

# VOTES WITHOUT VIOLENCE

## ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK



This tool was developed by Caroline Hubbard and Claire DeSoi for NDI's Votes Without Violence program and toolkit.

“Genuine elections are not merely a technical endeavor; they are a fundamental human right linked to a broad array of institutions and the ability of citizens to exercise other civil and political rights.”<sup>1</sup>

## Goal of the Conceptual Framework:

**Violence against women in politics** is one of the most serious barriers to women’s political participation globally, regardless of country or context. **Violence against women in elections** (VAW-E) is a particular form of this violence, one that has grave implications for any democracy. An election is not competitive or democratic if violent or unfair tactics are used to prevent or control women’s participation on an equal footing with men. These tactics may seem obvious, but they can be quite hard to see unless they are flagged.

When devising a methodology for a gender-aware, long-term observation program,<sup>2</sup> it is critical to understand the ways violence against women can impact their participation as voters, candidates, election administrators and officials. To evaluate the democratic nature of an election, citizen observation groups should have a sense of the legal framework, policies and environment for each electoral phase (pre-election, election day and post-election) and the impact violence may have on women’s ability and desire to participate. Observers should examine the impact of violence against women on each electoral process within those phases.

This framework is designed to help observation groups assess these impacts and potential risks, identifying vulnerabilities in the electoral process and prioritizing those that should be included in a monitoring effort. Using this framework, observation groups should judge whether the indicators for an **inclusive, transparent** and **accountable** election have been met. By conducting a thorough survey, a citizen group can decide on the type of observation that will work best in its context and create a methodology that prioritizes the greatest risks during an election.

## Definitions for Reference:

**Violence against women in elections** is defined as:

- » any act of gender-based election violence that is directed primarily at women because of their aspirations to seek political office, their link to political activities (such as working as election officials or attending campaign rallies) or simply their commitment to vote;
- » as well as any use or threat of force to harm persons or property with the intention of influencing the electoral process that has a disproportionate or different impact on women because of their marginalized and vulnerable status in society.

Gender norms shape how and why women are subject to electoral violence, as well as what types of acts are pursued to curtail or influence their participation. That is, violence can be specifically motivated to uphold gender norms or traditional female roles in society, and it can impact women in different or disproportionately harmful ways, discouraging them from being or becoming politically active during an election. VAW-E can manifest in many forms, which fall into five key categories: physical violence, sexual violence, threats and coercion, psychological violence and economic violence.

**A democratic election<sup>3</sup>** is defined as one that is

- » **Inclusive**, so that all citizens are free to exercise their full and equal rights to participate in the electoral process, whether as voters, candidates, election officials, observers or other positions, without fear or threat of violence;
- » **Transparent**, so that regulations are equally and clearly applied, the integrity and secrecy of the ballot is maintained and the preferences of all voters are recorded accurately; and
- » **Accountable**, so that the results of the elections are upheld and newly-elected officials are able to assume the posts to which they were elected without fear or threat of violence.

# PRE-ELECTION Voter Registration Voters

## Objective:

- » Voter registration process is free from violence targeting female voters.

## Indicators:

- » Women have equal access to register to vote and receive the proper voting identification, if necessary, without fear or threat of violence.
- » The voter registration process is conducted in a transparent manner so that all citizens are able to participate with full knowledge of any requirements or restrictions.
- » The voter registration and identification process is conducted in a way that ensures all voters remain on the proper registration list and receive adequate identification confirming their registration, if necessary.

## Legal Frameworks:<sup>4</sup>

Existing laws and regulations mandate that the voter registration process be conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

- » There are mechanisms within the legal framework that provide for proper enforcement of these existing laws and regulations.

Existing laws and regulations ensure that all women and men who are eligible to vote can register to do so without fear or threat of violence.

- » Existing laws and regulations mandate that women and men should be equally able to register to vote without fear or threat of violence in the public sphere.
- » Existing laws and regulations mandate that women and men should be equally able to register to vote without fear or threat of violence in the private sphere.
- » Women and men are able to obtain identity documents necessary for voter registration without fear or threat of violence. zWomen and men are able to register on the electoral roll or voters' list in their own name without fear or threat of violence.

## Policies:

The electoral management body's policies ensure that the process of providing voter identification cards following registration is secure and safe for women.

- » The process takes place at times that ensure women can participate without fear or threat of violence (e.g.: the process does not take place late at night).
  - The timing of voter registration does not increase the chance of women experiencing violence (e.g.: running registration late into the night).
- » The process takes place in locations that ensure women are able to register without fear or threat of violence.
  - The locations provided for voter registration do not increase the chance that women will experience violence (e.g.: putting a new registration location in a bar or too far away for women to travel safely).

Political parties have codes of conduct or policies that prohibit its members or candidates from bribing, threatening or coercing women voters into registering as members of a certain party.

- » There are mechanisms in place to implement and enforce these policies.

### **Media:**

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women who register or attempt to register to vote.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women who register or attempt to register to vote.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women who register or attempt to register to vote.

### **Identified Forms of Violence:**

There are no reported incidents of violence against women attempting to obtain identity documents needed to register to vote.

#### ***If there is violence:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of violence against women attempting to register on the electoral roll/voter list.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of violence against women at locations where voter lists or voter registries are displayed for verification.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women voters during the registration period.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# PRE-ELECTION Voter Registration Election Workers and Observers

## Objective:

- » Voter registration process is free from violence targeting female election administrators/observers.

## Indicators:

- » Women have equal access to participate in voting registration administration and monitoring without fear or threat of violence.
- » The voter registration process is conducted in a transparent manner so that all citizens are able to participate with full knowledge of any process requirements or restrictions.
- » The voter registration and identification process is conducted in a way that women and men officials are held equally accountable to the laws and policies governing the process.

## Legal Frameworks:

Existing laws and regulations ensure that women and men are equally able to join and participate in administering registration stations.

Existing laws and regulations ensure that women and men are equally able to join and participate in electoral management bodies.

Existing laws and regulations ensure that all women who are eligible to act as election administrators, party poll watchers or observers can do so without fear or threat of violence.

- » Existing laws and regulations mandate that women and men should be equally able to participate without fear or threat of violence in the public sphere.
- » Existing laws and regulations mandate that women and men should be equally able to participate without fear or threat of violence in the private sphere.

## Policies:

The election management body has policies or mechanisms in place to protect women observers or election administrators against violence during the registration process.

- » The election management body has mechanisms in place to enforce those policies.
- » These policies include adequate reporting methods.
- » The reporting mechanisms provide for timely resolution of issues or complaints.<sup>5</sup>
- » The election management body meets requirements to release public reports and statistics about such procedures and their operation.<sup>6</sup>

The election management body has internal policies or codes allowing women and men to have equal access to positions in registration stations and electoral bodies.

Civil society organizations or political parties monitoring the registration process have internal policies or codes of conduct that allow for women and men to have equal access and representation as observers of the process.

If voter lists or registries are displayed for verification, the election management body ensures that the list or registry is displayed in a safe location for women.

## Media:

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women election administrators or observers.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women election administrators or observers.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women election administrators or observers.

### **Identified Forms of Violence:**

There are no reported incidents of violence against nonpartisan female citizen observers of the voter registration process.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of violence against female party members monitoring the registration process.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of violence against female election management body workers at registration stations.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women administrators, officials or observers during the registration period.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# PRE-ELECTION Voter Registration Candidates

## Objective:

- » Voter registration process is free from violence targeting female candidates.<sup>7</sup>

## Indicators:

- » Women candidates have equal access to participate in the voter registration process without fear or threat of violence.
- » The voter registration process is conducted in a transparent manner so that all women candidates are able to participate with full knowledge of any process requirements or restrictions.
- » The voter registration and identification process is conducted in a way that women and men candidates are held equally accountable to the laws and policies governing the process.

## Identified Forms of Violence:

There are no reported incidents of violence against any female candidates present at registration locations.

### *If there are:*

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of violence against any female candidates verifying the voter registry or conducting voter mobilization or “get out the vote” efforts.

### *If there are:*

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# PRE-ELECTION Voter Education Voters

## Objective:

- » Voter education process is free from violence targeting women voters.

## Indicators:

- » Women are able to participate equally in and benefit from voter education efforts without fear or threat of violence.
- » Women have equal access to voter education information without fear or threat of violence.
- » Voter education processes are conducted in a transparent manner so that all women voters are able to participate with full knowledge of any rules or requirements.
- » Voter education efforts are conducted in a way that allows men and women citizens to hold these efforts accountable for the accuracy of the information distributed.

## Legal Frameworks:<sup>8</sup>

Existing laws and regulations require that voter education be conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

- » Existing laws and regulations contain provisions barring violent messages or hate speech about women during voter education.

Existing laws and regulations ensure that women are able to participate in voter education outreach without the fear or threat of violence.

- » Existing laws and regulations ensure that women are able to receive civic and voter education without fear or threat of violence.

## Policies:

Women are able to access the same information as men during voter education without the fear or threat of violence.

Locations or times for voter education workshops do not increase the chance for women to experience violence.

The content of voter education encourages equal participation of women and men in the electoral process.

- » Voter education does not reinforce gender stereotypes or sexist language.
- » Voter education does not use derogatory language or subject matter when talking about female voters.

Women's civil society organizations are able to conduct civic and voter education without undue restrictions.

## Media:

Voter education campaigns conducted through local or national media outlets do not reinforce gender stereotypes or sexist language.

Voter education campaigns conducted through local or national media outlets do not include hate speech or violent messages against women.

### **Forms of Violence:**

There are no reported incidents of violence against women attending or attempting to attend voter education sessions.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of hate speech or violent messages against women as part of voter education initiatives.

#### ***If there are:***

- » Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# PRE-ELECTION Voter Education Candidates

### **Objective:**

- » Voter education initiatives are free of violence targeting women candidates.

### **Indicators:**

- » Women candidates are able to benefit from voter education efforts without fear or threat of violence.
- » Women candidates have equal access to distributing information through voter education information without fear or threat of violence.
- » Voter education processes are conducted in a transparent manner so that all women candidates are able to participate with full knowledge of the rules or requirements.
- » Voter education efforts are conducted in a way that allows women candidates to hold these efforts accountable for the accuracy of the information distributed about them.

### **Legal Frameworks:<sup>9</sup>**

If a voter guide is produced and distributed, existing laws and regulations stipulate that women candidates or groups that support them must be treated fairly.

- » Existing laws and regulations stipulate that women and men candidates must be subject to the same criteria and vetting processes for inclusion in any voter guidance produced.

## Policies:

Civil society organizations or the election management body running voter education campaigns or activities have internal policies or mechanisms to ensure voter education does not reinforce gender stereotypes or sexist language when discussing women candidates.<sup>10</sup>

Voter education materials or outreach do not use derogatory language or subject matter when talking about female candidates.

## Media:

Media outlets involved in voter education outreach do not provide biased information against a woman candidate as part of this outreach.<sup>11</sup>

Media outlets involved in voter education initiatives do not reinforce or produce violent speech targeting women candidates.

Voter education initiatives or campaigns occurring through social media platforms do not reinforce or produce violent speech targeting women candidates.

## Forms of Violence:

There are no reported incidents of violence toward women candidates during or as a result of voter education initiatives.

### *If there are:*

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# PRE-ELECTION Campaigning Voters

## Objective:

- » Campaigns and campaign activities are free of violence targeting women voters.

## Indicators:

- » Women are able to participate equally in campaign activities as voters and party and/or candidate supporters without fear or threat of violence.
- » Campaign processes are conducted in a transparent manner so that all women voters are able to participate with full knowledge of rules governing campaigns, including any protection or reporting mechanisms in place.
- » Campaigns are conducted in a way that allows men and women citizens to hold the campaigners or coordinators accountable for activities undertaken or information distributed, including activities or information meant to incite violence.

## Legal Frameworks:

Existing laws protect women voters against violence during campaign activities.

- » If so, against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » Mechanisms and policies are in place to enforce those laws.

Mechanisms are in place that women voters can use to report incidents without fear or threat of violence or reprisals.

- » These mechanisms provide for timely resolution of issues or complaints.<sup>12</sup>
- » There are requirements to publicize information about such procedures and their operation.
- » There are requirements to release public reports and statistics about incidents submitted through these procedures.<sup>13</sup>

## **Policies:**

Political parties have policies in place to protect women voters or party members against violence during campaign events.

- » Parties have mechanisms in place to enforce these policies that allow for timely resolution of issues or complaints.<sup>14</sup>
- » Parties have clear reporting mechanisms in place.
- » Information about these enforcement and reporting mechanisms is freely available for women and men.
- » There are requirements in place to release public reports and statistics about such procedures and how they operate.<sup>15</sup>

Political parties and/or relevant local authorities ensure that campaign activities are equally accessible and safe for women to attend.

- » The locations provided for campaign activities do not increase the chance of women experiencing violence.
- » The timing of campaign activities does not increase the chance of women experiencing violence.
- » Campaign activities do not reinforce gender stereotypes or sexist language.
- » There are no incidents of derogatory language against women being employed at campaign activities.

Political parties have codes of conduct or policies prohibiting members or candidates from bribing or otherwise coercing women voters into attending campaign events.

## **Media:**

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women voters for participating in campaign events.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women voters participating in campaign events.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women voters participating in campaign events.

There are no reported incidents of social media or information and communication technologies (ICTs) being used to threaten or incite violence against women voters for participating in campaign events.<sup>16</sup>

## **Identified Forms of Violence:**

There are no reported incidents of violence against women voters participating in or attending campaign activities.

### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of vandalism or destruction of property belonging to women voters attending campaign activities.

There are no reported incidents of candidates or parties inciting supporters to commit acts of violence against women voters participating in campaign activities.

There are no reported incidents of candidates or parties using hate speech, threats, derogatory language against women participating in campaign activities.

There are no reported incidents of violence against women voters expressing their opinion about candidates.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of violence against women voters to discourage them from expressing their opinion or participating in campaigns.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There are no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women voters during the campaign period.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# PRE-ELECTION Campaigning Candidates

**Objective:**

- » The nomination and campaign periods are free of violence targeting women candidates.

**Indicators:**

- » Women are able to compete equally for their party's nomination with full knowledge of rules, regulations and requirements for doing so.
- » Women are able to register their candidacy equally, with full knowledge of rules, regulations and requirements for doing so.
- » Women are able to conduct a campaign without fear or threat of violence.
- » Women are able to conduct individual campaign activities without fear or threat of violence.

***Nomination***

**Legal Frameworks:**

The law and regulations provide that the nomination process be conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

There are laws or policies protecting women candidates against violence during the nomination period.

- » Against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » There are mechanisms in place to enforce those laws.

There are mechanisms in place that women seeking nomination can use to report incidents without fear or threat of violence or reprisals.

## **Policies:**

The electoral management body's policies and guidelines provide that the nomination process be conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

The electoral management body has policies or mechanisms to ensure that women can seek nomination without fear or threat of violence in the private or public sphere.

Parties have policies or mechanisms in place to protect their women candidates against violence during the nomination process.

- » Against what type(s) of violence: physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » There are mechanisms to enforce those policies.
- » Women are able to access reporting mechanisms established under these policies.

Political parties have codes of conduct or policies prohibiting members or leaders from bribing or otherwise coercing women candidates into withdrawing their candidacy.

## **Media**

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women seeking nomination for election.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women seeking nomination for election.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women seeking nomination for election.

There have been no reported incidents of social media or ICTs being used to threaten or incite violence against women seeking nomination for election.<sup>17</sup>

## **Forms of Violence**

There have been no reported incidents where women have been prevented from seeking nomination through violence, threats or harassment.

### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents where women seeking their party's nomination were denied access to the same financial or material resources as men.

There have been no reported incidents where women are deterred or blocked from seeking nomination entirely.

There have been no reported incidents where women seeking nomination are forced or coerced into withdrawing their application.

There have been no reported incidents where women who have won nomination are forced to withdraw their candidacies under threat, coercion, harassment or other violence.

There have been no reported incidents where women seeking nomination are described by party officials or other candidates using derogatory language.

There have been no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women candidates during the nomination process.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

***Campaign***

**Legal Frameworks:**

The law and regulations provide that the campaign period be conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

There are laws or policies protecting women candidates against violence during their campaigns.

- » Against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » There are mechanisms in place to enforce those laws.

There are mechanisms in place that women candidates can use to report incidents during their campaigns without fear or threat of violence or reprisals.

**Policies:**

The electoral management body's policies and guidelines provide that the campaign period be conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

The election management body has policies or mechanisms in place to protect women candidates against violence during the campaign period.

- » Against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » There are mechanisms in place to enforce those policies.
- » There are mechanisms in place that women are able to access to report incidents.

The electoral management body has policies or mechanisms to ensure that women can campaign without fear or threat of violence in the private or public sphere.

Parties have policies or mechanisms in place to protect their women candidates against violence during the campaign period.

- » Against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?

- » There are mechanisms to enforce those policies.
- » There are mechanisms in place that women are able to access to report incidents.

Political parties have codes of conduct or policies prohibiting members or leaders from bribing or otherwise coercing women candidates into withdrawing their candidacy.

Political parties have policies to ensure that women candidates are granted access to the same financial or material resources as their male counterparts.

Candidate vetting procedures provide equal opportunities for male and female candidates to stand for office.

- » Any fees required to submit an application to stand for office are applied equally.
- » Any such fees required are not prohibitive for women.

## Media:

Women candidates have equal access to and opportunities to use media time and space.<sup>18</sup>

- » The media do not reinforce gender stereotypes or sexist language when describing or discussing women candidates.
- » The media do not focus disproportionately on women candidates' appearance, personality or family in comparison to male candidates.<sup>19</sup>
- » The media do not use derogatory language or subject matter when discussing female candidates.

There have been no reports in the local or national media questioning the competency of women candidates on the basis of their gender.

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women candidates during their campaign.

- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women candidates during their campaign.

There are no reported incidents of social media or ICTs being used to threaten or incite violence against women candidates during their campaign.<sup>20</sup>

There have been no reported incidents of cyber harassment or stalking of women candidates.<sup>21</sup>

## Forms of Violence

There have been no reports of theft, economic damages or other forms of financial coercion against women candidates.<sup>22</sup>

There have been no reported incidents of violence during campaign activities conducted by women candidates.

### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported attacks on a rally held by a woman candidate.

### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of vandalism or destruction of property belonging to a candidate.

### ***If there are:***

- » Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of other candidates or parties inciting supporters to commit acts of violence against a woman candidate.

**If there are:**

- » What type of violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of other candidates or parties using hate speech against women candidates.

**If there are:**

- » Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of electronic sabotage of women candidates' campaigns.<sup>23</sup>

**If there are:**

- » Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of women candidates being forced to delay or cancel campaign events through violence or threat of violence.

**If there are:**

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of women candidates being forced or coerced into withdrawing their candidacy through threat or fear of violence.

**If there are:**

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against the families or children of women candidates during the campaign.

**If there are:**

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women candidates during the campaign.

**If there are:**

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of kidnapping or murder of women candidates during the campaign.

**If there are:**

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# ELECTION DAY

## Voting

## Voters

### Objective:

- » Voting and voter accreditation processes are free from violence targeting female voters.

### Indicators:

- » Women voters are able to participate equally in voting (and voter accreditation processes, where applicable) without fear or threat of violence.
- » Women have equal access to vote without fear or threat of violence.
- » Voting (and the voter accreditation process, where relevant) is conducted in a transparent manner so that all citizens are able to participate with full knowledge of any process requirements or restrictions.
- » Voting is conducted in a way that ensures all voters are able to vote at their proper polling location.
- » Women are able to cast their ballots following their own conscience without fear or threat of violence.
- » The secrecy of women's votes is maintained.

### *In contexts where voter accreditation takes place on election day:*

### Legal Frameworks:

The law and regulations provide that accreditation is conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

- » There are mechanisms for enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.

The laws and regulations ensure that all women who are eligible to vote can engage in the accreditation process without fear or threat of violence in the private or public sphere.

### Policies:

The electoral management body has policies ensuring that the process of voter accreditation is secure and safe for women.

- » The locations provided for accreditation are accessible for pregnant women and/or women with children.
- » The locations provided for voter accreditation do not increase the chance of women experiencing violence (e.g.: new accreditation locations are not placed in a bar or too far away for women to travel safely).
- » The timing of voter accreditation does not increase the chance of women experiencing violence (e.g.: accreditation is not run late into the night).

### Forms of Violence:

There are no reports of violence, threats or harassment preventing women voters from participating in the accreditation process.

### *If there are:*

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reports of women voters leaving polling units after being accredited, but before voting began.

There have been no reports of sabotage of women voters' attempts to be accredited.

**If there are:**

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

**Voting**

**Legal Frameworks:**

The law and regulations provide that voting be conducted in a manner that is safe and free of violence.

- » There are mechanisms for enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.

Unauthorized persons are prohibited from entering and remaining inside polling stations.

The legal framework does not stipulate that men have control over or rights to women's choices, bodies, property or children.<sup>24</sup>

There are clear legal requirements for maintaining ballot security before, during and after voting procedures, and for guaranteeing the secrecy of the ballot.

**Policies:**

The electoral management body has policies ensuring that the process of voting is secure and safe for women.

- » The locations provided for voting are accessible for pregnant women and/or women with children.
- » The locations provided for voting do not increase the chance of women experiencing violence (e.g.: polling stations are not near a bar or too far away for women to travel safely).
- » The timing of voting does not increase the chance of women experiencing violence (e.g.: running accreditation late into the night).

Voting locations are free of vote buying, intimidation and coercion, with appropriate security measures in place as needed.

- » The electoral management body has policies ensuring that where necessary, security arrangements outside the polls prevent intimidation of women voters, vote buying and other forms of coercion.

The electoral management body prohibits political parties from holding campaign events or other rallies near polling stations.

Political parties have codes of conduct or policies prohibiting members or candidates from bribing, threatening or coercing women voters into voting for a certain candidate or party.

**Media:**

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women who vote or attempt to vote.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women who vote or attempt to vote.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women who vote or attempt to vote.

There have been no reports in the local or national media questioning the competency of women voters on the basis of their gender.

**Forms of Violence**

There have been no reports of social censure or isolation of women voters or women planning to vote.

There have been reports of women voters undergoing domestic pressure or violence because of their intention to vote.

There have been no reports of women voters being denied access to financial or other resources needed to vote.

There have been no reported incidents of violence, threats or harassment preventing women voters from participating in the voting process.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)? Were there incidents of community intimidation of women voters?

There have been no reported attacks on women attempting to vote.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of harassment or intimidation of women voters at polling stations.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reports of theft or sabotage of women's votes.

There have been no reported incidents of women being denied a secret ballot.

- » There have been no reports of women being accompanied by family members into a polling station.

There have been no reports of women's votes being submitted by proxy.

There have been no reports of violence or harassment directed at women as they entered or exited a polling station.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reports of sexual assault or rape against women voters on election day.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# ELECTION DAY

## Voting

### Election Administrators and Observers

#### Objective:

- » Voting is free from violence targeting female election administrators, party poll watchers and observers.

#### Indicators:

- » Women have equal access to participate in voting administration without fear or threat of violence.
- » Women have equal access to participate in voting and observation without fear or threat of violence.
- » Voting is conducted in a transparent manner so that all women administrators and observers are able to participate with full knowledge of any process requirements or restrictions.
- » Voting is conducted in a way that ensures all administrators and observers are able to locate and work in their proper polling location.

#### Legal Frameworks:

The laws and regulations ensure that all women who are eligible to act as election administrators, party poll watchers or observers can do so without fear or threat of violence in the private or public sphere.

- » Women are able to join and participate equally in administering polling stations and electoral bodies.

#### Policies:

Election management bodies have policies or mechanisms in place to protect women observers or election administrators against violence during the voting process.

- » There are mechanisms to enforce those policies.
- » There are reporting mechanisms in place.
- » These mechanisms provide for timely resolution of issues or complaints.<sup>25</sup>
- » There are requirements to release public reports and statistics about such procedures and their operation.<sup>26</sup>

The election management body has internal policies or codes allowing women to have equal access to positions in electoral bodies.

The election management body has internal policies or codes allowing women to have equal access to positions in polling stations.

The electoral management body has internal policies or codes protecting the personal information of women election administrators, party poll watchers or observers from being released publicly.

Arrangements by the electoral management body prevent intimidation of women election administrators or observers outside the polls.

Where necessary, the electoral management body ensures that women are included among the uniformed police or security personnel stationed outside the polling center.

#### Media:

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women election administrators or observers.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women election administrators or observers.

- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women election administrators or observers.

### **Identified Forms of Violence:**

There have been no reports of violence against nonpartisan female citizen election observers.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against female party members monitoring the voting process.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against female election management body workers at polling stations.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place?

There have been no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women election administrators, officials or observers on election day.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# ELECTION DAY

## Voting

## Candidates

### Objective:

- » Voting process is free from violence targeting female candidates.

### Indicator:

- » Women candidates are equally able to participate in election day activities, including voting and poll watching, without fear or threat of violence.
- » Voting is conducted in a transparent manner so that all women candidates are able to participate with full knowledge of any process requirements or restrictions.

### Legal Frameworks:

There are laws or policies protecting women candidates against violence during election day and the voting process.

- » Against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » There are mechanisms in place to enforce those laws.

### Policies:

Political parties have policies or codes of conduct protecting women candidates against violence during election day and the voting process.

- » Against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » There are mechanisms in place to enforce those policies.

### Media:

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women candidates during election day and the voting process.

- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women candidates during election day and the voting process.

There have been no reported incidents of social media or ICTs being used to threaten or incite violence against women candidates during election day and the voting process.<sup>27</sup>

There have been no reports of cyber harassment of women candidates.<sup>28</sup>

There have been no reports in the media of threats or incitement to violence against women candidates during the election.

### Identified Forms of Violence

There have been no reported incidents of attacks on rallies held by women candidates.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of vandalism or destruction of property belonging to a woman candidate or her supporters.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of hate speech, violence or intimidation against candidates or their supporters because of their gender.<sup>29</sup>

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of defacement or destruction of women candidates' campaign materials outside polling stations.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against women candidates on election day.

***If there are:***

What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women candidates on election day.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against the families or children of women candidates on election day.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# POST-ELECTION Results Tabulation/Announcement Voters

## Objective:

- » The post-election environment is free from violence targeting female voters.

## Indicator:

- » Women voters and their votes are treated equally following the election, without fear or threat of violence.
- » Results tabulation is conducted in a transparent manner so that all women's votes are counted.
- » Results announcements are made openly and are accessible so that women are able to see who their elected officials are.

## Legal Frameworks:

The law and regulations provide protections for women voters or party supporters after the election and after the announcement of results.

- » There are mechanisms for enforcement of relevant laws and regulations.

There are clear legal requirements for maintaining ballot security after voting and for guaranteeing secrecy of the ballot.

## Policies:

The electoral management body has policies ensuring that the post-election process is secure and safe for women

- » There are mechanisms to enforce those policies.
- » There are reporting mechanisms in place that provide for timely resolution of issues or complaints.<sup>30</sup>
- » There are requirements to release public reports and statistics about such procedures and their operation.<sup>31</sup>

The electoral management body has clear policies ensuring the security and secrecy of the ballots after they have been cast.

Political parties have codes of conduct or policies prohibiting members or candidates from threatening or intimidating women after they have voted.

## Media:

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment of women who have voted.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women who voted.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women who voted.

After the election, there were no reports in the media questioning the competency of women voters on the basis of their gender.

There have been no reports of incidents of social media or ICTs being used to threaten or incite violence against women voters following the election.<sup>32</sup>

## Identified Forms of Violence:

There have been no reports of violence, threats or harassment of women voters after the close of the polls.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reports of theft or sabotage of women's votes after the polls closed.

There have been no reported incidents of women being denied the secrecy of their ballot after they voted.

There have been no reports of community intimidation of women voters following the election.

There have been no reported incidents of harassment, intimidation or violence toward women voters returning from polling stations.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of social censure or isolation of women voters after returning from voting.

There have been no reports of women voters being subjected to domestic violence after returning from voting.

There have been no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women voters after they left the polling station.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reports of losing candidates or parties inciting supporters to commit acts of violence against women voters.

There have been no reported incidents of other candidates or parties using hate speech against women voters.

# POST-ELECTION

## Vote Counting, Results Tabulation, Announcement

### Election Administrators and Observers

#### Objective:

- » The post-election environment is free from violence targeting female election administrators and observers.

#### Indicators:

- » Women have equal access to participate in administration of vote tabulation and results announcements without fear or threat of violence.
- » Women have equal access to participate in observation of vote tabulation without fear or threat of violence.
- » Tabulation and announcement of results is conducted in a transparent manner so that all women administrators, poll watchers and observers are able to participate with full knowledge of any process requirements or restrictions.
- » Tabulation and announcement of results is conducted in a way that ensures all administrators, poll watchers and observers are able to locate and work in their proper tabulation or announcement location.

#### Legal Frameworks:

The laws and regulations ensure that all women who are eligible to act as election administrators, party poll watchers or observers can do so without fear or threat of violence in the private or public sphere.

- » Women are able to join and participate equally in administration of the vote tabulation and announcement of results.

#### Policies:

The election management body has policies or mechanisms in place to protect women observers, party poll watchers or election administrators against violence after the voting process finishes.

- » There are mechanisms to enforce those policies.
- » There are reporting mechanisms in place that provide for timely resolution of issues or complaints.<sup>33</sup>
- » There are requirements to release public reports and statistics about such procedures and their operation.<sup>34</sup>

Women have equal access to positions in administration, observation or announcement of vote tabulation and results.

#### Media:

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment against women administrators or officials involved in the voting tabulation and announcement of results

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language to refer to women administrators or officials involved in the voting tabulation and announcement of results.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women administrators or officials involved in the voting tabulation and announcement of results.

After an election, there are no reports in the media questioning the competency of women administrators, officials, party poll watchers or observers on the basis of their gender.

There have been no reported incidents of social media or ICTs being used to threaten or incite violence against women administrators, officials, party poll watchers or observers following an election.<sup>35</sup>

There have been no reports of cyber harassment of women observers, party poll watchers or election officials.

### **Identified Forms of Violence:**

There have been no reported reprisals against women observers, party poll watchers or election officials reporting instances of fraud or other electoral crimes.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reports of losing candidates or parties inciting supporters to commit acts of violence against women observers, party poll watchers or electoral officials.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reports of candidates or parties using hate speech against women observers, party poll watchers or election officials.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women election administrators, officials, party poll watchers or observers during the vote count, tabulation or announcement of results.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of harassment or intimidation of women election workers or observers during the vote count, tabulation or announcement of results.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against nonpartisan female citizen observers of the tabulation process.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against female party members monitoring the tabulation process.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against female election management body workers counting votes.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against women in locations where vote results are being tallied.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)?

# POST-ELECTION

## Announcement and Acceptance of Results

### Candidates

#### Objective:

- » The post-election environment is free from violence targeting female candidates.

#### Indicators:

- » Women are equally able to be elected without threat or fear of violence.
- » Women are equally able to assume the positions to which they have been elected without fear or threat of violence.
- » Announcement and acceptance of results is conducted in a transparent manner so that all women candidates have full knowledge of any process requirements or restrictions.

#### Legal Frameworks:

There are laws or regulations to protect women candidates against violence following an election.

- » Against what type(s) of violence:
  - Physical, sexual, psychological, threats and coercion, economic?
- » There are mechanisms to enforce those policies.

There are mechanisms in place that women candidates can use to report incidents without fear or threat of violence or reprisals following the election.

- » Women candidates are able to file electoral complaints, challenges or other legal actions concerning all elements of the election process without fear or threat of violence.<sup>36</sup>

There are laws or regulations ensuring that women who have won their elections are able to assume the positions to which they have been elected.

#### Policies:

Political parties have policies or codes of conduct in place to prohibit members or leaders from deterring or blocking women from accepting or filling the posts to which they were elected.

Political parties have policies or codes of conduct prohibiting members or leaders from bribing, threatening or coercing women who have won their elections to step aside in favor of a male colleague.

#### Media:

The local or national media do not contribute to threats of violence, intimidation or harassment when describing or discussing women who won their elections.

- » The local or national media do not use sexist or derogatory language<sup>37</sup> to refer to women candidates who won or lost their elections.
- » The local or national media do not promote hate speech or violent messages targeting women candidates who won or lost their elections.

There have been no reported incidents of social media or ICTs being used to threaten or incite violence against women candidates who won or lost their elections.<sup>37</sup>

There have been no reported incidents of cyber harassment of women candidates who won or lost their elections.<sup>38</sup>

There have been no reported incidents where women who have won their elections are described by party officials, other candidates or the media using derogatory language.

There have been no reports of social media or ICTs being used to threaten or incite violence against women as they assume their elected positions.

There have been no reported incidents of cyber harassment of women as they assume their elected positions.

### **Identified Forms of Violence:**

There have been no reported incidents of violence against women candidates who won their elections or lost them.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of losing candidates or parties inciting supporters to commit acts of violence against women candidates who won their elections.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reports of other candidates or parties using hate speech against women candidates who won their elections.

#### ***If there are:***

- » Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of character assassination against women candidates who won their elections.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of violence against the families of women candidates who won or lost their elections.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of sexual assault or rape against women candidates who won or lost their elections.

#### ***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents where women who won their elections are forced to give up or concede their positions under threat, coercion, harassment or other violence.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reports of threats of violence against the families of women candidates who assumed the positions to which they were elected.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reports of violence against women who intended to assume or did assume the positions to which they were elected.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

There have been no reported incidents of character assassination against women intending to assume or after they assumed their elected positions.

***If there are:***

- » What type of violence? What method was used to conduct the violence? Where did it take place? Who was/were the perpetrator(s)? Who was/were the victim(s)?

# NOTES

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1. NDI Elections: <https://www.ndi.org/elections>
2. Adapted in part from the OAS Manual for Incorporating a Gender Perspective.
3. While this methodology is recommended, this framework is not limited to use in this specific case, and can and should be used for other types of observation as well.
4. Promoting Legal Frameworks for Democratic Elections, NDI (64)
5. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
6. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
7. Legal Frameworks, p. 64.
8. Legal Frameworks, 65
9. Legal Frameworks, 66
10. OAS, 54
11. <https://docs.google.com/a/ndi.org/file/d/OB5SbkdR1xW7oMmhVa2RqRVZNbWtkSjVHVnlOZ3FtbIVBZjFV/edit>
12. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
13. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
14. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
15. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
16. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
17. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
18. OAS 54
19. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
20. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
21. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
22. Bardell 2011, 23
23. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
24. Bardell, 2011. P 20.
25. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
26. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
27. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
28. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
29. <https://docs.google.com/a/ndi.org/file/d/OB5SbkdR1xW7oMmhVa2RqRVZNbWtkSjVHVnlOZ3FtbIVBZjFV/edit>
30. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
31. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
32. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
33. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
34. Legal Frameworks, p.59.
35. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>
36. Legal Frameworks 86
37. <http://www.stabilityjournal.org/articles/10.5334/sta.cs/>