

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION STRATEGIC PLAN (2025-2027)

Mobilizing Legislators as Champions for Human Rights,
Democracy, and a Sustainable World



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TOWARD A GREATER FLOURISHING

This year as we celebrate the 45th anniversary of Parliamentarians for Global Action, we are taking time to reflect on our organization’s four-decade legacy of achievements in the parliamentary field and assessing our relevance and strategies for this pivotal time in global society. This is a moment ripe with opportunity. It invites us to explore new ideas to ensure we are prepared to address the challenges to multilateral cooperation that our world is facing. It calls us to deepen our response to our member-parliamentarians’ requests for assistance and connection. And it requires that we shape a fresh and positive narrative, grounded on facts, to counter the rise of authoritarianism and polarization across the globe.

In that spirit, we have used this milestone to chart a new course in our organizational strategy for the next three years. Our executive committee of elected parliamentarians reviewed our achievements, considered new proposals for action, and discussed our reason for being, including those elements that make our organization unique in relation to other parliamentary networks and enable our members to become champions for human rights and allies to civil society partners.

Our new strategic direction places Parliamentarians for Global Action’s human rights-based approach, action-oriented advocacy, and empowerment of individual parliamentarians at the center of our work. We strive to become a more effective communicator by increasing our capacity and by developing strategic tools and messages on human rights, democracy, peace and security, the rule of law, environmental governance, and the inclusion of marginalized populations that resonate with our member-parliamentarians and align with international human rights law.

We are committed to reflection and self-assessment to learn from obstacles and identify strategies that demonstrate impact and sustainability. In the following pages, we invite you to learn about our organizational priorities and strategies for the next three years.



Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar, MP (Pakistan)
President



Mónica Adame
Secretary-General

ABOUT PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) is the largest non-governmental network of cross-party individual members of parliament across the globe, with approximately 1,000 members from 150 countries. We mobilize legislators as champions of human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, inclusion, gender equality and justice, including climate justice and the environment.

We are the go-to parliamentary network for human rights. We serve as a trusted partner, key convenor, and mobilizer at the national, regional, and international levels that is re-building trust between parliamentarians and relevant stakeholders.

The current global context calls for greater coordination and action to face the rise of authoritarianism, the erosion of democratic values, and the backlash on hard won rights for equality, non-discrimination, and freedoms of expression, assembly, and association.

PGA serves as an antidote to authoritarianism, polarization, and closing of civic space by recognizing the importance of dialogue across political parties and ideologies in a democracy, respecting and engaging with civil society representatives, and championing the human rights of all individuals.

How We Work

Parliamentarians for Global Action works with leading member-parliamentarians to educate, sensitize, build the technical capacity, and strengthen the political will of all who serve in parliament in order to encourage concrete initiatives and legislative actions that foster an equitable, safe, sustainable, and democratic world. We do this by:

- Empowering and equipping parliamentarians to create an enabling environment for sustainable democracies by rebuilding trust in the legislative institution and respecting democratic principles.
- Developing resources that address key aspects of an issue, are accessible to parliamentarians, and encourage their direct action.
- Convening dialogues between parliamentarians and civil society representatives protecting civic space.
- Fostering solidarity among parliamentarians and standing up for human rights, democracy, inclusion, peace, and justice.
- Sharing knowledge among our members.

What Makes Us Unique

- We are the only international, cross-party, multi-issue network of individual members of parliament. Whereas intergovernmental parliamentary organizations contribute to institutional strengthening, we empower and support individual parliamentarians to become champions on human rights issues.
- We celebrate incremental steps and accomplishments along the journey. We meet parliamentarians where they are and increase their capacity using tools specific to their political, socio-cultural, and religious contexts.
- We approach issues — whether democracy, the environment, gender equality, international justice, peace and security, or inclusion of marginalized populations — from a human rights-based approach. This means that we prioritize policy and programs that promote and protect the rights, freedoms, and dignity of all people.
- We recognize the important role of parliamentarians from both government and opposition and provide opportunities for all potential human rights champions, including members in opposition who are usually not selected by their parliament to participate in international activities.
- We bring together increasingly adversarial groups in a safe space for constructive dialogue.
- We are nimble and capable of quickly pivoting when needed to address urgent human rights situations and the changing needs of parliamentarians.
- We occupy a strategic niche among the field of parliamentary organizations given our role as parliamentary partner to civil society and our action-oriented campaigns that lead to real-world outcomes.
- We build the substantive knowledge and capacity of members of parliament to interact effectively with media.



Our Vision

To strengthen a rules-based international order for an equitable, safe, sustainable, and democratic world.

Our Mission

Parliamentarians for Global Action — a non-governmental, multi-party, international network of legislators* acting in their individual capacity — informs and mobilizes parliamentarians in all regions of the world to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, inclusion, gender equality, and justice, including climate justice, and the environment.

Our Core Values

Together with the vision and mission, our core values articulate the underlying beliefs and purpose that every member of PGA is committed to embody.

- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We are mindful that the actions we take have an impact on people’s lives, and our duty is to them. We observe the highest standards and ethics, adhering to “do no harm” principles.
- **INCLUSION AND EQUITY:** We believe gender equality is a fundamental human right and a foundation for a peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable world. We believe in ending sex and gender discrimination. We value diverse voices and views and recognize that deep disparities exist — especially for those who sit at the intersection of marginalized identities.
- **BOLDNESS:** We are innovative, action-oriented, and courageous in our pursuit of making real and lasting change. We are not afraid to adapt in the face of adversity.
- **HOPE:** We do our best work when we do it with a strong sense of purpose and a passion for a better world. Even when we’re doing hard things, we understand the essential role hope plays in our work.
- **RESPECT:** We root ourselves in our shared humanity and treat each other with kindness and compassion. We are at our best when we honor the equal dignity and worth of all people.
- **PARTNERSHIP:** We are open to working with all who support our vision, mission, and values and believe partnerships are key for democracy and human rights to prevail. We especially value our civil society partners, as they are experts on their own experience.

* We use the terms parliamentarian, legislator, member of parliament, and representative as synonyms.

Democratic Structure

PGA is a parliamentary network that is genuinely owned and effectively self-governed by parliamentarians. The solid democratic governance of PGA guarantees its independence and effectiveness. PGA is guided by an executive committee (our board) composed of 15 members of parliament who represent a broad spectrum of political parties, ideologies, geographies, genders, ethnicities, and interests.

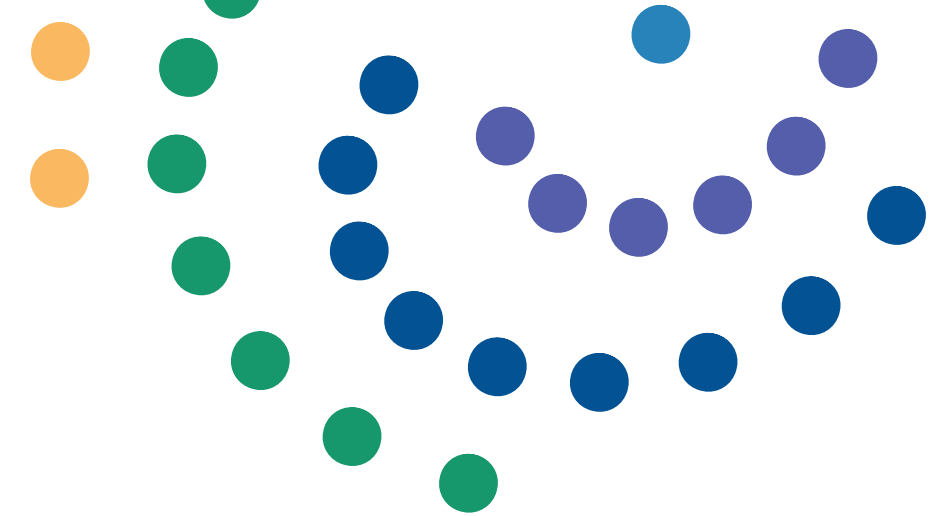


PGA executive committee: from left to right: Sen. Boris Dittrich (The Netherlands), Hon. Dr. Angela Brown Burke, MP (Jamaica), Hon. Valerie Woods, Speaker of National Assembly (Belize), Ms. Ann-Sofie Alm, MP (Sweden), Dip. Dr. Esther Cuesta (Ecuador), Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria), Dip. Margarita Stolbizer (Argentina), Sen. Emilio Alvarez Icaza (Mexico), Dep. Antonio Niquice (Mozambique)

Our Theory of Change

Members of parliament play a key role in national and global efforts to promote and protect human rights, democracy, and peace in their capacity as lawmakers, as members of government, and as democratically elected representatives of the people of their communities.

PGA creates an enabling environment for positive change in society by facilitating peer-to-peer learning among parliamentarians, building connection between parliamentarians and civil society, as well as building bridges between domestic and international policymakers and stakeholders.



PROBLEM

In context of rising authoritarianism, erosion of democratic values, and backlash on rights, parliamentarians across the globe who value human rights, democracy, and peace are disconnected from one another, geographically and politically.

Parliamentarians need peer-to-peer networking and international support, education, technical assistance, and connection with civil society to enable them to counter democratic threats and take legislative actions from a human rights-based approach.

ACTIONS

- Convening of safe spaces for constructive dialogue on specific topics in the PGA agenda.
- Provision of tailored tools and resources for parliamentarians.
- Education on international human rights law and campaign issues
- Safe spaces for women and representatives of marginalized communities in politics to dialogue and exchange experiences.

OUTPUTS

- Development of roadmaps and action plans.
- Increased visibility of PGA members through traditional and social media.
- Improved engagement with national parliaments, including gender and multi-party representation.
- Improved collaboration between parliamentarians and civil society stakeholders in country.

OUTCOMES

- PGA members are strengthened as champions taking actions to promote the rule of law, democracy, human security, inclusion, gender equality and justice, including climate justice and the environment.
- PGA members' actions are amplified through a network of solidarity among parliamentarians from different political parties that creates knowledge and builds connection.
- PGA members have increased engagement with civil society organizations and/or key stakeholders in their countries contributing to regular collaboration and fostering local ownership.

INDICATORS

- Ratified treaties that uphold human rights and strengthen the rule of law and democracy in line with PGA campaigns.
- Reported new or amended legislation adopted (of which a determined percentage protects/promotes the rights of women and marginalized populations).
- Reported harmonizing of international human rights law into domestic legal frameworks (of which a determined percentage specifically safeguards the rights of women and marginalized populations and advances gender equality).

IMPACT

Parliamentarians in all regions of the world contribute to a rules-based international order for an equitable, safe, sustainable and democratic world.

OUR 2025 – 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

Our world has become ever more turbulent and complex since Parliamentarians for Global Action was founded in 1978. The threat to human rights, human security, democracy, and justice persists, interwoven with the challenges of the climate crisis, the rise of autocracy, and social and political divisiveness. Now more than ever, PGA's work is critical to shaping a shared narrative of our common humanity and empowering governmental leaders to serve as advocates for an equitable, safe, sustainable, and democratic world.

To ensure that our work remains relevant and effective, we have reviewed and refreshed our organizational strategy so that we can better meet the demands of today's global community.

Membership

PGA members are the most active change makers in their parliaments. They are at the heart of everything we do, and we are grateful for their political courage to take principled stands in the face of adversity. From long-standing members to those just joining parliament, from government to opposition, PGA offers an inclusive space for all parliamentarians.

To assure that PGA members have the agency to make change, members must be from countries that adhere to the following criteria:

- Members must be from a freely elected parliament.
- Elections should be open to more than one party, or to those who have no party.
- Parliaments must demonstrate an actual ability to engage in free debate and question their country's executive.

Our priorities:

- Improve active engagement of our global membership through participation in PGA activities, communications with staff, requests for technical assistance, etc.
- Maintain at least 1,000 active members despite challenge of PGA membership turnover from the large number of global elections in 2024 and 2025.
- Strengthen PGA national groups (members organized within a given country/parliament with gender balance and representation from several political parties) by building ownership and sustainability of actions and demonstrating the value of dialogue in advancing common human rights interests.

We will achieve this by:

- Creating new and welcoming recruitment materials in a range of media and engaging current members on outreach to potential champions.
- Establishing institutional relations with parliaments' international affairs offices and holding orientation sessions about PGA with newly and reelected parliamentarians to introduce the organization.
- Amplifying voices of opposition parliamentarians, providing them with opportunities to participate in international and regional forums to learn, connect, and act. While PGA has many influential members with long experience in parliament, we believe in creating a welcoming environment for all voices. In our experience, a junior opposition member may become a prominent member of parliament in the following legislature and empowering them has a ripple effect in the years ahead.
- Founding the group "Friends of PGA" — former members of parliament who can continue to engage with PGA and identify current parliamentarians to invite as members. They can play a role in mentoring current members, networking, advocacy support, resource mobilization, policy development, and capacity building.

"PGA will always be a part of my heart. Loved the time I spent with the PGA team. It was like a family. That is what is special about PGA."

~ Ms. Rozaina Adam, former MP (Maldives)



Communications

Effective communication is vital to the organization.

Our priorities:

- Raise the profile of PGA and its members on social platforms and traditional media.
- Improve understanding about PGA: what we do, how and where we work, and the elements that make us relevant and unique among other parliamentary networks.
- Develop content, communication tools, and messages to assist PGA members to be more effective champions of campaign issues.

We will achieve this by:

- Designing and implementing a communications strategy that clearly conveys our story of change, elevates testimonies of our member-parliamentarians, and features their milestones towards the advancement of the organization's goals to all stakeholders, including parliamentarians, donors, and partners.
- Building organizational capacity by hiring a communications officer.
- Producing content specific to our campaigns on how to address challenges to democratic values from anti-rights movements.
- Responding to members' requests for thematic resources and toolkits.
- Launching a new visual brand identity built on the concept of a spiral. The spiral represents a diversity of ideas and perspectives spiraling inward and bold, real-world actions spiraling outward.



Fundraising

Parliamentarians for Global Action manages its budget responsibly; a 2023 external audit found that 85 cents of every dollar is spent on program implementation. Yet PGA is in need of increased, more flexible resources that are not tied to a single issue or geographic target. Our campaigns are global, and we strive to have enough funding to serve all of our membership.

We are focusing development efforts on diversifying funding sources, especially by seeking multi-year, core support. Unrestricted support will allow PGA to fully implement our strategic plan, expand our internal capacity, better respond to the needs of our global network of members, and advance the progress of human rights nationally, regionally, and internationally.

Our priorities:

- Secure unrestricted, multi-year core support.
- Ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization.

We will achieve this by:

- Building relationships with new funders and strengthening our relationships with existing funders.
- Utilizing communication tools to better convey our mission, theory of change, and achievements.
- Establishing PGA as the parliamentary ally to civil society in their defense of human rights around the world.
- Demonstrating that parliamentarians can act as a line of defense at the national level when anti-rights movements seek to transfer hate and discrimination across borders.

Learning

We are mindful that societal and legal change can take years. Nonetheless, along this path, there are several steps that point to progress. Identifying such points along the way and how member-parliamentarians contributed to each milestone will help us convey a fuller narrative of PGA's impact to our members, funders, and partners.

To this effect, we have updated our theory of change and identified three outcomes that recognize our work with members on an organizational level:

1. PGA members are strengthened as champions taking actions to promote the rule of law, democracy, human security, inclusion, gender equality and justice, including climate justice and the environment.
2. PGA members' actions are amplified through a network of solidarity among parliamentarians from different political parties that creates knowledge and build connection.
3. PGA members have increased engagement with civil society organizations and or key stakeholders in their countries contributing to regular collaboration and fostering local ownership.

These outcomes contribute to our mission of parliamentarians in all regions of the world advocating for human rights, the rule of law and democracy in line with our campaigns and offer cross-cutting outputs and indicators that will allow us to collect data, identify strategies that work and which areas require improvement. This continuous reflection will enable us to understand how our advocacy can remain effective, sustainable, and scalable.

Our priorities:

- Strengthen our capacity to design and operationalize an organizational monitoring, evaluation and learning framework based on our updated theory of change.
- Collect stories that exemplify our impact and the high-level results and milestones we seek to achieve.
- Share lessons learned and best practices.

We will achieve this by:

- Establishing an inception phase to test and assess the identified outputs and indicators, and their usefulness and relevance in capturing short-term and medium-term outcomes organizationally.
- Creating safe spaces for constructive criticism and self-assessment that encourage learning and team building.
- Developing a 'living document' to share best practices and lessons learned, including strategies for gender mainstreaming.

Realizing Gender Equality

Since its inception, Parliamentarians for Global Action has been committed to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls in its democratic governance and programmatic design. PGA seeks to remove the structural barriers to women's and girls' access to participation in all spheres of their lives and to break the cycle of discriminatory laws and norms that perpetuate violence, poverty, and marginalization. Our members are uniquely positioned to enact policies and legislation that support gender mainstreaming, to explain to their constituencies the importance of gender equality for women, girls, boys, and men, and to speak up against inequality.

PGA has operationalized gender equality by ensuring that our executive committee includes the active participation of women parliamentarians through a 40:60 gender balance. We have developed internal staff policies in support of equal employment opportunity and annual training on preventing

sexual harassment. We have participated in gender mainstreaming training and will be organizing additional discussions to foster constructive dialogue and understanding about the impacts of gender discrimination on women and girls and other marginalized populations. We also strive to ensure that all our communications materials and resources are gender and diversity sensitive and that they illuminate gender considerations for parliamentarians.

Our approach ensures gender equality is addressed at all levels of the organization's activities and results tracking.

We are aware that men and women are not homogenous groups and that their identities, privileges, and vulnerabilities intersect in complex ways. Whenever possible, we collect distinct data on self-reported sexual orientation, gender identity/ expression, sex characteristics, race, and disability.



“Violation of rights is violation of rights. When you make a law, it must be for everyone. Even if I am going to lose my seat, I won't vote to repeal a progressive law that protects women and children. I am grateful for PGA's support in successfully maintaining the law banning female genital mutilation in The Gambia.”

~ Hon. Abdoulie Ceesay, MP and Deputy Majority Leader (The Gambia)

PGA CAMPAIGNS

Parliamentarians for Global Action programming and campaign activities are aimed at activating our members around a set of priorities — democracy, inclusion, protection of the environment, etc. — in order to build their capacity as advocates for enacting laws and policies that uphold these priorities within their home countries and across global alliances.

PGA uses progress markers to indicate depth of change and provide signals that change is happening.



STEP 1

Parliamentarians are engaged

- Participate in PGA activities.
- Engage in respectful and constructive peer-to-peer dialogue across party lines, and with civil society and other stakeholders.
- Use PGA tools and resources to improve their awareness and understanding of human rights and develop their capacity.
- Adopt roadmaps/plans of action at PGA activities that are realistic and achievable to implement in their parliaments.

STEP 2

Parliamentarians are activated

- Become active and involved PGA members.
- Demonstrate political will to act as champions of our vision for a rules-based international order for an equitable, safe, sustainable, and democratic world.
- Take concrete actions, including by posing a question to the executive branch; introducing a bill; convening a committee meeting; sharing PGA tools and resources with colleagues; partnering with local civil society; calling for a reform in public policy or practice; and speaking publicly for human rights, democracy, inclusion, and the rule of law.

STEP 3

Parliamentarians make an impact

- Adopt new or amended legislation.
- Ratify treaties that uphold human rights and strengthen the rule of law and democracy in line with our campaigns.
- Harmonize international human rights law into domestic legal frameworks.
- Allocate adequate budget to implement laws and policies.

DEMOCRACY, GENDER, AND INCLUSION PROGRAM

Democracy can only flourish when there are equal rights and opportunities for all. A fully flourishing democracy allows individuals to achieve their highest potential by fostering respect for fundamental human rights; freedoms of association, expression, and opinion; access to power within the bounds of the rule of law; free and fair elections; a pluralistic system of political parties; the separation of powers; the independence of the judiciary; transparent and accountable institutions; and an independent media.

Over the last few years, an increasingly vocal and effective conservative movement that opposes human rights has entered the global political arena. State and non-state illiberal actors are pushing an anti-rights narrative, fueling different forms of discriminatory practices against individuals who are already vulnerable or marginalized, including women and children, LGBTQI+ persons, indigenous persons, and human rights defenders (who may be parliamentarians).

Parliamentarians are a critical line of defense against authoritarian leaders and anti-rights movements. Their championship of inclusive democracy and engagement with civil society is of paramount importance in rebuilding trust in institutions.

Women parliamentarians, especially, face challenges from patriarchal norms, gender biases, and deeply ingrained cultural mindsets. Gender-based violence, including physical, verbal, and, increasingly, online attacks, is used to intimidate, silence, and discredit women in politics who challenge the status quo. These attacks tend to have a chilling effect on women's political participation, for those already in leadership positions and those interested in such positions, including young women.

PGA is committed to promoting safe and inclusive political environments for women parliamentarians by raising awareness and providing tools and support to counter attacks against women leaders; strengthening the capacity of women parliamentarians to champion women's rights and gender equality in their legislative work; advocating for gender-responsive policies/legislation and budgets; and supporting at-risk, persecuted, and imprisoned women politicians and human rights defenders.

“Freedoms, democracy and the rights of minorities are losing space. PGA members are uniquely positioned to defend those rights by utilizing tools such as the Parliamentary Toolbox for Democracy Defense and the Code of Democratic Conduct to protect the integrity of discourse in our legislatures and keep parliamentarians accountable.”

*~ Hon. Syed Naveed Qamar,
MP (Pakistan); PGA president*



Campaign on Democratic Renewal and Human Rights



GOAL: Strengthen democracy based on values of inclusivity and respect for human rights and the rule of law.

PGA has developed tools to help parliamentarians identify and address threats in three key areas: (1) the erosion of democratic principles, including through mis- and disinformation; (2) the repression of vulnerable populations; and (3) harassment and attacks (online and physical) against women political leaders and other parliamentarians when taking a pro-human rights stand.

The campaign has three pillars:

- The Parliamentary Rapid Response Team — “first responders” who act quickly and without bureaucratic red tape when parliamentarians and human rights defenders are at risk.
- The Global Parliamentary Code of Democratic Conduct — a mechanism to hold parliamentarians accountable for their speech, commit themselves to demand dialogue respectful of all, and refrain from disinformation.
- The Parliamentary Toolbox for Democracy Defense — a compilation of resources and tools to help parliamentarians detect and combat the early warning signs of democratic decline and propose pro-rights alternatives. The Toolbox also supports efforts to provide safe and inclusive spaces for women parliamentarians, with particular focus on intersectionality of women's identities.

Our priorities:

- Increase the number of legislators endorsing the Code of Democratic Conduct.
- Increase access to the Toolbox and collect stories of how members of parliament have used these tools to defend democracy in their countries.
- Build capacity of the Parliamentary Rapid Response Team to increase the visibility of its work globally and establish institutional partnerships to better respond to security threats, provide legal advice on court cases, and offer psychosocial assistance to human rights defenders.
- Implement a global awareness campaign on supporting women's political leadership, mindful of intersectional identities, and combating gender biases and violence against women in politics.

Campaign Against Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity



GOAL: Mobilize parliamentarians as human rights champions, taking action to guarantee that every individual has equal value, lives with dignity, and can achieve their highest potential, free from all forms of violence and discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

We build the capacity and political will of parliamentarians globally to understand and meaningfully engage with lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI+) civil society partners by having the information, tools, and peer support to counter disinformation from anti-gender and anti-rights movements and effectively protect human rights. A key element is to strengthen dialogue between marginalized communities and parliamentarians. The long-term impact is to protect and guarantee the human rights of LGBTQI+ people by encouraging parliamentarians to repeal discriminatory laws and/or adopt legislation and policies that are more inclusive and consistent with regional and international human rights standards.

Our priorities:

- Build a network of pro-rights legislators globally across political parties by connecting parliamentarians with peers from other countries in their region to generate and strengthen political will, share effective practices and lessons-learned, and serve as a supportive network.
- Collaborate with civil society partners (LGBTQI+-focused, as well as other pro-rights organizations) to highlight intersectionality of marginalized communities.
- Empower champion legislators to serve as a firewall against proposed anti-rights legislation.
- Support key civil society organizations in difficult environments and provide them with access to PGA members in their country.



“Since 2013 when PGA invited me to participate in the first international parliamentary seminar about sexual orientation and gender identity held at the Dominican Republic’s Chamber of Deputies, I have advocated for the rights of LGBTQI+ persons. I had not engaged frequently with this community before, and it opened my eyes to the daily violations that my brothers and sisters suffer in Uganda. PGA has supported my work as a human rights lawyer and has stood by my side offering assistance and global solidarity as we challenge the Anti-Homosexuality Act (2023).”

*~ Hon. Fox Odoi-Oywelowo,
MP (Uganda); Chair of the Human Rights Committee*

“Even though Cook Islands has decriminalized [LGBTQI+ behaviors], the Church plays a very important role, and my parliamentary colleagues still need persuading on developing protective measures for LGBTQI+ people. As a result of the PGA dialogue, I am requesting PGA’s technical assistance to develop hate speech legislation.”

*~ Hon. Tina Browne,
MP and Leader of the Opposition (Cook Islands)*



HUMAN RIGHTS AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM

 **GOAL: Protect human rights in environmental matters, underscored by the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for present and future generations.**

PGA's unique human rights-based approach centers the three core principles of environmental democracy that stem from [Principle 10 of the 1992 Rio Declaration](#):

- Transparency = the right to access information.
- Participation = the right to meaningful participation in decision-making.
- Justice = the right to access justice to enforce and/or redress.

Parliamentarians play a critical role in addressing environmental protection from a human rights-based approach. PGA reinforces these principles of environmental democracy by working with parliamentarians to secure the right to access information, participation, and justice in environmental matters on land and in the ocean for their communities.

By aligning with the broader framework of environmental sustainability and shared goals of the environmental movement, PGA builds political will, translates knowledge, and provides technical assistance to help parliamentarians take action. As the missing piece of the puzzle towards our common goal to protect our planet, PGA uniquely enables parliamentarians to champion environmental protection through an approach that centers human rights for all people of present and future generations.

“PGA’s campaigns are particularly important for parliamentarians in order to access real time data of status on what’s going on with the oceans, climate action in general, and also appreciating all things related to environment and human rights.”

*~ Hon. Valerie Woods, MP and Speaker of the House of Representatives (Belize);
PGA executive committee member and Climate Action Campaign convenor*



“PGA has been leading this Program linking the environment, the oceans, and human rights. We do need to combine all of them and ensure that it is not just about the environment, but it is also about human rights.”

~ Dep. Antonio Niquice, MP and Chair of the Planning and Budget Commission (Mozambique); PGA executive committee member and Oceans Campaign convenor



Campaign for the Protection of the Oceans and Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Oceans Campaign)

 **GOAL: End impunity for crimes committed on and against the world's oceans and their related human rights violations through increased transparency.**

The Oceans Campaign promotes the implementation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 (SDG 14) by encouraging governments to “conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.” The campaign particularly works towards:

- Universality and implementation of the United Nations High Seas Treaty² to enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources.
- Protecting 30 Percent of the Ocean by 2030:
 - Sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
 - Conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.
- Increasing Sustainability of Small-Scale Fisheries by providing access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.



“I found PGA’s Oceans Campaign very helpful in terms of the kind of information that it provides for a Member of Parliament, and particularly for me as I have a fishing community and live in Jamaica which is a small island and all of the issues relating to the ocean. Unless your portfolio is around climate action, conservation, or environmental issues, we often don’t pay enough attention to those issues, and I think what it did for me certainly is allowed me to have a conversation with other MPs whether it is deep-seabed mining and the potential impact of that, or it is about Marine Protected Areas.”

~ Hon. Dr. Angela Brown Burke, MP (Jamaica); PGA executive committee member

Our priorities:

- At least 200 parliamentarians in all regions of the world are directly sensitized to the importance of conserving the oceans, seas, and marine resources and using them sustainably.
- PGA members contribute to at least 25 ratifications of the High Seas Treaty around the world, contributing to the entry into force of the High Seas Treaty.
- PGA members support the passage of legislation in their countries that contribute to a 5 percent increase in Marine Protected Areas around the world.³
- In at least 10 countries, parliamentarians champion implementing legislation and/or legislative amendments that recognize the cross-cutting nature of human rights as they relate to the oceans.

“Thank you, PGA, for promoting and working towards the signature but, most importantly, the implementation of this new Oceans Treaty, the High Seas Treaty. This has to do with two things that seem to me very important: the protection of the oceans and biodiversity, and the respect for human rights.”

~ Dip. Ramón Barrios, Chair of the Committee on Legislation and Constitutional Affairs (Honduras)



“The Oceans Campaign of PGA helped me a lot when I wanted to explain to my fellow parliamentarians what the SDGs are, particularly SDG14: Life Under Water.”

~ Ms. Petra Bayr, MP (Austria); PGA Treasurer

Campaign for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Climate Action (Climate Action Campaign)



GOAL: Improve climate governance by enacting policies that ensure the rights of access to information, participation, and justice in environmental matters and the protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters.

Our campaign focuses on raising awareness of the [United Nation's Escazú Agreement](#) as an innovative tool for Latin America and the Caribbean that strengthens the role of civil society and of parliamentarians to champion legislation that effectively addresses the climate crisis from a human rights-based approach.

Our priorities:

- PGA members contribute to at least 3 ratifications of the Escazú Agreement throughout Latin America and the Caribbean, reinforcing the region's standards for access rights and protection of human rights defenders in environmental matters.
- At least 50 parliamentarians in the Caribbean and Latin America are directly sensitized on the importance of the principles articulated in the Escazú Agreement.
- In at least 5 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, parliamentarians champion legislation and/or policy reform that protects human rights defenders and the three access rights in environmental matters.

“The new generation of international agreements such as the Escazú Agreement, strategically link environmental issues, human rights issues, and democratic governance. It involves multiple actors and generates a very proactive and much needed response to today’s challenges. This is why, at PGA, we believe it is crucial to work towards their approval and implementation.”

*~ Former Sen. Emilio Alvarez Icaza (Mexico);
PGA executive committee member*



“It has been an honor to be engaged in PGA’s Climate Action Campaign that is committed to raising awareness among legislators, particularly in the Caribbean, to implement the Escazú Agreement as an effective tool for climate governance and to ensure the three rights of access to: information, participation, and justice in environmental matters.”

~ Hon. David Lee, MP (Trinidad and Tobago)

INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM

At the heart of PGA's International Law and Human Rights Program lies an unwavering dedication to justice, dignity, and human rights. The program's two campaigns, the Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute System of the International Criminal Court and the Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty, are fueled by a commitment to address and remedy the devastating impacts of core international crimes — genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression — as well as abolishing the death penalty.

The International Law and Human Rights Program promotes the implementation of [United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 16, notably Target 16.3](#), encouraging governments to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

PGA serves as the parliamentary partner to civil society by bringing a parliamentary perspective to shared objectives and increasing their engagement with members of parliament. Through our collaborative initiatives, we encourage members of parliament to pass and amend laws in alignment with the international justice framework.

As a key stakeholder and valued partner in international justice, PGA participates in two consortia of NGOs that are financially supported by the European Union:

GLOBAL INITIATIVE AGAINST IMPUNITY UNDER THE ROME STATUTE CAMPAIGN

Objective:

Address an increasing climate of impunity for the most serious human rights violations through fostering comprehensive justice and accountability for survivors and victims.

Collaboration:

Partnering with 10 non-governmental organizations across 27 target countries.

GLOBAL CONSORTIUM AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

Objective:

Empower civil society organizations to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty more effectively and support stakeholders' action at national, regional, and international levels.

Collaboration:

Partnering with 24 non-governmental organizations across 40 target countries.

Campaign for the Universality and Effectiveness of the Rome Statute System of the International Criminal Court



GOAL: Contribute to ending impunity and improve access to justice for victims of the crime of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression, by supporting the universality and effectiveness of the Rome Statute system and the International Criminal Court.

This campaign addresses the atrocious and enduring impact of core international crimes on individuals, communities, as well as environment, aiming to prevent future atrocities and create a world where justice and humanity prevail. The campaign is driven by the understanding that justice and the rule of law are essential for healing and reconciliation as well as for the prevention of the occurrence of grave human rights violations. By working closely with members of parliament and international leaders, PGA strives to ensure that states are equipped with the necessary tools and means to hold perpetrators of the most heinous crimes accountable. This represents a legal and a moral imperative to restore peace and dignity to victims and their communities.

Our priorities:

By 2027, at least 160 parliamentarians worldwide will understand their role as crucial defenders of accountability and the rule of law, both at national and international levels, encouraging them to advance, finalize, ratify, and implement the Rome Statute – the founding treaty of the International Criminal Court, i.e., the only permanent international court mandated to investigate and prosecute core international crimes – and its Amendments. We also seek to provide strategic advice and support on accompanying international human rights initiatives and policies. By leveraging our partnerships with relevant stakeholders, we aim to improve access to justice for survivors and victims. Additionally, by 2027, we will achieve:

- Ratification of the Rome Statute in two countries.
- Ratification of Amendments to the Rome Statute in five countries.
- Adoption of the legislation implementing the Rome Statute in three countries.

Campaign for the Abolition of the Death Penalty



GOAL: Abolish the death penalty.

The campaign's commitment is driven by understanding the devastating impact of the death penalty on individuals, their families, and their communities, particularly the most marginalized.

By collaborating with parliamentarians and civil society organizations, including the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty and the Global Consortium for Death Penalty Abolition (an initiative led by 25 abolitionist organizations), PGA aims to end these injustices by empowering legislators to adopt legislation that abolishes the death penalty, reduces its scope, or halt its use in countries where it is still practiced. This campaign is not just about changing laws; it is rooted in the belief that justice systems should rehabilitate and restore, not destroy lives. It is about protecting and upholding the right to life and integrity of a person, the most fundamental human right.

Our priorities:

- At least 75 parliamentarians worldwide improve their understanding about the death penalty.
- Improved collaboration, mobilization initiatives, and monitoring efforts in seven countries with consortium-partners and in response to PGA members' requests.
- In at least 3 countries, laws for complete or partial abolition, moratoria implementation, and ratification of related international and regional treaties will be enacted.



“PGA’s collaboration is fundamental in providing technical assistance and advice to parliamentarians around the world. In my personal case, PGA has been tremendously helpful in the introduction of the Law on Cooperation with the ICC adopted by the National Assembly of Ecuador in 2024. This contributes to strengthening the Rome Statute system and the ICC, which is of crucial importance to establishing clear norms within the international community that aim at guaranteeing the real rule of law and preventing impunity for the most atrocious crimes against humanity.”

~ Dip. Dr. Esther Cuesta, MP (Ecuador) PGA executive committee member and co-convenor of the Rome Statute System Campaign

“The decision to abolish the mandatory death penalty has been a positive step in the right direction not only in the region but also in the world, where there is a rise of impunity, injustice, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, violations of freedom of religion and belief, crimes against humanity, and the erosion of accountability, integrity, and transparency in global leaderships. I have been a champion for the campaign to abolish capital punishment since I first took oath as MP in 2013. Thanks to PGA’s invaluable assistance and the forum for international advocacy it provides, I have been able to fight for this archaic colonial punishment to be removed from our system, successfully achieving the removal of its mandatory imposition in 2023. Through PGA’s support, I am proud to have been able to stand on the side of the minority, marginalized, and the voiceless.”

~ Kasthuri Patto, former MP (Malaysia); former PGA President



INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY PROGRAM

Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and personal security. PGA seeks to safeguard life against devastating threats posed by weapons of mass destruction by providing a bedrock foundation for peace without which the exercise of all other human rights would not be possible. We believe that by working towards universality of key international treaties and assuring their effective implementation, our people and planet can best be protected from weapons of mass destruction. Any usage of these weapons gravely impacts global security, threatens democracies and, in turn, the rule of law.



Biological Security and Health and UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Campaign



GOAL: Contribute to a reduction in the threat posed by biological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Biological weapons disseminate disease-causing organisms or toxins to harm or kill humans, animals, or plants. Diseases caused by such weapons would not confine themselves to national borders and could spread rapidly around the world. In addition to the tragic loss of lives, such events could cause food shortages, environmental catastrophes, devastating economic loss, and widespread illness.

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling, and use of biological and toxin weapons. It was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). PGA seeks to advance the universality and implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention and full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) that requires states to take certain steps to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, including terrorists.

Our priority:


We will focus our efforts in the Indo-Pacific region, given its strategically important position due to increasing geo-political security tensions. We will improve the understanding and strengthen parliamentarians' capacity in the Pacific to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction to non-state actors, including terrorists. Ultimately, PGA actions will reduce the likelihood of terrorist attacks using WMD materials, and improve public safety and security in the region.



“South Sudan, the youngest country in the world, is now set to join the BWC as the 185th State Party. As the world came to a standstill with the emergence of Covid 19, it is now clear that the world is continuously facing unforeseen threats from biological pathogens which can be easily used as weapons by non-state actors to cause grievous harm to humans, animals, and plants. Joining the Convention had a lot of unforeseen hurdles, and we sincerely thank PGA for the unwavering support and encouragement to the team of South Sudan. God bless PGA for all the hard work that they are doing to keep the world safe and secure.”

~ Hon. Dr. Alma Yak, MP (South Sudan)

Campaign to Address Cybercrime

 **GOAL: To address the growing human and economic devastation caused by cybercrime as well as its negative impact on international peace and security.**

Cybercrime has devastating personal and economic effects nationally, regionally, and at the international level. We believe the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime is and remains an effective mechanism to effectively tackle cybercrime worldwide by providing an international framework addressing cybercrime in its different manifestations, accompanied by robust human rights safeguards. Adherence to, and implementation of international treaties such as the Budapest Convention, as well as its two Additional Protocols, alongside other complimentary measures, help mitigate cybercrime and its grave consequences.

Our work will focus in regions where greater knowledge and understanding are needed on this threat to international peace and security (Africa, the Indo-Pacific, and Caribbean regions). We will:

- Raise awareness of the tools and strategies available to combat cybercrime among parliamentarians.
- Support and strengthen parliamentarians to take concrete steps towards accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and/or the Second Additional Protocol on Enhanced Cooperation and Disclosure of Electronic Evidence, as applicable, thereby enhancing actions globally to prevent cybercrime and enhancing vital cooperation at the international level.



“I was very pleased to be part of the official delegation of the Republic of Cameroon that deposited earlier today its Instrument of Accession to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. As a PGA member, and since the PGA Regional Workshop in Malawi in April 2023, I have also reached out on several occasions to, and met with, the Minister for Post and Telecommunications to encourage swift action.”

~ Hon Agho Bamenju Oliver, MP (Cameroon)

Nuclear and Radiological Security Campaign

 **GOAL: To address growing threats to nuclear and radiological security.**

Nuclear weapons are not the only nuclear threat to humanity. Nuclear and radiological materials are also to be found in many countries for use in peaceful purposes in hospitals, hospital equipment (x-rays), laboratories, mines (uranium), research facilities, as well as in nuclear reactors/power stations. If these materials are not properly secured and if their illegal usage or smuggling is not criminalized in national legislation, terrorists are more incentivized to seek to access these nuclear and radiological materials in order to manufacture weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Accession and adherence to international frameworks are tangible, substantive, and concrete steps that states can take to mitigate these risks, directly contributing to the safety of our people and planet.

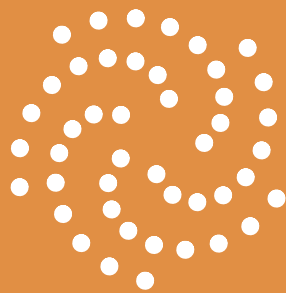
Our work will focus in regions where greater knowledge and understanding are needed on this threat to international peace and security (Africa, the Indo-Pacific, and Caribbean regions). We will:

- Provide tools and strategies to promote nuclear and radiological security among parliamentarians.
- Support and strengthen parliamentarians' capacity to take concrete steps to promote accession to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM), the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (A/CPPNM), as well as the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT), as applicable, thereby enhancing national, regional, and international nuclear and radiological security.



“The Government of Zimbabwe has deposited its Instrument of Acceptance of the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material with the IAEA in Vienna and just yesterday its Instrument of Accession to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism at the United Nations in New York. In this connection, members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Parliament of Zimbabwe worked closely with PGA. I highly commend PGA’s International Peace and Security Program, for its tireless work in the past few years, raising awareness among MPs and relevant government agencies alike, here in Zimbabwe surrounding the importance of both these vital international treaties, efforts which have now, gratifyingly, borne fruit.”

~ Hon. Kindness Paradze, MP (Zimbabwe); former PGA member



Parliamentarians *for* Global Action

WORKING TOWARD THE VISION OF

A rules-based international order for
an equitable, safe, sustainable, and democratic world.

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