

GENDER POLITICS AND DISCOURSES

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Abstract

Gender politics and discourses are tightly linked with gender equality and the principle of non-discrimination, being both standards for democracy. Gender politics differ from one country to another. Countries have huge differences even in the implementation of international acts concerning gender politics. Some countries have an inadequate reaction toward gender politics and furthermore women are prohibited from some basic rights. What measures should be taken in this situation? International and domestic mechanisms should be focused on the promotion of female's education, poverty reduction, economic integration, political integration etc. This would set a soft environment with less discrimination and gender inequality. It has been found that social and political factors have a great impact in gender politics. Principles of gender equality and non-discrimination should be explicitly provided in the domestic legal frame of each country. In Albania, these principles are stated in Constitution, Electoral Code, Labor Code, Family Code, Law on Gender Equality, Law against domestic violation etc. The constitution of gender politics derives from the highest decision making level. How are women represented in national parliaments? According to the international and national mechanisms statistics, only few states have achieved the 30% quota of female members in parliament in accordance with the Beijing Platform for Action. Even Albania has failed in the implementation of gender quotas. Albanian parliament includes only 26 female members (18, 6%) out of 140 members. Even in socialist era the situation was more favorable. (i.e. despite the importance of their positions, women were highly represented). Unfortunately, this situation is a detector for an unconsolidated democracy. Gender quotas are widely respected in countries such as Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Netherlands and Belgium. Women's representation in high decision making levels is an important action to promote gender equality. Some crucial points in this course would be: political parties awareness; legal frame with adequate mechanisms; national strategies; the strengthening of NGO-s and media's role.

Keywords: *gender equality, non-discrimination, women representation, gender quotas*