



Kosovo Women's Network

Serving, Protecting and Promoting the Rights of Women and Girls

KWN issues call: Vote for Women!

[The Kosovo Women's Network \(KWN\)](#) appeals to vote women candidates in early elections for the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo, which are to be held on 11 June 2017. Women still remain very little represented in politics and in decision-making at national, municipal and party level. According to the [Law on Gender Equality no. 05 / L-020](#) it is our obligation as citizens to elect more women in parliament, given that political entities and the Central Election Commission (CEC) have failed to implement this Law.

[The Law on Gender Equality](#) guarantees gender integration, which means “incorporating a gender perspective at every stage of the process, planning, adoption, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of legislation, policies or programs and budgets in all political, economic and social areas”. Also, this law states that “Equal gender representation in all legislative, executive and judiciary bodies and other public institutions is achieved when ensured a minimum representation of fifty percent (50%) for each gender, including their governing and decision-making bodies.” (Article 6, paragraph 8). Article 14 also states: “Political parties with their acts are obliged to implement measures to promote equal participation of men and women at authorities and bodies of the parties in accordance with provisions of Article 6 of this Law”, which also states that: “Legislative, executive, judicial bodies at all levels and other public institutions shall be obliged to adopt and implement special measures to increase representation of underrepresented gender, until equal representation of women and men according to this Law is achieved”. (Article 6, paragraph 7).

The KWN considers that many of the political entities in Kosovo have violated Law no. 05 / L-020 [by failing to provide equal opportunities for men and women in their electoral lists](#). At the same time, KWN considers that the [CEC](#) has also violated Law no. 05 / L-020 by not objecting the lists submitted by political entities and at the same time not requesting their amendment.

All stakeholders should bear in mind that the Law on Gender Equality clarifies the fact that “Any provision which is in contradiction to the principle of equal treatment under this Law shall be repealed” (Article 5, paragraph 2).

Thus, seeing the failure of the key actors in this issue, it remains to us as citizens of the [Republic of Kosovo](#) to implement the Law on Gender Equality. We encourage all people, women and men **to vote for women** who will represent their interests in parliament and will fight for achieving gender equality.

Considering the elections as a fundamental element of a democratic state and gender equality as a fundamental human right, we deem it necessary and important for the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo to be given equal opportunities. The lack of democratization and inadequate participation of women in decision-making within most political entities has historically unjustly deprived women of their participation in decision-making at central and local level.

Being politically impartial and without intending to favour any political subject, we appeal to vote the women in electoral lists, and contribute to the fifty percent (50%) representation for each gender, as guaranteed by the Law no. 05 / L-020. Therefore, for having equal representation, **let's vote for women!**

Supporting women's participation in Central and Municipal Assemblies is a part of the [KWN 2015-2018 Strategy](#).

[KWN's mission](#) is to support, protect and promote the rights and interests of women and girls throughout Kosovo, regardless of their political, religious, ethnicity, age, level of education, sexual orientation and ability.