

Women's cross-party co-operation in politics

The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations NYTKIS

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Secretary General



Women in Finland - Progress thus far

- 1901 Women receive the right to study at university on equal terms with men
- 1906 Women receive voting rights in national elections (first in Europe) and the right to stand as electoral candidates (first globally)
- 1907 The first women join the first Parliament (19/200 MPs) (2019: 47%, 94/200)
- 1926-1927 The first women becomes Minister (Miina Sillanpää)

40,3 %

OF ELECTED
CANDIDATES IN THE
2021 MUNICIPAL
ELECTIONS WERE
WOMEN

37 %

OF THE CHAIRS OF
MUNICIPAL
GOVERNMENTS ARE
WOMEN

NYTKIS - the Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations

- Founded in 1988
- 11 member organisations - 8 political and 3 non-political organisations
- Independent NGO financially supported mainly by the Ministry of Education and Culture
- Objectives: to achieve equality between women and men, to end women's discrimination and to promote the realisation of women's rights
- Was founded as a cross-party co-operation organisation for international affairs

NYTKIS member organisations

The members of NYTKIS include the women's associations of all the political parties represented in Parliament, as well as three politically unaffiliated women's associations:

- Christian Democratic Women in Finland
- Finnish Social Democratic Women
- The Green Women's Association
- Left Women
- The Women of True Finns
- The Women's League of the Coalition Party
- The Women's Organisation of the Centre Party
- The Women's Organisation of the Swedish People's Party
- The Association for Women's Studies in Finland
- The Feminist Association Unioni
- The National Council of Women of Finland. (Umbrella organisation, 70 member organisations. Their objective is to promote equality, human rights, and the status of women in the Finnish society)

Cooperation

- Issues can be voted on (however, this measure is mostly not used due to the consensus-principal stipulated in the association's rules)
- All member organisations represented in the board, all hold one vote.
- Annual rotation of the chairposition; 2021 The Women's League of the Coalition Party, 2022 The Feminist Association Unioni
- Cooperation with the Network of Finnish Women Members of Parliament

NYTKIS - what we do

- Lobbying - Parliament, government, authorities
- Campaigning - for example during election periods, national and international days of action
- Representing women's organisations in various committees, networks and working groups founded by the government
- Drafting of statements, proposals, taking part in hearings
- Cooperation with other NGOs
- Regional NYTKIS-committees
- International activities (NYTKIS holds a position in Finland's delegation to the UN Commission on the Status of Women held annually in New York)

NYTKIS - some current issues

- COVID19 -pandemic - it's effects on women
- Violence against women
- Combining work and family: segregation, equal pay, parental leaves etc.
- Gendered hate speech and it's effects on especially politically active women
- Women's participation in political activities

EWL - European Women's Lobby

- Is a European wide umbrella organisation for organisations that work for gender equality and for women's rights and share EWL's feminist vision and values - it is the largest European umbrella organisation of women's associations
- Has advisory status in both the United Nations Economic and Social Council and the Council of Europe
- Main themes: violence against women, decision-making & leadership, women's economic independence, rights of migrant & refugee women
- NYTKIS organises the national coordination in Finland
- Member of the EWL board: Fatim Diarra and as her alternate Silla Kakkola

Conversation -
questions?

THANK YOU!

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