



2017 Women Political Leaders Global Summit to be held in Reykjavík, Iceland, on 28-30 November

Women in Parliaments – part of the Women Political Leaders Global Forum (WPL) – announced that the 2017 WPL Global Summit will be hosted, in cooperation with the Althingi, Iceland’s Parliament, in Reykjavík on 28-30 November.

WPL Founder and President Silvana Koch-Mehrin and Iceland’s Parliamentary Speaker Unnur Bra Konradsdottir, said in a joint statement, “Iceland is the global champion of gender equality and home of the first elected woman President. By welcoming female Parliamentarians, Ministers, Prime Ministers and Presidents from all parts of the world, it underlines the importance it attributes to more women in political leadership.”

Silvana Koch-Mehrin added, “WPL is delighted by Iceland’s hospitality and political support for the Summit. I am convinced that the Summit will provide a unique opportunity to showcase the Icelandic way to gender equality, as well as providing a forum for exchange on political best practice and experience, leading to impact on legislation and political agenda setting.”

Icelanders made Vigdis Finnbogadottir the world’s first democratically elected woman president in 1980. Finnbogadottir, who served longer as president than any woman from any country, will be specially honoured at the 2017 WPL Global Summit, in cooperation with the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL). Twenty years ago, Finnbogadottir co-founded CWWL, whose membership today is composed of 63 current and former heads of state and government.

Dalia Grybauskaite, President of Lithuania and current chair of the CWWL, said, “We are pleased to partner on the WPL Global Summit in Iceland, a country which is a global leader in advancing women’s rights and gender equality. With her personal example, President Finnbogadottir continues to inspire women around the globe to take the responsibility of leadership and strive for their goals.”

Past Global Summits have each attracted several hundred female Parliamentarians and other senior politicians from around the world to the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium; Kigali, Rwanda; the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Mexico City, Mexico; and Amman, Jordan.

More about WPL:

The Women Political Leaders Global Forum (WPL) is the global network of female politicians. The mission of WPL is to increase both the number and the influence of women in political leadership positions.

Women in Parliaments (WIP) is the most prominent and largest community active under the umbrella of Women Political Leaders (WPL). WIP reaches out to the 9.000 female Parliamentarians working at

national level, and the European Parliament.

WPL strives in all its activities to demonstrate the impact of more women in political leadership, for the global better. To accelerate, women need three things: communication, connection, community. At WPL, optimising the power of communication and connection builds new communities of knowledge for women political leaders everywhere. WPL believes that progress happens by convening women political leaders who have the drive and the influence to create positive change.

WPL members are women in political office – Ministers, Members of Parliaments, Mayors. Membership is free and members are honoured by their participation.

WPL is an independent, international, post-partisan and not-for-profit foundation based in Reykjavik, Iceland (the world champion of gender equality). Silvana Koch-Mehrin is the Founder and President of the WPL Foundation.

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