



FINANCIAL INCENTIVE CANNOT BOOST WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN POLITICS

We would like to respond to an initiative presented by the political party "Georgian Dream - Democratic Georgia", which was announced by Archil Talakvadze, the Speaker of the Parliament, during the public discussion of the draft constitutional amendments on September 14. According to the amendment, [“a political party that presents one woman in every three candidates in the electoral list in the 2020 parliamentary elections shall receive 30 percent more funding.”](#)

Specifically, pursuant to the amendments into the Law On Political Associations of Citizens: “A party receiving funding in accordance with the procedure set forth in this article shall receive a bonus in the amount of 30% of the basic funding under paragraph 3 of this article if one in every three candidates is of different gender on the elections list submitted by a party for the last parliamentary and local self-government.”

According to the proposed amendment, if a party complies with the incentive rule in parliamentary and local self-government elections, it may receive a financial bonus. However, it is of note that the above-mentioned initiative will not actually contribute to the increase of women's participation in politics due to the following reasons:

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- **It is not result-oriented - ensuring the gender balance in the proportional list does not mean an unconditional increase in women's representation and obtaining mandate;**
- **The financial bonus may not be a sufficient incentive for all political parties - the practice has shown that the ruling and highly-supported parties do not utilize incentives at all;**
- **The purpose of the financial bonus is not determined - the money received is not spent on women's empowerment and gender equality.**

Therefore, we believe that a temporary compulsory mechanism - the quota with relocation- must be introduced in order to boost women's involvement in politics.

Given the existing reality, the Task Force on Women's Political Participation suggests introducing the mandatory gender quota gradually - at the first stage, for the 2021 local self-government elections (in the proportional system) and then to the parliamentary elections.

Task Force on Women's Political Participation