

SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY WESTMINSTER FOUNDATION FOR DEMOCRACY



A N N U A L N E W S L E T T E R

April 2023 to March 2024

THREE PRINCIPLES OF SNP WFD PROGRAMMES

- Promoting gender equality and inclusiveness in political representation.
- Promoting accountability and transparency.
- Addressing the urgency of the climate crisis.

The SNP's international programmes funded by WFD focuses on cross-party and cross programme bases to maximise the depth of our international engagement. SNP WFD Office leverage the unique expertise and experiences of the SNP being the second opposition party in the UK Parliament as well as the governing party in the devolved Scottish Parliament. For example, by sharing real examples of Scotland's experience in moving closer to gender equality (as the first gender-balanced cabinet in the UK) and its path towards becoming a global leader in climate change (led on Loss & Damage commitments at COP27).

SNP WFD has programmes in two of the four of the Scottish Government's priority development countries, namely Malawi and Zambia. The SNP WFD programmes are as follows:

MALAWI PARLIAMENTARY WOMEN'S CAUCUS



Structural inequalities are deep-rooted in Malawi and remain a key obstacle to progress on reaching gender equality and wider social inclusion. SNP WFD supports Malawi's Parliamentary Women's Caucus (PWC) as they seek to tackle those issues. The PWC is a cross-party group of all women parliamentarians represented in the Malawian National Assembly. Activities include strengthening the visibility of women in leadership positions, engaging in election monitoring exercises promoting electoral integrity, tackling negative stereotypes of women in politics, and conducting gender responsive budgeting analysis. The PWC is managed locally through its NGO secretariat, the Centre for Civil Society Strengthening (CCSS).



"For me, it is about development and not just about politics, so the work of SNP and WFD is essential to promote gender equality and democratic practices in all spheres of Malawian society. We appreciate working with the SNP WFD to strengthen women's political participation, economic development, and girls' education and reduce gender-based violence through extensive networking, collaboration, and joint endeavours. PWC look forward to more projects which will help women and girls in Malawi."

-Hon. Roseby Gadama, Zomba Thondwe Constituency, Chairperson Malawi Parliamentary Women's Caucus

Activities Completed in 2023-24

Gender Responsive Budgeting

A gender responsive budgeting (GRB) guidance note was published for use of the Malawi Parliamentary Women's Caucus. The guidance note is a user-friendly and concise document for MPs and relevant stakeholders to enhance their capacity to analyse and monitor national budget priorities from a gender perspective. The guidance note was developed off the back of GRB analyses into the 2023-24 and 2024-25 national budgets in Malawi. Those analyses revealed hidden gender inequalities in specific budget areas, e.g., health, education, employment, and agriculture, which the guidance note would help MPs raise as part of budget negotiations.

Political Party Primary Elections

SNP WFD and partners CCSS published an issue paper on the lessons learned and opportunities to improve conditions for women candidates surrounding Malawi's political party primaries ahead of the 2025 Malawi Tripartite Elections. The primaries in 2018-19 were marred by democratic deficiencies, particularly affecting women candidates.

We have established a taskforce on the upcoming political primaries in Malawi involving UN Women Malawi, Oxfam, CCSS, Centre for Multi-Party Democracy, Oxfam and local NGOs to work on complementary activities towards more gender equal political primaries. The SNP WFD has developed a Code of Conduct and the Minimum Standards for Participation for Women under current consideration by the Malawian political parties.

Anti-Hate Campaign

A campaign was started to tackle the barriers women face in politics in Malawi based on their recorded experiences. Testimonies of verbal insults, intimidation, violence, and smears were recorded by women simply for doing fulfilling their roles. The campaign reached over 71,000 on social media, featured on Times Radio, the fastest-growing radio station in Malawi, and on Times Television, which covers the southern, eastern, central and the northern region of Malawi. It culminated in an event in the Malawian parliament in March 2024 where two female MPs and one male MP (He4She) committed to next steps in changing cultural attitudes to women in politics.

Constituency Stakeholder Mapping Analysis

Stakeholder mapping was completed in 27 out of the 40 constituencies held by women MPs. The completed reports have been fed back confidentially to the women MPs for them to become better informed on their distinct constituency needs and voter perceptions of them as representatives, learning what is expected of them by their communities, and ultimately, help with their reelection bids in the 2025 elections. The MPs were grateful to receive the honest feedback of their performance among their constituents and the areas where they can improve to strengthen their role as local representatives.

ZAMBIAN PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS ON ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE (ZPCECC)



SNP WFD's programme in Zambia works with political parties to provide them with the tools and guidance to become more effective actors on environmental and climate change issues. The programme is responding to locally led demand articulated by the ZPCECC's formation. It calls on political parties to learn from others in how to strengthen their structures, processes, and personnel in adapting to the fast-evolving environmental challenges in the country.

SNP WFD engaged with the six political parties in Zambia in developing individual political party environmental strategic plans. The parties involved include the three in parliament - United Party for National Development (UPND), Patriotic Front (PF), Party of National Unity & Progress (PNUP) - and the three female-led parties - Forum for Democracy & Development (FDD), National Democratic Congress (NDC), and New Heritage Party (NHP).



A Study on Environmental and Climate Change Responses of Zambia's Political Parties

SNP WFD authored and aggregated research on the political parties approach to the environment. The analysis highlighted that the political parties recognise the importance and relevance of environmental and climate change issues for Zambia, however, lack of incentives amid a low climate literacy and disengaged media for such explicit climate change topics to raise them to national discussions.

Establishment of Post-legislation Scrutiny Caucus in Zambian Parliament

SNP WFD sponsored three Zambian MPs for a course on Post-Legislative Scrutiny at the University of London. Thereafter, they requested the Speaker of the Parliament to grant a Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on Post-legislative Scrutiny to be established, which came into force in March 2024. Establishing the caucus lays the ground for the first PLS study of its kind in Zambia, which will strengthen parliamentarians' ability to have oversight of legislation and make law based on outcomes. A partnership exchange with the Scottish Parliament has been established in this effort.

Political Parties Environmental Strategic Plans

An environmental strategy workshop conducted in October 2023 was the culmination of a project phase that paired the six political parties with local environmental mentors to research the political parties' positions, structures, obstacles, and opportunities when arriving at environmental responses. Each political party agreed to research based on interviews, focus group discussions, and a literature review relating to their parties' environmental responses. Strategic plans were then drafted to address the critical knowledge gaps within political parties and promote more environmentally responsive political discourse, political commitments and internal policymaking.

The meetings in the project involving the six political parties were as follows-

- a) Political party Environment Roundtable in March 2023
- b) Political parties Environmental Capacities Assessment in July 2023
- c) Political Parties Environmental Strategy Workshop in October 2023
- d) Environmental Check-in Meeting in December 2023

"The establishment of the Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on PLS is a huge step forward in bringing efforts of transparency and accountability to our parliament. We are grateful to the SNP WFD for its pivotal support in its creation, linking us to experts within WFD, clerks in the Scottish Parliament and experience legislators in the SNP."

- Hon. Imanga Wamunyima Jr., Chair of the Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on Post-legislative Scrutiny

CASE STUDY: STAKEHOLDER MAPPING OF FEMALE MPs' CONSTITUENCIES IN MALAWI



Between November 2022 and March 2024, CCSS carried out a stakeholder mapping programme in 27 of the women MPs' constituencies. The project had three goals in mind: ensuring PWC members are well informed on stakeholders in their constituencies, learning what is expected of them by their communities, and helping with seat retention in the 2025 general elections.

While some community respondents felt their MPs were distant, overall, respondents said they favoured working with women politicians rather than men because the projects initiated by women MPs affect their lives more positively and sustainably. For instance, respondents exalted their MPs for implementing education initiatives, facilitating renovations, advancing healthcare, and building other infrastructure in the constituency.

The MPs were quoted as saying, "It is a unique initiative that has assisted in unveiling members weaknesses and strength" with another saying, "Local governments can use this data to develop policies on enhancing women in politics".

Events organised by or jointly with SNP WFD in 2023-24

- [Zambian Political Party Environment Roundtable, Lusaka, March 2023](#)
- [Albanian MPs Delegation Bilateral with SNP MPs, UK Parliament, June 2023](#)
- [Zambian Political Parties Environmental Capacities Assessment, Lusaka, July 2023](#)
- ['Peer-to-Peer Exchange of Practices and Strategies to Prevent, Mitigate, and Respond to Hate Speech in Malawi' with Malawian and SNP MPs, Online, September 2023](#)
- [WFD Garden of Democracy in Portcullis House, Houses of Parliament, September-October 2023](#)
- [Malaysia Youth Delegation Bilateral with SNP Youth Representatives, London, October 2023](#)
- [Zambian Political Parties Environmental Strategy Workshop, Chaminuka, Lusaka, October 2023](#)
- [Launch of the Gender-Responsive Budgeting Guidance Note in Malawi, Lilongwe, December 2023](#)
- [Launch of the Strategic Plan for the Malawi Parliamentary Women's Caucus 2023-2028, Lilongwe, December 2023](#)
- [Environmental Check-in Meeting on Zambian Political Parties Environmental Plans, Lusaka, December 2023](#)
- [WFD Political Party Office Conference 'Women Lead - Transforming Women's Selection Processes in Political Parties, London, February 2024](#)
- [Malawi and Zambian Delegation speaking at the APPG Malawi and Cross-Party Group on Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, February 2024](#)
- [Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government Exchange with Malawi and Zambia Delegation, Edinburgh, February 2024](#)
- [Inception Meetings and Establishment of the Zambian Parliamentary Caucus on Post-legislative Scrutiny, Lusaka, March 2024](#)
- [Anti-Hate Campaign Panel Discussion, Times TV Malawi and Online, March 2024](#)

Learn more about us at:

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