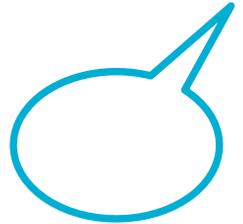
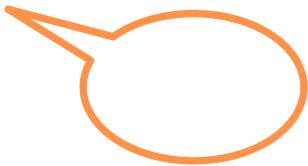


## Discussion Prompts: How Gender Shapes Society and Politics

Inequality cannot be addressed in its entirety if gendered social dynamics remain invisible to those able to influence change. Male allies can draw on the questions below to encourage reflection by men – in group discussions or individually – on patterns of inequality and privilege manifested in their community and parliament. In turn, this may inspire new ways of thinking about gender that can be integrated in the design of effective policy solutions.



- How are women and men differently portrayed in popular music?
- Do you think male politicians in your country ever feel pressure to refrain from displaying emotion in public?
- When in all male settings, how often are women spoken about in ways that reduce them to their physical appearance?
- What crimes are you most at risk of when walking down the street? Do these differ for women?
- If you are the victim of a crime, are you likely to be questioned about what you were wearing when it occurred?
- Have you ever felt limited in the opportunities you can access because of your gender?
- Are your household responsibilities or decisions to have a family routinely mentioned when your ability to serve in a professional role is being evaluated?
- How often are you the only person of your gender in meetings?
- Growing up, could you relate to most of the national heroes you encountered in history classes and/or in works of fiction? Why or why not?
- What qualities are traditionally associated with political leadership? Are these more likely to be encouraged in girls or boys from an early age?

- During the last campaign period, were there gendered differences in the language used by the media to describe candidates? In what direction might these portrayals have influenced voters?
- Does anyone notice or comment if you wear an outfit you have worn previously?
- What is the gender breakdown of the overall membership in your political party? Does this ratio change at the executive level? What about in parliament?
- If you exert traditional leadership behaviours in meetings (e.g. speaking up with your opinions, assigning follow-up tasks to colleagues) are you more likely to be viewed positively (assertive, confident, effective) or negatively (loud, aggressive, bossy)?
- How much emphasis is placed on seeking diversity in consultation on legislative issues?
- Does your parliament offer training or professional development sessions related to gender and diversity?
- Are the public stances taken by political leaders on a gender equality issue translated into concrete legislative initiatives? What types of obstacles could be encountered?
- How does society treat single mothers compared to single fathers? Are stereotypes reflected in debate and policymaking?
- What professions are typically held by men and women in your country? What kinds of positions provide the greatest/least security?
- Does educational attainment for men and women correlate with their average incomes?
- In your current and previous jobs, what kind of paternity leave provisions were available?

