

Gender Disaggregated Data In the Parliament of Zimbabwe since 1980.

This fact sheet presents the number of women who have been elected into Parliament since 1980. The figures show that Zimbabwe has not reached the 30 percent minimum and the 50 percent maximum.

Background

- Gender equality is a basic human rights issue and a pre-condition for social justice, people centered sustainable development and peace.
- Today various international, regional and national instruments which envision the equality between men and women have been signed, ratified or acceded to by the majority of states in the world and are at various levels of implementation.
- Other NGOs, stakeholders and women activists also do subscribe to these same instruments, which espouse an agenda for the empowerment of women at all, the decision-making structures within the various levels of society.
- At an institutional level, Parliaments are expected to play a leading role in spearheading initiatives to approximate gender equality and to also act as gender advocates and advance the same.
- The percentage of women in Parliament, like is still the case in all the other structures in society still lags behind that of men.

The following is the Gender disaggregated data for the Parliament of Zimbabwe since 1980.

Table I: Unicameral Parliament

Elections and Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% of Women
1990	150	133	17	11.3
1995	150	129	21	14
2000	150	136	14 ¹	9.3
2005	150	126	24	16

Data in above table illustrates that women are underrepresented and still fall far below the 30 percent quota espoused in the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development as the target by 2005.

Table II: Zimbabwe: Parliament (Bicameral) Senate

Elections and Appointments	Seats	Men	Women	%Women
1980	40	37	3	7.5
1985	40	37	3	7.5
2005	66	42	24	36.36

For 2005, the combined percentage of women Parliamentarians surpassed the 30 percent threshold now revised to 50 percent across the African continent.

Zimbabwe: Parliament (Bicameral House of Assembly)

Elections and appointments	Seats	Men	Women	% Women
2005	150	126	24	16

Both Chambers	216	168	48	22.22
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