



IFES Voice

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Uncommon Courage: Women on the Front Lines of a Forgotten Conflict



Following the 2008 conflict with Russia, many Georgian citizens from South Ossetia were forced out of their homes or moved out of other parts of the region. IFES has been supporting two local NGOs to work with women near the disputed administrative border region dividing Georgia from South Ossetia to gain confidence and professional skills to advocate for their rights. To illustrate some of the courageous acts taken by Georgian women, this article discusses one woman's courageous efforts to organize food distribution for displaced persons like herself.

Election Management

Analyzing the Gender Breakdown in Kosovo's Election Staffing

On March 4, IFES launched its second review of women's participation as election officials in Kosovo at a workshop in Pristina, Kosovo. The review shows a small improvement in election staff positions filled by women – from 17 percent in 2013 to 20 percent in 2014. In order to build on and enhance this improvement, IFES offered key recommendations on improving the gender balance of election staff.

Election Integrity and Transparency

Timid Support in Nigeria for Women in Politics

Notes on Democracy



While Libya remains beset by fractures in governance and society that have led to violence and civil unrest, Libyan women activists have taken a leadership role in setting aside their differences to advocate for peace and increased rights. IFES has supported several workshops to provide these women with a forum to take the first step towards national reconciliation by coming together to find solutions and seeking to improve their leadership skills.

Photo Gallery



Women's Leadership Training in the Maldives

In February, IFES conducted a Women's Leadership Training in the Maldives for 28 female representatives from political parties, government offices, and the private sector.

Ahead of Nigeria's March 28 general elections, a public opinion survey conducted by IFES reveals a sharp divide between men and women on attitudes towards women's representation in high political positions. The data from this survey suggests a gender gap in voter turnout is likely since without adequate voter information, women may not be motivated to participate and may not be able to make informed decisions when it is time to vote.

The training – informed by a needs assessment conducted in the weeks prior to the event – provided participants with a rare opportunity to come together across political party lines; learn about domestic violence laws in the Maldives; and build a strong women's network.

Citizen Participation

Promoting Gender Inclusion with Nepal's Election Commission

While Nepal has made significant progress in promoting gender equality in the last decade, women continue to face barriers to active and equal political and civic participation. IFES is working with the Election Commission of Nepal to establish a Gender and Social Inclusion Unit to strengthen gender mainstreaming mechanisms, increase women's representation, systematize gender training and capacity building, and build gender-sensitive perspectives throughout Nepal's electoral process.

Inclusion and Empowerment

A Gender Analysis of Haiti's Legal Framework for Elections

Haitian women face multifold obstacles to their participation in politics, which has been traditionally perceived as an exclusive sphere for men. As Haiti's electoral management body prepares a new electoral decree, IFES provides an analysis of the gender dimension of the Haitian legal framework for elections and offers recommendations to ensure gender equality and promote women's political participation.

Alumni Update



Former IFES Russia Project Director Christian Nadeau has worked in international development and democracy promotion for 12 years in more than thirty countries. In this Q&A, Nadeau discusses highlights from his time with IFES Russia and best practices for success in helping countries implement credible, transparent and inclusive elections.

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