



DELARA BURKARDT



DR. ANTJE DRAHEIM

WOMEN IN POLITICS and Policy for Women

ENGLISH

A virtual presentation on the occasion of International Women's Day organized by "Willkommen in Berlin" and the State representation of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern

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Women's equality in today's society and workforce is an issue relevant across the world. While, of course, some countries are more advanced on this matter than others even forerunners still have room for improvement. In this context activists often call for politics to provide a structural and legal framework in which gender equality can be achieved. But what does the situation for women working in politics look like? What policies are applied in the political sector to ensure equal women's representation?

A virtual presentation organized by "Willkommen in Berlin" (WiB) in cooperation with the State representation of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern on the occasion of the 2021 International Women's Day set out to find answers.

Being a young woman and member of the European parliament, Delara Burkardt, one of the event's keynote speakers, has experienced herself how people - and especially men - are surprised when she enters the room and introduces herself as a Member of the European Parliament. It is also with great concern that she and her colleagues in Bruxelles observe backward developments concerning topics such as abortion rights in EU member states such as Poland and also Ukraine.

Being involved in politics from a very young age Burkardt wants to encourage girls and women in taking responsibility and shaping political activism. According to her, supporting each other and building a valuable network are two of the key elements to push women's agenda forward. Two principles that also lie at the heart of WiB, where a group of people - mostly women - come together to support and network, sharing experiences from around the world.

A beautiful example of this intercultural exchange was also visible during this virtual presentation as H.E. Mulu Solomon Bezuneh, ambassador of Ethiopia, gladly shared her personal experiences of growing up as a girl in East Africa. She described vividly some of the many challenges women are still facing in her home country but also underlined the important role of strong female figures such as her mother in her own life but also in society in general.

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That a female view is essential for all questions of society was among the main arguments from Dr. Antje Draheim, the event's second keynote speaker and state representative of the State of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern to the Federal Government and State Secretary for Federal Affairs. Draheim offered an insight to the discussion about quotas for political parties and women in parliaments, especially in Germany but also across borders. For her rotation between women and men on party lists is the best solution to promote equality in the political landscape. This is one good example of how policy for women can lead to women in politics!