

THE POWER ACCESS BY WOMEN AND THE NEW CHALLENGES

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SUMMARY: 1 Introduction. 2 Affirmative actions - The need for quotas. 3 The insufficiency of the quotas. 4 Revisiting the allegory of the "Engine Room" by Roberto Gargarella. 5 Opening the door of "Engine Room" - New challenges. 6 Conclusion. 7 References

ABSTRACT:

Across the globe, even when a majority in number, women represent a minority with restricted access to power positions. To minimize this mismatch, affirmative actions were created as quotas for women's access to elected legislative positions. However, from the official reports analysis, quotas are most often the ceiling and not the minimum parameter for the entry of women into such positions.

Indeed, considering that affirmative actions are not enough, the objective of this paper is to discuss the next steps that the Member States that have ratified CEDAW must take in order to ensure real equality on political participation between men and women in legislative.

To understand why this consolidated barrier cannot be easily broken and divert woman from politics, we shall revisit the allegory of Gargarella's "Engine Room", which points to a power protection dynamic that stimulates participation

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and recognizes rights, but at the same time preserves an authority concentration model by keeping the “Engine Room” doors closed.

Likewise, despite the quotas importance to legitimately guarantee female participation and an apparent equality, these mechanisms disguise an age-old structural inequality that runs through the private and public spheres and is transposed into the legislature. Even overcoming many challenges to be elected, women still face greater obstacles in parliament than men seeking to be heard and asserting their ideas. They were also not encouraged historically in greater visibility matters, leaving to them low political interest spaces.

Therefore, to correct this internalized and naturalized inequality, we must think actions in a systemic way, and even if it takes time and many struggles, they, must be part of a larger gear that aims at redesigning the “Engine Room” functionality. The equality can only be true when reached in society level, then it can be reflected in all levels of its power. To occupy academic spaces, within the family and in the political environment can not be isolated actions, but rather they are part of a new proposal of occupation of power in society.

Keywords: Political participation. Power occupation. Women Representation, Equality, Legislative