Africa Liberal Network

Women’s Leadership Programme
The Africa Liberal Network’s Women’s Leadership Programme (WLP) is an annual training scheme for women politicians from ALN member parties, aimed at developing the knowledge and skills to win candidate nominations and upcoming elections, or to be elected to internal party leadership positions. The WLP aims to empower aspiring women leaders from Africa liberal parties, providing them with additional skills and tailored support to develop and advance their political careers, and ultimately to increase women’s participation and influence in politics.

Launched this year by the Africa Liberal Network (ALN) in partnership with the UK Liberal Democrats and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy, the WLP will aim to address the barriers to women’s leadership in African liberal parties. Those selected for the 2019 scheme will be the first to participate in this important programme.

The training programme will be spread across three two-day sessions, covering a range of topics to provide all the critical skills and knowledge needed to successfully run for party nominations and elected positions. The programme’s topics will include how to develop a campaign plan and team, fundraise, create social media posts and videos, create efficient and effective voter contact models and much more. The training workshops will provide practical tools and ideas that the participants will be able to apply directly to their work and campaigns.

The programme will also include a mentoring scheme whereby participants will be paired with an experienced political actor to provide tailored advice and support, in addition to the three training retreats. After successfully completing the programme, former participants will also have the opportunity to share their experience and act as mentors to the next group of participants.

Through taking part in the programme participants will not only gain additional skills and knowledge to help them progress into leadership roles but will also form an alumni network of politicians advancing women’s political participation, through which experiences, support and continued learning can be shared.

“\nIn many cases, women remain excluded from political decision-making processes, to the detriment of informed and inclusive policy development. To achieve women’s equality in politics, we must promote opportunities for women to compete for leadership positions on a level playing field. The ALN’s Women’s Leadership Programme contributes to this goal, providing aspiring women candidates with additional skills to win positions within and on behalf of their parties. Liberal International and its Human Rights Committee looks forward to working closely with ALN in the context of this new programme for the betterment and empowerment of women from across the liberal world.”

Hakima el Haité, President of Liberal International
Up to 15 participants planning to run in either local or national elections in 2019, 2020 or 2021.

Three two-day training sessions

A practical training programme made up of interactive workshops and tailored mentoring, providing skills, knowledge and guidance that can be applied directly to the participants’ election campaigns.

The development of a project by each participant within their local area, aiming to resolve a problem and create value for those involved, during the course of programme. The best three projects will be awarded at the end of the programme, with the possibility of the winners attending the UK Liberal Democrat Party Conference.

Trainers, mentors and expert speakers with substantial political leadership and campaigning experience from the UK Liberal Democrat Party, the Africa Liberal Network and beyond.

**WLP dates and training schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session I</th>
<th>Session II</th>
<th>Session III</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6-7 March 2019</td>
<td>26-27 July 2019</td>
<td>29-30 November 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting your political goals - what do you need to win?</td>
<td>Grassroots campaigning Part 2</td>
<td>Raising the money for your campaign</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developing your campaign strategy and plan</td>
<td>Door to door campaigning and the value of personal contact with voters</td>
<td>Public speaking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership skills</td>
<td>Campaigning with social media</td>
<td>Grassroots Campaigning Part 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grassroots campaigning Part 1</td>
<td>Media and message</td>
<td>Building your election timeline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building your campaign team &amp; recruiting volunteers</td>
<td>Dealing with negative campaigning</td>
<td>Planning a winning GOTV operation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Women’s full political participation is essential to creating and maintaining strong and vibrant democracies. We hope this new programme will play an important role in efforts to achieve this by empowering women to become leaders within the ALN.”

*Vince Cable, Leader of the UK Liberal Democrats*

**Selection criteria**

**Applicants must be:**

- Supported by an ALN member party.
- Planning to run as a candidate for local or general elections in 2019, 2020 or 2021.
- A fluent English or French speaker.
- Able to attend all three of the WLP training retreats.
- In addition, applicants must not have already held an elected position during their political career.
What is expected from WLP participants?

Before the first training retreat we expect participants to:

- Produce a short personal biography to share with other participants and describe their political aspirations.
- Gather their best personal political campaign leaflets, links to social media campaigning on facebook etc. and send them to us before the programme starts.
- Gather data on their electorate (population, voters, electoral system, district size and votes, results from previous elections etc). Clear instructions and a special form to fill in will be given a month before the first session.

During the programme, we expect participants to:

- Fully commit to and engage with all training retreats and the mentoring scheme.
- Complete their political project and associated progress reports within the given deadlines.
- Step out of their comfort zone and be prepared to take on new challenges, ideas and knowledge.

After completing the programme, we expect participants to:

- If called upon, act as a mentor or speaker for future programmes.
- To become part of the WLP alumni network and to share knowledge and experience where appropriate through this, as well as keeping the network informed about any successes/achievements.