

# VOTES WITHOUT VIOLENCE

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN ELECTIONS PRE-OBSERVATION CONTEXT ANALYSIS AGENDA



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

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## Agenda Guidance

This is a suggested outline for an agenda that can be used as a starting point for planning a stand-alone violence against women in elections (VAW-E) context analysis, or incorporating a VAW-E context analysis into an existing needs assessment.

A stand-alone VAW-E context analysis could take two to three days depending on when stakeholders are available and how many can be combined into one meeting. In some cases you may be able to combine stakeholders for a few hours, such as current and former elected women or members from different parties. This is a good way to save time while gathering information. But certain stakeholders may not be comfortable speaking honestly in front of each other, which should be taken into consideration. Specific questions for different stakeholders can be found in the Pre-Observation Context Analysis Tool.

## Day One

### **Activity 1:** *All Team Briefing*

**OBJECTIVE:** *Review goals of assessment generally and specific goals for each meeting*

**STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE:**

*Members of citizen observation group leadership*

*Others participating in the assessment mission*

### **Activity 2:** *Understanding the Political and Electoral Context for Women*

**OBJECTIVE:** *Meetings with nontraditional and traditional stakeholders focused on women's political participation and the electoral landscape generally. The information gathered in these meetings will inform further meetings with groups concentrating on gender based violence (GBV) and women's rights groups.*

**STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE:**

*Political party leadership and female party members*

*Election management body (EMB) representatives*

*Groups within the observer coalition that are focused on women's rights or human rights*

*Current and/or former elected women*

## Day Two

**Activity 3:** *Understanding Gender-Based Violence and Women's Political Participation*

**OBJECTIVE:** *Meetings with nontraditional and traditional stakeholders focused on addressing or collecting data on violence against women (VAW). The information gathered in these meetings will provide nuanced information about the situation of GBV generally, which will inform the observer group's understanding of how VAW-E may manifest.*

**STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE:**

International nongovernmental organizations (INGOs) or bilaterals with a focus on women and gender. These include: UN Women (it is important to know if it plans to create a situation room for the election); UNDP; IDEA (which focuses on VAW-E in some countries); and others that are present and would be working on this issue

Domestic women's rights NGOs with a focus on GBV and *not* on politics. These groups often have information that is critical to understanding what violence looks like in a country and can offer key lessons for how to observe and mitigate it, including the barriers to doing so. They are also important to engage or collaborate with for service delivery and victim response

Government ombudsmen or ministries of gender

Security forces and/or groups within the peace and security community

## Day Three

**Activity 4:** *Understanding how GBV and Electoral Violence Come Together in [Country X]*

**OBJECTIVE:** *Meetings with groups focused on increasing or studying women's political participation in the country, or those collecting data on electoral violence generally. The information gathered in these meetings will build upon conversations with other groups, and can help the citizen observation group gain a fuller picture of what it should consider as it develops priorities and methodology for the observation.*

**STAKEHOLDERS TO ENGAGE:**

Domestic women's rights NGOs with a focus on women's political participation