



FEMME FIRST FOUNDATION

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIP

India's *first* Fellowship for Women in
Politics

January 2023 – June 2023





ABOUT FEMME FIRST FOUNDATION

Femme First Foundation is a non-partisan, non-profit organisation committed to amplifying women's leadership in Indian politics through capacity-building, mentorship, and advocacy. Our aim is not limited to increasing women's representation but also to enhance the quality of their representation.

Vision: A world where leaders are truly representative of the people they lead.

Mission: We seek to amplify leadership of women in Indian politics through the following ways:

- Make politics an attractive career option
- Reduce entry-barriers
- Enhance the quality of representation
- Build a network of women politicians
- Amplify impact





FOUNDER'S NOTE



Angellica Aribam

Founder, *Femme First Foundation*

It gives me immense pleasure to announce the next batch of India's first fellowship for women in politics. If you are wondering why do we offer a fellowship exclusively for women politicians? Let me share my story.

Having faced racism throughout my life, I have always aspired to create a world where nobody's voice will be suppressed because of their identity. As a 20-year-old, I entered politics, believing it to be the best way to change the status quo. After two election victories within months, I was elevated to national politics. For five years, I lived and breathed politics. It was a great learning curve.

But navigating the labyrinth of the political world is tough, especially for women. The political system is mired with sexism where women are denied opportunities, face tokenism, are trolled, and also subjected to physical and sexual violence often.

To push back and survive, I constantly endeavored to upskill and equip myself with new ideas and best practices of politicking. With no organization in India focusing on women politicians and no intra-party institutional support, it wasn't easy. As a first-generation-woman in politics, I wish I had a mentor who could show me the ropes.

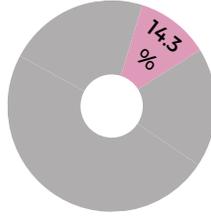
As a fellow at *Vital Voices*, an American NGO by Hillary Clinton, I was mentored by former women prime ministers and developed strong relationships with women politicians from across the globe. The intensive *Public Narrative* workshops by Prof Marshall Ganz at *Harvard Kennedy School* made me more aware about myself and in effect, about the people around me, instilling in me a stronger purpose and mission.

For a few years now, I've been reflecting on how to advance women's participation in politics based on all that I have seen and experienced firsthand -- the good and the bad. *Femme First Foundation* is the result of that reflection and is fully committed to amplifying women's leadership in Indian politics. Women in Government Fellowship is the organization's flagship program and my own way of paying it forward. It is designed with the opportunities I got and wished more women had; and the opportunities I wished somebody had given me. I hope you'll make the most of it.





THE PROBLEM



- India ranks 148 out of 193 countries in women's representation in parliaments
- In the Lower House of India's bicameral Parliament, there are merely 14.3% women, which is significantly below the global average of 25.1%. The figure in State Legislative Assemblies is more dismal with an average of 8%
- These figures are from 2019 Parliamentary elections, which demonstrate the largest number of women (78 out of 543 seats) represented in the Lok Sabha

Lack of representation translates to neglect of the needs of many sections in the society, especially women.





OUR OTHER PROGRAMS

Women in Government Conclaves

This is an international platform that brings together political leaders with different party affiliations from across the world to discuss and share ideas on how to advance women's participation in politics.

Gendered Leadership Course

A 6-week course that educates on how gender practices play out in everyday life. Learners understand the history and waves of feminism; concept of intersectionality; the need for mainstreaming gender in policy-making, and the importance of gendered leadership.

#WomenChangemakers in Governance

This was a campaign in collaboration with Twitter India to recognise and highlight women leaders in public office who have been adopting innovative approaches, specifically social media and Twitter, to make governance more accessible to the public during the pandemic.

Women in Government Awards

These awards recognize and celebrate women political leaders. With these awards, we aspire to highlight women politicians across various categories: Sarpanch, Corporator, MLA, and MP.



PROGRAMS

GENDERED LEADERSHIP COURSE



200+ learners



2500+ hours of learning administered

This is a 6-week course that educates on how gender practices play out in everyday life. Learners understand the history and waves of feminism; concept of intersectionality; the need for mainstreaming gender in policy-making, and the importance of gendered leadership. It has completed 6 cohorts.



PROGRAMS

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT CONCLAVES



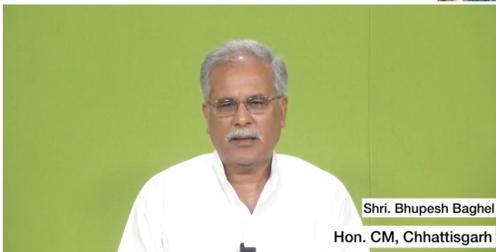
1 Million+ views



70+ political leaders from across the world



The annual Women in Government Conclave started in New Delhi in 2019 and has completed four editions. The recent Conclave was held in Guwahati, Assam. The platform has hosted more than 70 political and thought leaders from across the world, including the Prime Minister of Peru, Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, Member of Parliaments, Ministers, and MLAs.



Shri. Bhupesh Baghel
Hon. CM, Chhattisgarh



Ms. Violeta Bermudez
Former PM, Peru
speak some words at this Important Women In Government Conclave.

PROGRAMS

WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT AWARDS

147 nominees
2700+ nominations
30,000+ votes



These awards recognize and celebrate women political leaders. With these awards we aspire to highlight women politicians across various categories: Sarpanch, Corporator, MLA, and MP.

Winners of WIG Awards 2020



Ms. Yamin Kidwai,
Winner
Outstanding Sarpanch



Ms. Divya Kumar
Winner
Outstanding MP



Ms. Sowmya Reddy,
Winner
Outstanding MP

PROGRAMS

#WOMENCHANGEMAKERS IN GOVERNANCE

In Partnership with



50 nominations

19 #WomenChangemakers Recognised

This was a campaign in collaboration with Twitter India in 2021 to recognise and highlight women leaders in public office who have been adopting innovative approaches, specifically social media and Twitter, to make governance more accessible to the public during the pandemic.

#WomenChangemakers in Governance



Ms. Pami Baruah
Officer on Special
Duty (OSD), National
Health Mission, Assam



Ms. D. Roopa
Muzdal
Inspector General of
Police



Ms. Jabi Malher
Deputy Chairperson,
Aluva Municipality



Ms. Ashvavandita Doyal
Minister
Advisor, Delhi
Government



Ms. Uma Mahalingam
Principal Secretary
(Panchayat Raj),
Govt. of Karnataka



Ms. Urvasi Prasad
Director, NITI Aayog,
Government of India



Ms. Sowmya Reddy
MLA, Karnataka



Ms. Janani J.
Assistant Public
Prosecutor



Ms. Mukta Tilak
MLA, Maharashtra



Ms. C. Meenakshi IFS
Deputy Conservator of
Forests/ AIGF



in partnership with



#WomenChangemakers in Governance



Ms. Savita Anand
Personal Secretary,
Minister SW & WCD,
Govt. of Delhi



Ms. Bobby Mahato
ASHA Worker



Dr. MS Lakshmi Priya,
Deputy Commissioner,
Bongaigaon District,
Assam



Ms. Vinita Sahu
DCP, Nagpur



Ms. Laxmi Dhadod
Anganwadi Worker



Ms. Anjana Meghwal
Zila Parishad
Member, Jaisalmer



Ms. Washika
Solanki
ASHA Worker at
National Health Mission
of Jharkhand



Ms. Malabon Ranita
Dine
Community Health
Officer, Ayushman
Bharat Health and
Wellness Center



Ms. Sitradhha Joshi
Shama
Vice Chairman and
Managing Director of
Mahila Kirtika Vikas
Mahamandal



in partnership with





WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT FELLOWSHIP

Women in Government Fellowship is a six-month program that seeks to enhance and improve the quality of political representation of women via capacity-building, training, and mentorship.

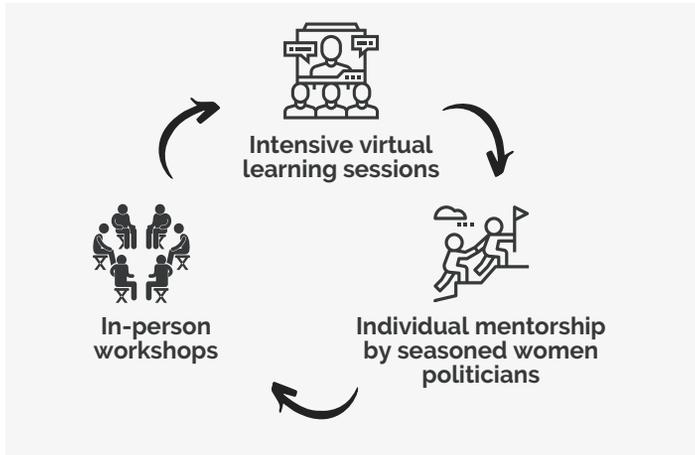
The objectives of the programme are -

- To equip with skills and strategic knowledge to effectively run for office, legislate, and govern
- To develop a deeper understanding of the nuances and challenges of the Indian democratic system and various political theories
- To gain exposure to policy-framing under renowned practitioners and domain-experts
- To be mentored directly by seasoned women politicians
- To build a network of women leaders, policy experts, and campaign professionals, draw upon shared knowledge, and exchange best practices





METHODOLOGY



The three-pronged approach will:

- Provide academic & strategic grounding of democratic frameworks & policy-making
- Build fellows' personal brands through personalised Public Narrative trainings
- Up-skill with practical know-hows of electioneering & legislating
- Help learn the ropes directly from a mentor who is living the realities & tackling the challenges of being a woman in public life
- Access to a network of politicians and policy-makers





MODULES

The fellowship will strengthen the candidate's capacities and capabilities across the following:



Electioneering

- Campaign Design and Management
- Entry & Advocacy in Politics
- Constituency and Stakeholder mapping
- Resource Mobilisation



Politics & Policy

- Public Policy Analysis
- Gender Mainstreaming in Policy
- Constitutional frameworks
- Governance
- Legislation



Personal Skills

- Public Narrative*
- Effective Communication using technology & media
- Intersectionality in Leadership



Ideologies

- Political theories of Indian parties
- Theories & Waves of Feminism
- Styles of Leadership

*Public Narrative is an elaborate personalised training of every Fellow on their stories and storytelling as a leadership tool by Coaches from Harvard Kennedy School's Public Narrative team

-> Individual mentorship by seasoned women politicians will happen in the final two months



FIRST COHORT: REPORT



1000+ hours invested in **18 Fellows**

Partners:



Embassy of Sweden
New Delhi

The first cohort of the WIG Fellowship was launched in April 2021 with 18 women leaders from across the country, representing various political ideologies. They were selected from a pool of 150+ applicants. The Fellows underwent rigorous virtual learning sessions and workshops for a period of 6 months. They were personally mentored by seasoned women politicians on their respective career goals. Additionally, they also got to interact and learn from four women members of the Swedish Parliament.



Cohort of 2021



FIRST COHORT: FACULTY & MENTORS*

(*alphabetically)



Aditi Parekh
PN Coach, Harvard
Kennedy School



Amb Klas Molin
Ambassador
Embassy of Sweden



Anjali Rodrigues
PN Coach,
Harvard Kennedy
School



Ankush Singh
Core Team ,
Governance
Collective



Annu Tandon
Former Lok Sabha
MP



Camilla Hansén
MP, Green Party,
Sweden



Charu Pragya
National Media
Panelist, BJP



Chakshu Roy
Head of outreach
PRS Legislative



Dr. Sasmit Patra
Rajya Sabha MP,
Biju Janata Dal



Dr. Shashi Tharoor
Lok Sabha MP,
Congress



Dr. Ujjaini Halim
Association for
Democratic Reforms



Emilia Töyrä
MP, Social
Democratic
Party , Sweden



Johanna Silva
Waki Vice
President,
EMILY's List



Juhie Singh
Spokesperson,
Samajwadi Party



Karin Enström
MP, Moderate Party,
Sweden



Manira Alva
Vice President,
Vital Voices





FELLOWSHIP FACULTY & MENTORS*

(*alphabetically)



Margaret Alva
Former Governor &
Union Minister



Mukta Tilak
MLA, BJP & former
Mayor, Pune City



Pragya Tiwari
Editor, Indian Policy
Collective



Priyanka Chaturvedi
Rajya Sabha MP, Shiv
Sena



Prof. Harsh Pant
International
Relations, King's
College London



Prof. Marshall Ganz
Senior Lecturer,
Harvard Kennedy
School



Prof. G Mohan Gopal
Former VC, National
Law School of India
University



Prof. Rajeev Gowda
Former Rajya Sabha
MP, Congress



Shivani Kumar
Advocacy professional



Sushmita Dev
Member of
Parliament, TMC



Tanvi Girotra
PN Coach, Harvard
Kennedy School



Tina Acketoft
MP, Liberal Party
Sweden



Vandika Shukla
Democratic Governance and
Innovation Fellow, Harvard Ash
Centre



Embassy of Sweden
New Delhi



PROGRAM & APPLICATION DETAILS

Application deadline:	30th November 2022
Shortlisted applicants' interviews:	5-15th December 2022
Selected Fellows list:	21st December 2022

Timeline:

January to June 2023 : Virtual learning (approx. 8 hours/month)

Dates yet to be fixed : In person workshop (2 days)

May - June 2023 : Virtual learning + Mentoring sessions

Eligibility criteria:

- Women who have **contested election at any level** i.e college, university, RWA, local govt, MLA etc
- Women in **nominated political party positions** for at least 3 months
- Women who have **worked in civil-society/media/policy organisations** for at least 12 months
- Women who are/were **LAMP/Acumen/Gandhi/Teach for India** Fellows and aspire to join politics
- Must be an Indian Citizen

If you don't fit in any of the above but think you deserve a seat, write to us at contact@femmefirst.org

Intake will be on the lines of the previous cohort.

Though the overall program cost is INR 2 lakh/person, we are charging a discounted nominal fee of INR 35,000/- only. However, financial constraint should not be an obstacle for application. Admission fee waivers (up to 100% scholarship) are available on merit-cum-means basis.

Application form available on : <https://www.femmefirst.org/>





FIRST COHORT: TESTIMONIALS



Zara Farooqui Parwal
State Secretary, AIPC Maharashtra

I joined the fellowship purely because of the faculty. I think this journey has been more special because of the fellows. The day I see the fellows contesting for elections even if they are from the opposing party, as sisterhood, I will vote for them.



Varsha Nikam,
Ex-Sarpanch & Jt.Secretary NCP Maharashtra

Through this program, my self confidence has increased a lot. Everyone believes that I can do everything, but I also needed a lot of support, which I found in this program.



Ankita Shree, Development Professional

After attending the sessions, my whole point of view about affirmative action policies has changed. This is a change that I can see in me. I am thankful to this course for giving me clarity on feminism as well.



Arpita, Dutta, National Coordinator NSUI

I was always a staunch advocate of women in politics. But I think the conditioning of the fellowship has made me so much more active about it, that now in every discussion I am talking about more women running for office, more women in politics.





FIRST COHORT: TESTIMONIALS



Tanya Aneja
Business Journalist, India Today Group

All thanks to Public Narrative Sessions, I am a better story-teller now. I am more confident of sharing my story and in a very good manner. I just have to say that there are many strong and amazing women, like me, and we are going to change this world, super soon.



Amandeep
Skill Development Coordinator, Sewa Bharat

My confidence has increased a lot during these classes. Now, I don't accept wrong. What is wrong is wrong whether I am speaking to a senior, or junior, whether I cry or laugh while putting forth my point. I will definitely not accept the wrong. My self-respect has become my priority.



PARTNERS



অসম চৰকাৰ



GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM



Embassy of Sweden
New Delhi



Embassy of Israel
INDIA





PAST SPEAKERS AT FFF EVENTS



Violeta Bermudez
Former PM,
Peru (2020-2021)



Shri. Bhupesh Bhegal
Hon. CM, Chhatisgarh



Abhinandita Dayal Mathur
Advisor, Govt. of Delhi



Adirana Hinojosa,
Former MP, Mexico



Aditi Singh
MLA, Rae Bareilly



Anjana Meghwal
Zila Parishad Member,
Jaisalmer



Archana Varma, IAS
Principal Secretary,
Govt. of Assam



Arunima Sen Chaturvedi
Development Consultant &
Ex-UNDP, UN Women, World Bank



Brinda Karat
Former MP, Rajya
Sabha



Chitra Ahanthem
Senior Journalist,
Manipur



Colette Avital
Former Israeli MP &
First woman in Israel to
run for the presidency



Dr. M S Lakshmi Priya IAS
Deputy Commissioner of
Bongaigaon



Dr. Rosie Kalita APS
Superintendent of
Police, (Chief
Minister's Special
Vigilance Cell)



Fleur Hassan-Nahoum
Deputy Mayor of
Jerusalem, Israel



Isata Kabia
Former Minister of
Social Welfare,
Gender, Children's
Affairs; Government
of Sierra Leone



Jothimani
MP, Lok Sabha



Juhie Singh
National President,
Samajwadi Party
Women's Wing



Karma Paljor
Editor in Chief,
EastMejo



Karpum Pegu
Entrepreneur



Lalitha Kumaramangalam
BJP leader & Former Chair,
National Commission for Women



Makepeace Sithou
Journalist



Nazia Erum,
Author



Nishtha Gautam,
Opinion Editor - The
Quint



Oana Bizgan,
MP, Romania



Padmaja Joshi
Editor, Times Now





PAST SPEAKERS AT FFF EVENTS



Pomi Baruah
OSD, National Health
Mission, Govt. of Assam



Prianka Rao
Lawyer & Policy
Analyst



Prof. Jayati Ghosh
Economist



Rachel Reese
Mayor of Nelson, New
Zealand



**Rafiul Alom
Rahman,**
Founder, The Queer
Muslim Project



Rony Yedidia Clein
Deputy Chief of Mission,
Embassy of Israel



Sowmya Reddy
MLA, Govt. of
Karnataka



Sunaina Arya
Editor of Dalit Feminist
Theory (A Reader)



Yashomati Thakur
Minister for Women and
Child Development
Department, Maharashtra



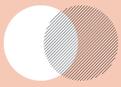
Yashshri Soman
Public Policy
Specialist





FEATURES





TEAM

Core Team



Ms. Angellica Aribam
Founder



Ms. Michelle Rose Markos
Program Manager

Advisory Board



Ms. Margaret Alva
Former Governor &
Union Minister



Ms. Annu Tandon
Samajwadi Party member
& Former Lok Sabha MP



Ms. Charu Pragya
Spokesperson, BJP



Dr. Sasmit Patra
Rajya Sabha MP &
Spokesperson, Biju Janata dal





CONNECT



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