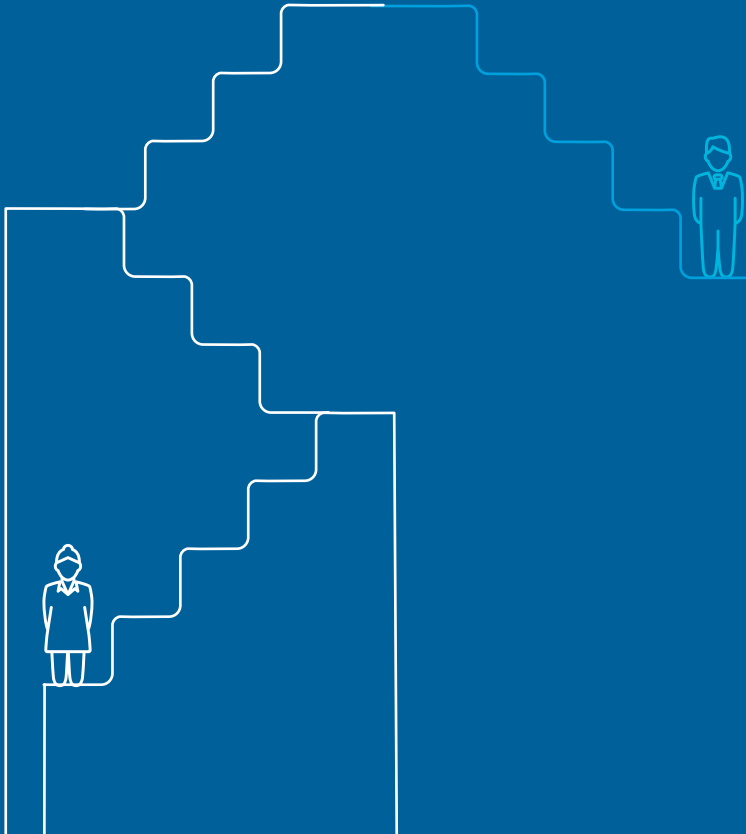


# An Open Secret: Gender-Based Political Violence in Argentina



# Gender-Based political violence in Argentina

2018

2019

**8 in every 10 women** in politics across the whole country reported having experienced political violence throughout their political careers (ELA, 2018).

**The most frequent types of violence are:**



**Psychological violence: 50%**

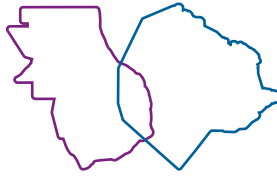


**Symbolic violence: 28%**

**The Argentine Comprehensive Protection against Violence Act 26.485** was amended to recognize and define gender-based political violence as any act or omission that precludes women from political participation and development.

**This is a clear picture: the political arena is hostile for women and LGTBI+.**

Gender-based political violence aims at intimidating and punishing women and other underrepresented groups. We can't accept this under a democratic system.



## Rosario and the City of Buenos Aires: Political Violence at a Local Level

Despite progress, some local studies conducted in 2021 in Rosario and the City of Buenos Aires show continuity regarding the trend observed in 2018:



### 8 in 10 women in politics

reported having experienced gender-based political violence.

reported that such violence affected their emotional well-being.



In 6 out of 10 cases

the perpetrator was a male peer from **the same political party.**



In more than 50% of the cases

the attacker reportedly had **no consequences derived from his actions.**



“Women always have to double their efforts when participating in politics, drafting projects, or providing definitions in comparison with their male peers. Men think that what women say, write, or expose is infused with an emotional perception”.

**Testimony of a Councilwoman of Rosario**

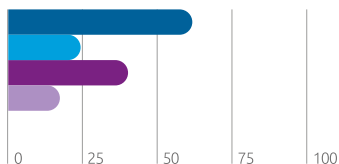
“I pay a higher price than men. Once I was at the final stage to become part of a candidates’ list and I was told ‘Do you realize you are abandoning your children?!’ I had to worked for two full days and I ended up paying a high cost”.

**Testimony of a Congresswoman  
of Buenos Aires**

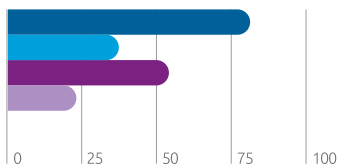
# Compared experiences of Women and Men in politics

Gender inequalities in Political Careers:  
Scenarios they have repeatedly lived throughout their political career:

Worked harder than other members to obtain the same position:

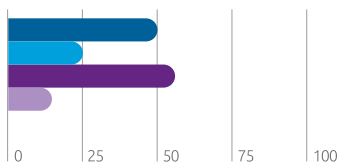


Personal image needed to be cared for to avoid being judged:

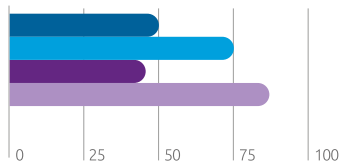


How much do you think this affected your participation in politics?

A lot/Something:



Very little/Nothing:



- Rosario Councilwomen
- Rosario Councilmen
- City of Buenos Aires Congresswomen
- City of Buenos Aires Congressmen

# When political violence is enforced against women, it becomes **more frequent and widespread.**

32% of all interviewed Congresswomen from the City of Buenos Aires

have reportedly been assigned out-of-scope tasks, while only **9% of legislative men have reported the same issue.**

44% of all interviewed Rosario Councilwomen

reported having been precluded from attending decision-making meetings, while only **13% of their male peers have reported the same issue.**



Preclusion from speaking during meetings, sessions, or other events:



**19% of all interviewed women in politics** reported having been precluded.

Non of their male peers have reported the same issue.

## **ALERT:** UNDERREPRESENTATION OF TRANS AND TRAVESTI PEOPLE



**None of these surveys include information on trans or travesti experiences since,** at the moment of the investigation, there were no political representation of these group in the cities studied.



**In the *TRANSformando la política* podcast,** we delve deeper in trans and travesti people's experiences in the political arena.



# Areas where further efforts are needed:



## Raising awareness and educating

Increasing trainings and awareness raising activities.

Strengthening knowledge on the problem of gender-based political violence.

Encouraging gender parity in politics.



## Strengthening partnerships

Increasing solidarity among women in politics from different provinces and political parties.

Improving nonviolent communication.



## Promoting regulatory adaptations

Devising protective measures for those experiencing political violence.

Federalizing protocols and monitoring their implementation.

Regulating hate speech in mass media and social media.



**For further information,**  
see the following ELA publications:

*Sex and Power. Who is in charge in Argentina?*  
(2021)

Available only in Spanish:

*Violencia por motivos de género en la política local:  
experiencias de legisladores y legisladoras de CABA*  
(2022)

*Violencia por motivos de género en la política local:  
experiencias de concejales y concejalas en Rosario*  
(2022)

*Violencia política contra las mujeres en Argentina:  
Experiencias en primera persona* (2018)