlighted examples of concrete actions for accelerating progress towards women's full and equal political participation, including examples of voluntary political party measures for gender equality, as observed in Germany. Discussion further explored gender equality as a human right relevant to both women and men, and education as key to combating stereotypes, as observed in Finland. The importance of women's leadership and mentoring, as well as breaking stereotypes, was discussed as crucial for women's political empowerment in Hungary and other countries. The importance of role models of women in high-level public office was highlighted in examples from Estonia.

Speakers also referred to challenges to women's political participation, looking at violence against women in the home, community and online, women's lack of confidence and their limited access to political networks and parties, and unfavourable portrayal of women politicians by the media.

The following main recommendations were considered during this session:

- ◆ Consider special legal and policy measures to strengthen women's representation and influence in political and public life;



**AMBASSADOR MARINA KALJURAND**  
of Estonia engages the audience during the High-Level Panel

- ◆ Work with political parties across the ideological spectrum to ensure gender parity in candidacy for elected office;
- ◆ Encourage and support women to run for public office, by strengthening their confidence, ensuring family support, and facilitating work-life balance;
- ◆ Combat all forms of gender-based stereotypes, through work on education and media, emphasizing that gender equality is for the benefit of all;
- ◆ Strengthen coalitions for women's political empowerment, including networks of women leaders, the women's movement, and male allies.



“ The 'ideal' - political, cultural or social - conditions for more equal representation of men and women in politics will never emerge spontaneously. Fostering equal representation and ensuring that more women take up political posts is the only way such conditions will come about. ”

Réka SÁFRÁNY  
Chair of the Hungarian  
Women's Lobby



“ Women possess half of the world's intelligence, its creativity and its leadership abilities. If we do not benefit from these abilities, our societies realize only half of their potential. Men should support women in taking an active role in the society. ”

Pekka HAAVISTO  
Member of Parliament,  
President of European Institute of Peace,  
Finland

## SESSION 1 » WHAT IS THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN GETTING WOMEN INTO POLITICS?

This session discussed the role of political parties in advancing women's political participation and the integration of gender aspects into internal political party decision-making processes, convening an ODIHR expert on political parties and all Hungarian parties that have parliamentary fractions: the Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Alliance (Fidesz), the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP), the Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik), Politics Can Be Different (LMP), and the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP).

of (women) politicians were mentioned as factors discouraging and hindering women from successfully running for public office.

The following main recommendations were considered during this session:

- ◆ Work with all political actors to change the male-dominated landscape of politics, which should be friendlier to aspiring women candidates;
- ◆ Engage in a constructive dialogue with political parties across the ideological spectrum, providing them with recommendations on making their internal processes, procedures and activities gender-sensitive and women-friendly, as well as introducing targeted policies for that purpose, based on international good practices;
- ◆ Encourage political parties to adopt voluntary party measures that would facilitate women's access to their structures and elected office more broadly;
- ◆ Consider establishing cross-party alliances of women politicians, promoting women's leadership and empowerment;
- ◆ Continue advocacy encouraging state institutions and parliaments to be sensitive to gender equality issues;
- ◆ Support women wishing to enter political parties, by serving as their mentors, partners and funders.

“As guardians of democracy, political parties have a responsibility to promote women into politics.”

Doris PACK  
President of the EPP Women  
(European People's Party)



The speakers highlighted that political parties are the gatekeepers of democracy and often the main entry points to politics. Speakers also emphasized the strong talents and important contributions women make in politics and various fields of life, while recognizing that not every woman may be interested to be in political or public life.

A number of challenges were highlighted for women to enter politics, particularly in terms of accessing political parties. It was mentioned that politics remains a male-dominated field, filled with stereotypes preventing women from entering and participating. The internal processes of political parties, including candidate selection and allocation of party resources, remain in most cases non-transparent and favourable to incumbents, the majority of whom are men. Issues of party culture, harsh rhetoric in politics, and public harassment

### POLITICAL PARTY PANEL

gathers representatives of all Hungarian parliamentary fractions





## SESSION 2 » HOW CAN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT SUPPORT WOMEN'S POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT?

This session discussed the relevance and important contribution of the women's movement to advancing women's political participation, as presented by an ODIHR expert on gender equality and representatives of civil society and academia from Finland, Hungary, and Ireland.

The speakers explored different approaches introduced by the women's movement across the OSCE region, for example: publicly encouraging women to enter politics; fundraising and crowdfunding in order to financially support training or candidacy of women candidates, as presented in the example of Ireland; raising awareness among the electorate about the importance of having women contribute to decision-making; working to combat gender-based stereotypes about women's political capacities; and promoting dialogue and collaboration among political stakeholders, as presented in the example from Finland.

A number of challenges were highlighted regarding the work of the women's movement, particularly in terms of the shrinking space for women's organizations in Central and Eastern Europe, difficulties in building coalitions among women's organizations or women leaders from different sectors or different political ideologies, and traditional social roles assigned to women and men impacting their current involvement in politics.

The following main recommendations were considered during this session:

- ◆ Work on building coalitions among women's organizations and women leaders across sectors and political lines, by clearly defining the organizational and leadership rules format of the coalition;
- ◆ Advocate for the introduction and implementation of comprehensive, evidence-based, and inclusive gender equality policies, as a manifestation of good governance;
- ◆ Engage in issue-based advocacy, which would create trust and solidarity among the women's movement and women leaders across sectors and political lines;
- ◆ Consider creative forms of fundraising, for example crowdfunding, to provide financial support and training for women political candidates;
- ◆ Remember that women are not a homogenous group and ensure that all groups of women, particularly those from under-represented groups can feel represented in your women's organization;
- ◆ Utilize social media as well as traditional socialization strategies to encourage women and men to actively participate in politics.

### **PANELISTS DISCUSSING THE ROLE OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT POSE FOR A PHOTO,**

including Ms. Johanna Pakkanen of the Coalition of Women's Associations NYTKIS from Finland, Ms. Borbála Juhász of the European Women's Lobby, Ms. Ajla van Heel of ODIHR, Ms. Caroline Kirrane of Women for Election from Ireland, and Mr. Csongor Fényes of Corvinus University of Budapest



## SESSION 3 » HOW CAN WE ENGAGE YOUTH FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN POLITICS?

This session discussed the role of youth as agents of change for gender equality. It highlighted that youth today have more opportunities than previous generations to influence politics due to better access to information, new technologies and education, as described by representatives of academia, youth and student organizations from Hungary and Portugal.

The under-representation – or even non-representation – of young women in the leadership of youth organizations and in student unions/ organizations was referred to as visible evidence for the latter.

The following main recommendations were considered during this session:

- ◆ Encourage youth to be politically active as agents of social change, advancing gender equality and women's rights, by providing a safe space for open dialogue and debate;
- ◆ Ensure that education triggers the notion of equality, free thinking and provides leadership opportunities for women and men, boys and girls alike, and consider partnerships with (higher) education institutions for that purpose;
- ◆ Introduce effective institutional reforms in case of students' unions for the advancement of gender equality and equal participation of all;
- ◆ Encourage political actors to formalize opportunities for the engagement of youth in political processes;
- ◆ Work on combating gender-based stereotypes among youth, by engaging in dialogue and peer-exchange, and in mentoring;
- ◆ Strengthen the confidence of young women in particular to engage politically, through training programmes and mentoring.



“Participation has received less consideration, including from international organizations and donors, than other socio-economic challenges faced by Roma and Sinti communities in recent years. Effective participation is essential for the success of policies addressing the needs and interests of these communities, as it enhances ownership with regard to such policies.”

Henriett Eva DINOK  
Executive Director, Romaversitas Foundation

OSCE Human Dimension Implementation Meeting #HDIM2017 11 - 22 September 2017, Warsaw  
Ensuring equal enjoyment of rights and equal participation in political and public life



The speakers highlighted the importance of engaging youth in decision-making, whether in elected office, student unions or civil society, focusing on the importance of strengthening access of youth to decision-making bodies, engaging youth in peer-exchanges, and building skills and confidence of young women especially to engage in policy debate in their schools and community, as presented in the example from Portugal.

A number of challenges were highlighted in terms of youth engagement, particularly those related to limited access of youth to formal politics, discrimination experienced by youth from marginalized groups, and in this context multiplied discrimination against women as presented by a Roma activist, and gender-based stereotypes among youth and youth organizations themselves.

### MS. BARBARA MENYHÁRT

of Eötvös Loránd University speaks as Mr. Endre Borza of the Rajk László College for Advanced Studies and Dr. Réka Várnagy of Corvinus University of Budapest listen





**DR. EVA FEHRINGER**

of Council of Europe speaks as Ambassador Olav Berstad of Royal Norwegian Embassy in Budapest listens

## CLOSING REMARKS

Closing remarks were delivered by gender equality experts, diplomats, and academics from Hungary, Norway and the Council of Europe.

The speakers highlighted the importance of gender equality and women's political participation, not only as a women's right, but as crucial to democracy, economic development, stability and prosperity. The Norwegian example also showed that women's empowerment and political participation have not weakened political institutions, nor reduced the quality of political decision-making, but rather quite the contrary. International and regional human rights standards and commitments were also called upon, encouraging governments to strengthen their efforts in implementing their gender equality commitments, in Hungary and beyond. It was also highlighted that high politics – represented by political parties – and low politics – namely the politics in the broader society – should not be separated and should work together to represent the interests of all citizens, women and men.

A number of challenges were also emphasized, including continued gender-based discrimination and women's under-representation in politics, the persistent gender pay-gap, economic inequality and the significantly weaker economic power of women compared to men, as well as the imbalance in family care responsibilities of women and men.

The following main recommendations were considered during this session:

- ◆ Encourage all political actors to consider legal and voluntary measures which would promote gender equality and women's representation and influence in politics;
- ◆ Introduce robust laws and policies, which would guarantee women's human rights and financial independence, as well as professional and family life balance, thus paving the path to women's active participation in various spheres of life, as desired;
- ◆ Ensure that women's needs, interests and priorities are clearly articulated and represented, form part and parcel of all laws and policies and are incorporated into the operation of representative institutions;
- ◆ Strengthen networks and coalitions of women across sectors and political ideologies;
- ◆ Support the women's movement, as the continued voice of women and protector of human rights of all.

**DR. GABRIELLA ILONSZKI**

of Corvinus University of Budapest delivers the Closing Remarks, as Ms. Tiina Kukkamaa-Bah of ODIHR listens



# ANNEX 1 » AGENDA

## 08.30 – 09.00 REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

## 09.00 – 09.30 OPENING REMARKS

DR. TAMÁS PESUTH, *Director of External Relations of the Corvinus University of Budapest*

AMBASSADOR PETRI TUOMI-NIKULA, *Embassy of Finland in Budapest*

DR. ENIKŐ PAP, *Secretary of the Hungarian Women's Lobby*

DR. MARCIN WALECKI, *Head of Democratization Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)*

## 09.30 – 11.00 HIGH-LEVEL PANEL

Women's participation in national parliaments in the OSCE region stands at 26.6 per cent on average, failing to meet the 30 per cent target of the Beijing Platform for Action. This session will discuss concrete actions for accelerating progress towards women's full and equal political participation implemented in the OSCE region. It will feature good practices and successful initiatives for advancing women's representation and influence. The session will particularly highlight the importance of adequate legal and policy measures alongside gender mainstreaming strategies in political parties and parliaments.

MS. MÓNIKA DUNAI, *Member of Parliament, Chair of the Parliamentary Subcommittee for Women's Dignity, National Assembly of Hungary*

DR. DORIS PACK, *President of the EPP Women (European People's Party)*

AMBASSADOR MARINA KALJURAND, *Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia*

MR. PEKKA HAAVISTO, *Member of Parliament, Former Minister for Development and State Ownership, President of European Institute of Peace, Finland*

MS. RÉKA SÁFRÁNY, *Chair of the Hungarian Women's Lobby, Member of the European Women's Lobby's Women in Politics Working Group*

CHAIR: DR. ANDREA PETŐ, *Professor, Department of Gender Studies, Central European University*

## 11.00 – 11.30 COFFEE BREAK

## 11.30 – 13.00 SESSION 1: WHAT IS THE ROLE OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN GETTING WOMEN INTO POLITICS?

Political parties are very often referred to as the “gatekeepers” of democracy – and of women's political participation in particular as a result of the unique and fundamental role they play in democratic processes. This session will convene Hungarian parliamentary party groups to discuss the role of political parties in advancing women's political participation and the integration of gender aspects into internal political party decision-making processes.

MS. NÓRA KIRÁLY, *Vice-Mayor of Újbuda, 11th District of Budapest, Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Alliance (Fidesz)*

MS. ÁGNES KUNHALMI, *Member of Parliament, Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP)*

MS. DÓRA DÚRÓ, *Member of Parliament, Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik)*

DR. BERNADETT SZÉL, *Member of Parliament, Politics Can Be Different (LMP)*

DR. HAJNALKA JUHÁSZ, *Expert, Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP)*

MS. TIINA KUKKAMAA-BAH, *Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)*

CHAIR: DR. BEÁTA NAGY, *Professor, Director of the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest*

**13.00 – 14.00 LUNCH**

**14.00 – 15.30 SESSION 2: HOW CAN THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT SUPPORT WOMEN'S POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT?**

The women's movement contributes to democratic consolidation by strengthening governance mechanisms in support of gender equality and promoting open, transparent and inclusive decision-making processes. It also plays a key role in promoting women's rights and principles of gender equality. This session will discuss the women's movement's relevance and contributions to advancing women's political participation through different approaches: by encouraging women to enter into politics and supporting their candidacies; by raising awareness among the electorate and political stakeholders about the barriers women face in political and public life; by working to combat gender-based stereotypes about women's political capacities; and, by promoting dialogue among political stakeholders.

**MS. JOHANNA PAKKANEN**, *Secretary General of the Coalition of Women's Associations NYTKIS, Finland*

**MS. BORBÁLA JUHÁSZ**, *Member of the European Women's Lobby's Task Force on Central Eastern European, Baltic and Balkan States, former Chair of the Hungarian Women's Lobby*

**MS. CAROLINE KIRRANE**, *Volunteer, Women for Election, Ireland*

**MR. CSONGOR FÉNYES**, *Social researcher, Member of the Eötvös Loránd University Angelusz Róbert College for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, student from Budapest Metropolitan University*

**CHAIR: MS. AJLA VAN HEEL**, *Adviser on Gender Equality, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)*

**15.30 – 15.45 COFFEE BREAK**

**15.45 – 17.00 SESSION 3: HOW CAN WE ENGAGE YOUTH FOR GENDER EQUALITY IN POLITICS?**

Youth today has more opportunities than previous generations to influence the development of policies due to better access to information, technology, education and training. However their role as agents of change for gender equality often appears limited. This session will discuss how to overcome the notion that gender equality is a "women's problem" or "problem of the past", and to promote it as a priority for society and politics in a range of forums. The session will also touch on the potential of inter-generational co-operation and alliance building among women and men.

**MS. NÓRA KISS**, *Chair of the Network of Young People for Gender Equality (REDE), Portugal*

**DR. HENRIETT DINÓK**, *Director of Romaversitas*

**MR. ENDRE BORZA**, *Chair of the Student Board of Rajk László College for Advanced Studies*

**MS. BARBARA MENYHÁRT**, *Chair of the Students' Union of Eötvös Loránd University Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education*

**CHAIR: DR. RÉKA VÁRNAGY**, *Assistant Professor at the Institute of Political Science, Corvinus University of Budapest*

**17.00 – 17.30 CLOSING REMARKS**

**DR. EVA FEHRINGER**, *Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission, Council of Europe*

**AMBASSADOR OLAV BERSTAD**, *Royal Norwegian Embassy in Budapest*

**DR. GABRIELLA ILONSZKI, PHD, DSC**, *Political scientist, Professor Emerita at Corvinus University of Budapest*

## ANNEX 2 » BIOGRAPHIES OF SPEAKERS



### **DR. TAMÁS PESUTH**

Director of External Relations of the Corvinus University of Budapest

Dr. Tamás Pesuth is a Hungarian economist, holding a PhD in Economics. He is an assistant professor of finance and banking at the Faculty of Economics of the Corvinus University of Budapest. Dr. Pesuth regularly appears in the media, where he comments on and analyses Hungarian, European and global economic and financial news. He – with other key influencers and organizations – took part in the HeForShe Hungary event in March 2017, hosted by the Embassy of Sweden on the occasion of International Women's Day. The aim of the event was to re-start the discussion on how to re-energize Hungarian involvement in the HeForShe Campaign and on how to build an inclusive community around the mission of the campaign to stand together for equality between men and women.



### **AMBASSADOR PETRI TUOMI-NIKULA**

Embassy of Finland in Budapest

Mr. Petri Tuomi-Nikula is the Ambassador of Finland to Hungary since 2016. Previously (between 2010 and 2015) he served as the Ambassador of Finland to Italy. During his years in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland he has also served in Germany, Austria and UK. Between 1996 and 2000 he was the Head of the Secretariat of the Finnish EU Presidency. He also worked several years as Director General in the Department of Communications and Culture in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.



### **DR. ENIKŐ PAP**

Secretary of the Hungarian Women's Lobby

Enikő Pap works for the Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL) and for NANE Women's Rights Association. Her main field of expertise relates to the application of international human rights norms in promoting gender equality and women's rights in general and combating violence against women specifically, focusing on the state response. She has participated in numerous national and international programmes in this field. She worked as an external expert in related initiatives of UN Women, European Commission, Council of Europe and OSCE/ODIHR, among others. She was a co-editor and co-author of HWL's reports on the implementation of the UN CEDAW Convention and contributed to several other publications. Enikő Pap graduated as a lawyer from the Eötvös Loránd University Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Budapest, and obtained a postgraduate degree in European Law.



**DR. MARCIN WALECKI**

Head of Democratization Department, OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Dr. Marcin Walecki possesses over 15 years of democracy assistance and governance experience working in more than 30 countries around the world. He also presents regularly at international conferences, seminars, and has written for numerous publications on democratization, political corruption, political financing, elections, political parties, gender equality and good governance. A Polish citizen, Walecki holds a doctorate of philosophy in politics from St. Antony's College at Oxford University and a master's in Law from the Department of Law and Administration at the University of Warsaw. He is a former Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy and a board member of the International Political Science Association Research Committee on Political Finance and Political Corruption.



**MS. MÓNIKA DUNAI**

Member of Parliament, Chair of the Parliamentary Subcommittee for Women's Dignity, National Assembly of Hungary

Dunai Mónika is a member of the Hungarian Parliament since 2014. She was elected through an individual constituency from one of the electoral districts in Budapest as a candidate of Fidesz-KDNP. In addition to the Subcommittee for Women's Dignity, she is also a member of the Committee on Legislation, and the Committee on Culture, at the National Assembly. Before entering the Parliament, between 1990 and 2010 – with a small interruption – she was a member of the local government in the 17th District of Budapest (Rákosszenté). In addition to her political career, Mónika Dunai has significant teaching experience: she was a teacher in two primary schools in Budapest and acted as a deputy director in one of them. Furthermore, she has been a member of several civil society organisations, and also a founder and a leadership member in a few. Mónika Dunai holds a degree as a teacher from College Faculty of Education at ELTE University as well as from ELTE University Faculty of Humanities. Later she participated in the PhD program entitled "The historical and theoretical relations of politics and literature", as part of her doctoral studies at University of Miskolc, Faculty of Humanities, Doctoral School of Literature.



**DR. H.C. DORIS PACK**

President of EPP Women

Doris Pack was born in 1942 in Schiffweiler/Saarland (Germany). Between 1981 and 1989 she was the Member of the German Bundestag (CDU/CSU) as well as the Member of the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly (PACE) and Western European Union (WEU). From 1989 to 2014 she served as a Member of the European Parliament, where she acted as the President of the Delegation for South Eastern Europe, and as the President of the Committee for Culture, Education, Media and Sport. Among her actual functions in politics and civil society she is the President of EPP Women since 2002, and President of the Robert Schuman Institute Budapest since 2015. In addition, she is acting as president of several cultural and educational institutions in Saarland/Germany (Stiftung für die deutsch-französische kulturelle Zusammenarbeit, Europäische Kinder- und Jugendbuchmesse, Verband der Volkshochschulen Saarland). In addition, Doris Pack is the Secretary General of the German-French Cultural High Council and since 2014 she has worked as the Co-ordinator of the Lux Film Prize of the European Parliament.



### **AMBASSADOR MARINA KALJURAND**

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Estonia

Mrs Marina Kaljurand is a former Minister of Foreign Affairs. She held this position from July 2015 to September 2016. Since March 2017 she is the Chair of the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyber Space. Mrs Kaljurand has been a member of Governmental Delegations on numerous times and she was the Chief Negotiator on Accession of Estonia to the OECD, between 2008 and 2011. She has been Ambassador to several countries – Russia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Canada, the United States, and Mexico. She is a founding member of WIIS-EST – the Estonian Branch of Women in International Security – from 2000.



### **MR. PEKKA HAAVISTO**

Member of Parliament, Former Minister for Development and State Ownership, President of European Institute of Peace, Finland

Mr. Pekka Haavisto is a Member of the Finnish Parliament (1987-1995, 2007-) and from 2016 he has been the President of the European Institute of Peace. Haavisto was the first green minister in Europe, as a Minister for Environment and Development in 1995-1999. More recently he has served as a Minister for Development and State Ownership in 2013-2014. Haavisto has acted as the Chairperson of the European Green Party in 2000-2006. In 2014 he was appointed as Foreign Minister's Special Representative for African Crises. Before he has worked as the European Union Special Representative (EUSR) in Sudan and Darfur (2005-2007), and as a Special Advisor for the UN (ASG) in Darfur peace process (2007). He has also led several missions to conflict areas as the Chairman of UNEP's post-conflict work in 1999-2005.



### **MS. RÉKA SÁFRÁNY**

Chair of the Hungarian Women's Lobby, Member of the European Women's Lobby's Women in Politics Working Group

Réka Sáfrány has been working as a gender expert at the Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL) and, previously, at the MONA Foundation for the Women of Hungary since 2004. She is a member of the Board of the European Women's Lobby (EWL). She has experience in conducting research on policy issues from a gender aspect, mainly on the following topics: women's political participation, gender and media, and policy responses to violence against women. She also contributes to policy analyses and capacity building activities. She has participated in the preparation of HWL's reports to the UN CEDAW Committee on the issue of women in politics, and co-authored HWL's respective policy recommendations. From 2006 to 2010 she was a member of the Government Working Group on Women in Politics. In 2016, she took part in the ExCHANGE program, which aimed to foster transatlantic cooperation in women's political participation. Réka Sáfrány holds an MA degree in Gender Studies from Central European University, Budapest and MA degrees in English and German Literature and Linguistics from ELTE University, Budapest.





### **DR. ANDREA PETŐ**

Professor, Department of Gender Studies, Central European University

Andrea Pető is a Full Professor at the Department of Gender Studies at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary, a Doctor of Science of Hungarian Academy of Sciences. She is working on 20th century European social history and gender. Her four monographs were published in Bulgarian, English, German and Hungarian. She has edited thirty-one volumes in English, in Hungarian and in Russian. Her works have appeared in 17 different languages. She serves as an associate editor for the *European Journal of Women's Studies*. In 2005, she was awarded the Officer's Cross Order of Merit of the Republic of Hungary by the President of the Hungarian Republic. Furthermore, in 2006, she was awarded the Bolyai Prize of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



### **MS. NÓRA KIRÁLY**

Vice-Mayor of Újbuda, 11th District of Budapest, Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Alliance (Fidesz)

Nóra Király is a mother of five children. She has been an elected councillor of the so-called “Sasad-Gazdagrét-Madárhegy” area of Budapest for more than ten years, while she has been acting as a vice-mayor of Újbuda for three years. She supervises the area of public security and health care. In this respective professional work she considers the reinforcement of civilian police as a key achievement. In addition, she is a founder of two associations – The Club of Young People with Families and the Women'sEyes – where, together with her colleagues and several other civil society organisations, she is searching for the responses to the current problems of families and women. Among their numerous projects, Nóra Király considers the Advent Charity Fair as of special importance, its income was dedicated to helping the recovery of children with cancer. Furthermore, they raised their voices for making the repertoire of school buffets healthier. Thanks to more and more local governments, they also help young people ahead of marriage with an “Engagement package”. They emphasized the importance of women's social participation at a large conference, but they also emphasize the role of the elderly when greeting grandmothers. They have been looking for the answer in several conferences organised across the border to they question how mothers can reconcile family life and work more easily.



### **MS. ÁGNES KUNHALMI**

Member of Parliament, Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP)

Ágnes Kunhalmi is the President of MSZP Budapest, and a Member of Parliament. She also serves as the Vice-chair of the Parliament's Committee on Culture; the Committee is responsible for the issues of education as well. She was born in Kiskunmajsa, in the Southern region of Hungary, as the first child of a lawyer and a teacher. She accomplished her studies here and in Budapest, as a student of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) and of the University of Szeged. Her priority cause is the creative school: the development of a supportive and cheerful environment for education in Hungarian schools, where children can find their way on their own to themselves, to their future, and to all the knowledge with which they can live a successful and happy life. Ágnes Kunhalmi pays special attention to digitalization of gaining knowledge and the phenomena that transform children's way of thinking and learning processes.



### **MS. DÓRA DÚRÓ**

Member of Parliament, Movement for a Better Hungary (Jobbik)

Dóra Dúró is the youngest Member of Parliament in Hungary. She is a mother of three children. As an MP from the opposition she chairs the third largest Committee of the Parliament, which is responsible for the fields of education, culture, sports and media. In addition to that, also with regard to her qualification as a political scientist, she deals with questions related to electoral law. She frequently speaks up on policy issues related to families and women. She is a Member of Parliament since 2010.



### **DR. BERNADETT SZÉL**

Member of Parliament, Politics Can Be Different (LMP)

Bernadett Szél is Co-President of Lehet Más a Politika (The Hungarian Green Party). She is a member of the Parliamentary Committee on National Security and the Leader of LMP's parliamentary group. She is the LMP's candidate for the position of Prime Minister of Hungary in the 2018 Hungarian parliamentary election. She had worked in the private and the public sector before gaining a mandate in February 2012. In the previous term, she was Vice-Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Sustainable Development, member of the Parliamentary Committee on Employment and Labour and Vice-Chairperson of the Sub-committee on Rehabilitation. In Spring 2014, she was again elected Deputy Leader of LMP's parliamentary group, a position which she held until being elected Leader of LMP's parliamentary group in February, 2017. She is married and lives in Budakeszi with her husband and two children.



### **MS. TIINA KUKKAMAA-BAH**

Chief of Democratic Governance and Gender Unit of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

Tiina Kukkamaa-Bah works for the OSCE/ODIHR based in Warsaw, Poland. Before joining ODIHR in March 2016, she worked as the Executive Director of Political Parties of Finland for Democracy, Demo Finland, a collaborative organization of Finnish political parties in the field of democracy support. She has worked with governments, political parties, and civil society for the past 15 years, focusing on supporting democratic and inclusive governance, political participation of women and youth as well as civil society development across Asia and Africa alongside the OSCE region. She has also held various board positions, for example with the European Partnership for Democracy (EPD) and the Finnish NGDO Platform to the European Union, Kehys. Ms Kukkamaa-Bah has a Master's degree in Sociology from the University of Helsinki.



### **DR. BEÁTA NAGY**

Professor, Director of the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy, Corvinus University of Budapest

Beáta Nagy, PhD is the Co-Director of the Gender and Cultural Centre at Corvinus University, in addition to being the Head of the Institute of Sociology and Social Policy at the same university. Her main research field is gender and work. She has carried out investigations on companies' equal opportunity policies, the gender awareness of local governments and multinational companies, and gender budgeting. Beáta Nagy has recently published a book on the lack of female students in IT and technology. She has published articles in both Hungarian and English journals. Her latest research deals with the work-life balance of managers, and she has been the head of a research group (2013-2017) in the theme of reconciling family and work. She has recently co-edited a special issue on work-life balance for the journal *Intersections: East European Journal of Society and Politics*.



### **MS. JOHANNA PAKKANEN**

Secretary General of The Coalition of Women's Associations NYTKIS, Finland

Johanna Pakkanen is the Secretary General of The Coalition of Women's Associations NYTKIS, a co-operation forum for women's associations located in Helsinki, Finland. With more than 15 years of experience in NGOs, Pakkanen has also worked at the Equality Unit at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health of Finland as Special Researcher. She has an L.Phil. in Gender Studies and has taught Gender Studies at the University of Helsinki, where she also acted as the Equality Advisor. She has distinct knowledge and understanding of intersectional gender equality and diversity issues, as well as issues regarding violence against women. As the Secretary General of NYTKIS, Johanna Pakkanen has extensive experience of bringing together women's associations from political and research sectors, working towards the objective of the advancement of women, gender equality and social justice.



### **MS. BORBÁLA JUHÁSZ**

Member of the European Women's Lobby's Task Force on Central Eastern European, Baltic and Balkan States, former chair of the Hungarian Women's Lobby

During her professional career, Borbála Juhász has worked as a teacher, a women's historian, a gender researcher, a civil servant specialised in gender equality, as well as an NGO volunteer and employee. She was on the board of the European Women's Lobby from 2008, acting as its Vice President in 2014 until 2016. She was the Chair of the Hungarian Women's Lobby from 2012 to 2017 and a member of the Management Committee of European Social Platform from 2015 to 2017. Her main fields of expertise: women's history, promoting women's political participation, gender mainstreaming and equal opportunity policies. She is a dedicated feminist with a passion for the women's cause. She works as a teacher and lives in Budapest with her 12-year-old daughter. Borbála Juhász graduated in History and English language and literature and as a teacher of English as a Foreign Language at ELTE University, Budapest. Later she obtained an MA in History from Central European University, Budapest.



### **MS. CAROLINE KIRRANE**

Volunteer, Women for Election, Ireland

Caroline Kirrane is an adjunct lecturer in finance at the business school of Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in European Business from Dublin City University and an MBA from Trinity College Dublin. She is a Charterholder of the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute and board member with Children in Hospital Ireland, an Irish NGO. Earlier this year, Caroline organised a crowdfunding campaign for Women for Election (WFE), an Irish non-profit that inspires and trains women to run for public office. This volunteer-led campaign raised €56,000 to train 300 women ahead of the 2019 local elections in Ireland. WFE has been in operation for 5 years, and during this time trained over 1,000 women to enter public life.



### **MR. CSONGOR FÉNYES**

social researcher, Member of the Eötvös Loránd University Angelusz Róbert College for Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, student from Budapest Metropolitan University

Csongor Fényes holds a MA in Sociology from the Corvinus University of Budapest and is currently studying Communication and Media Studies at Budapest Metropolitan University. He has been researching Hungarian social movements and youth for several years. Earlier, he studied the political activity of the organizers of the student demonstrations of 2012-13 (such as the Students' Network and University Occupiers). In 2015 and 2017, for an analysis on this issue, he got awarded/took a second and a third place at National Scientific Student Conference Department of Social Science Section in the Political Science Department. He has been an active member of ELTE Angelusz Róbert College of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, he is a former trainee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and a former lecturer at the Faculty of Pedagogy and Psychology of ELTE. In 2017 he began his new research, which is focusing on political socialization among the young members of the Momentum Movement. He has a strong interest in those socialization agents which can lead the young Hungarian generation towards becoming more active and politicized. In previous years he gave several lectures on his research results in various conferences, like the 2016 TEDxYouth@Budapest conference, where he talked about his own journey of becoming a social researcher.



### **MS. AJLA VAN HEEL MERDANOVIĆ**

Adviser on Gender Issues of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR)

The work of Ajla van Heel Merdanović focuses on advancing women's political participation. While at ODIHR, she contributed to the development of the following publications: *Gender Equality in Elected Office: A Six-Step Action Plan*, *Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions on Women's Rights and Gender Equality*, *Comparative Study of Structures for Women MPs in the OSCE Region*, *Handbook on Promoting Women's Participation in Political Parties*, and *Compendium of Good Practices for Advancing Women's Political Participation in the OSCE Region*. Prior to joining the OSCE, she worked with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), mainly on combating trafficking in women and girls in the Western Balkans. Ms. van Heel holds a bachelor degree in international affairs from Princeton University and a master's degree in human rights from University of Bologna. Her efforts to promote peace and advance women's rights were recognized through awards received from the British Royal Family, Rotary International, and Zonta International.



### **MS. NÓRA KISS**

Chair of the Network of Young People for Gender Equality (REDE), Portugal

Being a political scientist and economist by training, Nora Kiss is a youth leader and feminist activist working for the empowerment of young women. As President of the Portuguese Network of Young People for Gender Equality since 2012, Ms Kiss has designed and promoted several successful projects aiming at the visibility and mobilization of young women for civic and political participation. As an advocate for gender mainstreaming in the field of youth, Ms Kiss is working with her peers for effective gender mainstreaming in the field of youth issues and for the inclusion of the promotion of gender equality and women's human rights in youth activism, associativism and human rights education.



### **DR. HENRIETT DINÓK**

Director of Romaversitas

Henriett Dinók is a young lawyer and political scientist of Roma origin from Hungary, with an extensive background in Roma education and participation, especially in the case of women and youth. Currently she is Executive Director of Romaversitas Foundation, the first Hungarian foundation supporting Roma youth. Earlier Henriett Dinók herself was also the Foundation's fellow. As a young researcher, she started her career at the Institute for Legal Studies at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Social Sciences. Since 2005 she has been working together with numerous Roma and several international organisations. Henriett Dinók received her Juris Doctor degree at the Károli Gáspár Calvinist University, a Master's degree in Political Science at Central European University and her PhD in Law from the University of Szeged, all in Hungary.



### **MR. ENDRE BORZA**

Chair of the Student Board of Rajk László College for Advanced Studies

Endre Borza holds a degree in applied economics from ELTE University Faculty of Social Sciences since 2016. Later he continued his studies at Central European University towards an MA in Economics. Since 2012 he is the member of the Rajk László College for Advanced Studies, the oldest college of its kind in Hungary. He was elected student leader at the College in 2017. Since its foundation in 1970, Rajk College has been home to a number of generations of youth driving each other to be socially responsible and politically active. Endre Borza has teaching experience – on the topics of theory of programming, logic and data analysis – in Rajk College, as well as in Budapest Corvinus University and the Institute of Economics. Furthermore, he is active in the field of research, one of his recent research pieces focuses on the values of secondary school students.



### **MS. BARBARA MENYHÁRT**

Chair of the Students' Union of Eötvös Loránd University Bárczi Gusztáv Faculty of Special Needs Education

Barbara Menyhárt is in the third year as a student in special needs education in ELTE University, with the focus on education of persons with behavioural difficulties and the pedagogy of the autism spectrum. She has been active in student representation since the Autumn of 2015, while since April 2017 she has been the chair of the Students' Union at the Faculty. She participated in the mentoring programme of the Hungarian Women's Lobby in the Spring of 2017, mainly dealing with the question of intersectionality affecting women with disabilities. Earlier she was a volunteer at the Courtwatch Program of Patent Association, which monitored cases of domestic violence. Her interest and future activities can be summarised by the following keywords (in any possible combinations): interest representation, enforcement of interest, womanhood, disability. Her upcoming research is focusing on the issue of intimate partner violence against women with disabilities.



### **DR. RÉKA VÁRNAGY**

PhD, Assistant Professor at the Institute of Political Science, Corvinus University of Budapest

The research interest of Réka Várnagy includes the development of parties and party systems, legislative politics and the gender aspect of political participation. Her recent publications include the analysis of the parliamentary behaviour of opposition parties (with Gabriella Ilonszki, edited by Elisabetta di Giorgi and Gabriella Ilonszki, forthcoming at Routledge) and the territoriality of the vote in Hungary (with Gábor Dobos, edited by Arjan H. Schakel, published at Palgrave MacMillan). She teaches courses on 'Parties and party systems' (BA and PhD level), 'Feminism' (BA level) and 'Political Communication' (BA and MA level) at Corvinus University. She was an ERASMUS lecturer at the SciencePo, France; Nova Universidad de Lisboa, Portugal and the University of Western Ontario, Canada. In 2017 she was awarded the Bolyai János Research Scholarship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.



### **DR. EVA FEHRINGER**

Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission, Council of Europe

Eva Fehringer is Deputy Director of the Department of International and EU Labour Law, Equality and Anti-Discrimination in the Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection of Austria. She is the Chairperson of the Gender Equality Commission of the Council of Europe and has over 20 years of experience in the field of gender equality. Dr. Fehringer holds a doctorate in Law and has vast experience in the area of labour and human rights, policy making and negotiations within the EU, the Council of Europe, ILO, UN and OECD. She is also a member of the European Pensions Forum, of the EU High Level Group on Social Responsibility, and is the Chair of the Working Group on Fighting Human Trafficking for Labour Exploitation.



**H.E. OLAV BERSTAD**

Ambassador of Norway to Hungary and Slovenia

Olav Berstad was appointed ambassador of Norway to Hungary and the Republic of Slovenia in 2016. During his long diplomatic career, Mr. Berstad has held several positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also served as ambassador in four other countries, namely in Belarus (2007-2011), Ukraine (2006-2011), Azerbaijan (1998-2001) and Georgia (2000-2001). He was Senior Adviser for Eurasia energy issues and Central Asia from 2011 to 2016, Senior Adviser for Barents regional co-operation from 2001 to 2006 and Assistant Director General for Environment and nuclear safety between 1996 and 1998. Mr. Berstad studied Russian language/literature, history and archaeology at the University of Oslo.



**DR. GABRIELLA ILONSZKI PHD, DSC**

Political scientist, Professor Emerita at Corvinus University of Budapest

Gabriella Ilonszki's main research field covers the processes of democratic institutionalisation in East Central Europe focusing on the role of different actors. She headed numerous Hungarian and international research projects (OSI, EU FP6, OTKA) relating to parliamentary government, the selection and election of partisan and government actors. She has published her research results in more than 100 academic writings, international journals, books and book chapters. Now she is involved in unfolding the social and international impact of political science (EU Cost project). During her work she has come across with the under-representation of women, an ongoing deficit in East Central Europe. Currently she is pursuing research on how substantive representation and political democracy are interconnected and how the representation deficit can be cured.

## **CONTACT**

[www.osce.org/odihr/gender](http://www.osce.org/odihr/gender)  
[www.noierdek.hu](http://www.noierdek.hu)

## **IMPRESSUM**

Picture on the title page: Dr. Doris Pack of EPP Women speaks in the High-Level Panel, while Dr. Andrea Pető of CEU moderates and Ms. Mónika Dunai, Member of Parliament of Hungary listens.  
All photo credits:  
István Fazekas

## **DISCLAIMER**

This report should not be interpreted as representing official views, opinions, or recommendations of any of the organizers of this event. The content of this report reflects the opinions expressed by experts and participants at the International Forum on Women's Political Empowerment, held in Budapest on 7 September 2017.