

ABOUT PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION (PGA) – WWW.PGAACTION.ORG

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest international, cross-party, membership-based organization comprised of – and governed by – individual members of parliament (MPs). This global network of parliamentarians works to contribute to *the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.*

Member-parliamentarians are supported by a PGA National Group structure in parliaments, which creates sustainability and ownership of issues at the national level, and by a Secretariat with relevant expertise. PGA members (and their staff) see PGA as a natural extension of their own parliamentary teams and rely on its expert Secretariat for advice and technical assistance. This unique model of assistance to member-parliamentarians worldwide allows PGA to effectively and efficiently carry out strategic activities *both in person and remotely.*

PGA's Executive Committee meets twice a year and consists of 15 MPs elected by the PGA International Council; the International Council itself meets annually and allows the National Groups' representatives to report on progress and challenges faced in advancing PGA's priorities. In accordance with the organization's by-laws, the Executive Committee must maintain a 40:60 either gender ratio.

PGA is in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations with headquarters in New York. PGA's office in The Hague, Netherlands fosters cooperation with The Hague-based International Organizations, including the International Criminal Court (ICC).

PGA'S THEORY OF CHANGE

Members of Parliament (MPs) have a key role to play in national and global efforts to promote and protect human rights, democracy, peace and sustainable development: in their capacity as lawmakers, in their Government-oversight functions, and as democratically-elected representatives of the people who play important leadership roles in their communities.

By using a peer-to-peer methodology and country-specific strategies, the PGA Secretariat and leading members work together to educate, sensitize, build the technical capacity and strengthen the political will of parliamentarians in order to take ownership, concrete initiatives and legislative actions to achieve results on PGA's campaign objectives. PGA works with individual parliamentarians in their national contexts and legislative circumstances, leveraging that capacity with international networking to support global gains for democracy, human rights, and peace that transcend borders.

PROGRAMMES AND CAMPAIGNS

International Law and Human Rights Programme

- [*Campaign for the Rome Statute of the ICC*](#) aims to promote the universalization of the Rome Statute and effective the effective exercise of primary jurisdiction by States and of complementary jurisdiction by the International Criminal Court (ICC). It seeks to contribute to ending impunity for atrocity-crimes by advancing access to justice for victims through the universal ratification and effective implementation of the Rome Statute and relevant amendments in national jurisdictions. PGA has contributed to the ratification of 78 out of 123 State Parties to the Rome Statute and its domestic implementation in 36 countries. PGA's [*Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law*](#) (CAP-ICC) is the largest gathering of parliamentarians on this issue. Due to this campaign, PGA is widely recognized as the parliamentary network that works in international justice.
- [*Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty*](#) focuses not only on reducing the scope of use of capital punishment, abolishing it altogether and widening the support to international instruments on abolition (like the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights or ICCPR-OP2), but also on ensuring that abolitionist countries which apply a moratorium do not reintroduce capital punishment in their criminal laws or resume executions. PGA has contributed to 7 Legislative reforms reducing the scope of the death penalty and/or ratifications of relevant international instruments.
- [*Campaign for Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of SDG 14*](#) aims to end impunity for crimes committed on and against the world's oceans and their related human rights violations through ratification and implementation of international treaties to End Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing. The Campaign also seeks to create effective national legal structures for promoting a Sustainable Small-scale Fishing (SSF) Industry. PGA has contributed to ratification of the Cape Town Agreement (CTA).

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Gender, Equality and Inclusion Programme

- [*Campaign to End Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity \(SOGI\)*](#) seeks to mobilize parliamentarians as human rights champions, taking action to guarantee that all individuals have equal value, live with dignity, and are able to achieve their highest potential free from all forms of violence and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and/or expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC). PGA has contributed to 9 LGBTI-inclusive legislative reforms. In collaboration with UN Development Programme, PGA published *Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: A Handbook for Parliamentarians* and launched an [LGBTI Inclusion Site](#) with tools designed to assist parliamentarians and stakeholders better understand their role in ensuring equality and non-discrimination of all individuals.
- [*Campaign to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage \(CEFM\)*](#) seeks to end CEFM by providing tools to parliamentarians to assert the primacy of national legislation over religious and customary laws; establish 18 years as the minimum age for legal marriage; reaffirm civil registration for births and marriages, health and education systems; and guarantee the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights, property rights, and access to justice for all girls and women. PGA has contributed to 7 reforms of civil and family codes, raising the minimum marriage age to 18 years. PGA's Global Parliamentary Declaration to End Child Marriage has secured commitments from 774 MPs from 80 countries around the world in support of SDG 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

International Peace and Security Programme

- [*Biological Weapons Convention \(BWC\) and United Nations Security Council Resolution \(UNSCR\) 1540 Campaign*](#) seeks to contribute to a reduction in the threat posed by, as well as proliferation of, biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) through the universality and implementation of the BWC and full implementation of UNSCRs 1540 (2004) and 2325 (2016), which expressly recognize the key role of parliamentarians. PGA has contributed to 6 ratifications of/accession to the BWC. PGA has also played an important role in presenting the first National Report of Guinea-Bissau to the UNSC 1540 Committee.
- [*Small Arms and Light Weapons and Arms Trade Treaty Campaign*](#) seeks to contribute to a worldwide reduction in armed violence, and the threat of armed violence, as a result of consequential steps taken to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and, more broadly, to promote the universality and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). PGA significantly contributed to moving the ATT signature process forward in 44 of the 130 UN member states that signed the ATT before its entry into force; and the ratification process in 45 of the 100 UN member states that have ratified the ATT.
- [*Prohibiting Fully Autonomous Weapons Campaign*](#) aims to promote and gain parliamentary endorsements for the [Global Parliamentary Declaration in Support of the Negotiation of a Treaty Prohibiting Fully Autonomous Weapons](#). Thirty countries have endorsed the call for a prohibition on fully autonomous weapons.

Core Campaign

- [*Campaign for Democratic Renewal and Human Rights*](#) aims to contribute directly to PGA's vision by promoting norms, regulations and best practices reinforcing and protecting civil and political democratic space and protecting the human rights of democracy activists, especially parliamentarians in opposition, women in politics, minorities and vulnerable groups. PGA launched the Parliamentary Rapid Response Team (PARRT), a unique cohort of democracy champions to respond nimbly, intervening when parliamentarians and human rights defenders are at risk.

PGA PARTNERS AND DONORS

Core Donors: [Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency \(Sida\)](#); [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark](#); and [Stewart R. Mott Foundation](#)

International Organizations: [European Union / European Commission](#) and [UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation \(UNSCAR\)](#)

Governments providing Campaign support: [Global Affairs Canada](#); [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands](#); [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway](#); [Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland](#); [Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN](#); and [United States Department of State \(Global Equality Fund\)](#)

Foundations and Other Private Entities: [Arcus Foundation](#); [CRDF Global](#); [Environmental Law Institute](#); [Oak Foundation](#); [Open Society Foundations](#); [Raymond & Elizabeth Bloch Charitable and Education Foundation](#); [The Sigrid Rausing Trust](#); and [Pew Charitable Trust](#)

