

# **FEMINIST APPROACH OF PARLIAMENT IN LAW: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS**

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## ABSTRACT

*There is now a considerable body of work on the impact of increased women's representation in parliaments. The majority of this work have been based on case studies of individual Western countries. In terms of policy style, the review suggests that women tend to work more behind the scenes, rather than relying on direct challenges in the debating chamber; they have also been shown to be more loyal to the party line than male Labor MPs (though it has not been shown whether this is a sign of a distinctive female consensual style of politics, or a result of negative pressure on the women to conform). By contrast, women MPs had little success in changing the 'adversarial' culture of the parliament, or in other areas such as altering work hours or introducing childcare facilities. As regards the policy agenda, it is suggested that women were likely to raise issues of equality, education, women's relatively poor economic position, childcare, violence against women and integration of gender into the issues of employment and pay. However, in terms of policy outcomes, the few initiatives that were considered successes for the women (such as the development of the National Childcare Strategy) were in areas that dovetailed with existing government policy. The evidence from the UK shows mixed results of greater women's representation in parliament with few distinct women-oriented policy related outcomes.*



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## **HYPOTHESIS**

- Biological determinism
- Gender terminology
- Gender as socially constructed
- Gender as feminine and masculine sexuality
- Problems with the sex/gender distinction
- Women as a group

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

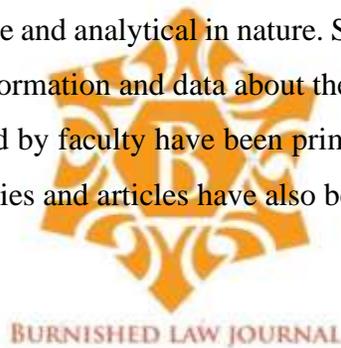
This Doctrinal research is descriptive and analytical in nature. Secondary and Electronic resources have been largely used to gather information and data about the topic.

Books and other reference as guided by faculty have been primarily helpful in giving this project a firm structure. Websites, dictionaries and articles have also been referred.

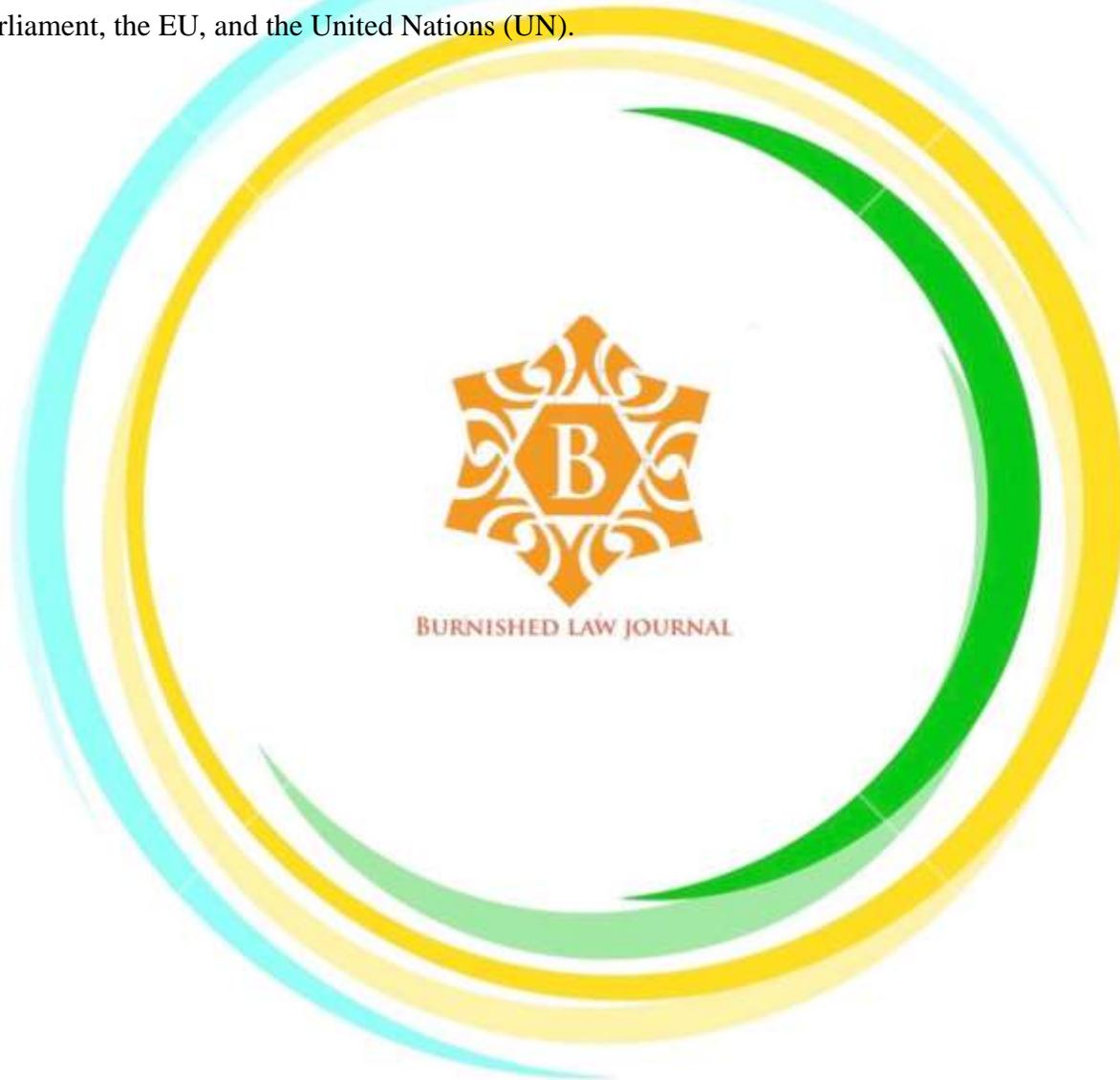
## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

The definition of feminism in this book is inclusive. It includes some projects that do not define themselves as feminist, but nonetheless share feminist goals. It is focused on the pursuit of the goal of gender equality by individuals, groups, projects and governmental programmes, but it expands so as to encompass the wider goal of the advancement of women, on the grounds that both these goals require the project of transformation of gender relations before they can be achieved. Projects that potentially contribute to this transformation are included in this book as 'feminist', even if their immediate goals appear to be more limited.

The author found the definition to be too broad and too inclusive, and so although it could trace many different activities that might contribute towards some form of equality, it lacked real analytical meaning. So, although groups such as UK feminist are included in the definition, so too are the committees of parliamentarians in both the UK and the EU who are promoting gender



equality. The trouble for me is that the interests being promoted by parliamentarians are those that include women in the mainstream economic and political structures, whereas the interests promoted by UK feminist are far more oppositional, challenging and rejecting the mainstream economic and political institutions. The author found it confusing to include both in one definition of feminism, and it might have been more helpful to have acknowledged the presence of multiple feminisms, and to have made clear that this book is about one particular strand of Northern liberal/social democratic feminism that finds its natural home in the bureaucratic arenas of the UK parliament, the EU, and the United Nations (UN).



## INTRODUCTION

All things considered, female establish just 17% of agents in parliaments over the world<sup>1</sup>. This unequal sexual orientation balance has been the subject of much women's activist analysis and the focal point of numerous battles for change. Expanding the quantity of female in parliament is regularly legitimized on the premise that it is essentially progressively just to have break even with extents of people in a delegate body. In any case, this isn't the main reason for the advancement of female in legislative issues. It has been guaranteed that female have an alternate way to deal with or 'style' of governmental issues, that their race to parliament in more prominent numbers will change the idea of the parliament itself, and that their impact will be seen in changed arrangement needs and enactment.

There is a now a significant group of work on female' portrayal in parliament. This writing has two principle qualities. To start with, explore focuses on 'illustrative records' of female entrance into legislative issues, while 'less work has tended to the issue of why female are probably going to matter' when they enter parliament. This emphasis on enrolling female to parliament is frequently connected to a regulating women's activist plan, and even a portion of the work that focuses on the impacts female may have can be more prescriptive than graphic. Therefore, our insight about female in parliament is weighted towards the reasons for under-portrayal, with an overall shortage of information about the outcomes of female' parliamentary nearness. Also, a large portion of the contextual investigation material originates from Western nations, and these examinations, 'regardless of their frequently general tone', are probably not going to give a decent image of the impacts that female have on parliaments in nations outside this region.

This article will endeavor to address both of these shortcomings by centering, first, on the results of expanded female' parliamentary portrayal and, furthermore, on a creating nation as opposed to a Western contextual analysis. Here, we center around the parliament of Rwanda, which has now not just the most elevated extent of female agents on the planet, but at the same time is the main parliament to have a practically significantly sexual orientation split— 48.75 percent of the seats

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<sup>1</sup>This figure is calculated by the Inter-Parliamentary Union as reported on 5 February 2007. (Visit <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/world.htm>).

in the Rwandan Chamber of Deputies are held by female<sup>2</sup>. The instance of Rwanda offers an uncommon chance to check the impacts that an expansive level of female may have on a nation's parliament. It is likewise a genuine guide to use for investigating whether the current discoveries about the impacts of expanded female' portrayal in Western parliaments are pertinent in an altogether different setting out and out.

There are three segments to the article. The author starts by auditing the writing about the effect of female's portrayal on the parliament. Also, the author pursues by supporting the decision of Rwanda as a contextual analysis. The author looking at the effect of the female portrayal in three zones: the parliamentary culture, the parliamentary motivation and approach results. Also, the author analysis on what are the impacts of women on parliament & what is the culture of Parliament in Rwanda?

## THE IMPACT OF WOMEN ON PARLIAMENTS

There is currently an extensive collection of work on the effect of expanded female' portrayal in parliaments. Most of this work has been founded on contextual analyses of individual Western nations. For instance, Squires and Wickham-Jones have audited the investigations of the expanded female nearness in the British House of Commons, and they class the impacts under the headings of arrangement style, plan and results. As far as approach style, the survey recommends that female will in general work increasingly off camera, as opposed to depending on direct difficulties in the discussing chamber; they have likewise been appeared to be more faithful to the partisan principal than male Labor MPs (however it has not been hinted at whether this is an unmistakable female consensual style of governmental issues, or an aftereffect of negative weight on the female to acclimate). Conversely, female MPs had little achievement in evolving the 'antagonistic' culture of the parliament, or in different regions, for example, adjusting work hours or presenting childcare offices. As respects the strategy plan, it is proposed that females were probably going to raise issues of balance, instruction, female' generally poor financial position, childcare, savagery against female and joining of sex into the issues of work and pay. Notwithstanding, regarding arrangement

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<sup>2</sup>Claire Devlin, Robert Elgie, The Effect of Increased Women's Representation in Parliament: The Case of Rwanda, *Parliamentary Affairs*, Volume 61, Issue 2, April 2008, Pages 237–254.

results, the couple of activities that were viewed as victories for the female, (for example, the improvement of the National Childcare Strategy) were in zones that dovetailed with existing government approach. The proof from the UK indicates blended consequences of more noteworthy female' portrayal in parliament with couple of unmistakable women's-situated approach related results.

The circumstance in Scandinavia is comparable. In her ongoing recorded diagram of the climbing extents of female in the Swedish parliament, Sainsbury inferred that the nearness of more prominent quantities of female was unequivocal in two regards<sup>3</sup>. To begin with, the female delegates reformulated conventional 'female' issues' as a more extensive issue of sexual orientation fairness, which made them significant contemplations for gatherings. Furthermore, they changed over the interest for female' portrayal into an interest for an increasingly total popular government. Sainsbury's discoveries infer that a more noteworthy nearness for female moved the discussion from one about female to one about sexual orientation. In her audit of Nordic parliaments, Drude Dahlerup uncovered that adjustments in the political culture occurred as an outcome of expanded female nearness. Notwithstanding, that marvel, she finished up, was the 'one point' on which it appeared 'important to discuss a sort of "programmed" change when the minority develops extensive'. All the more as of late, Wangnerud's exact examinations of the demeanors and conduct of MPs in the Nordic parliaments uncovered that most female considered the expanded portrayal of female to host changed their gathering's position; the specific zones referenced were family strategy, sexual orientation equity and social approach. Wangnerud likewise tried the sex of delegates is imperative in deciding the political motivation of the Riksdag. She found that female agents were bound to speak to 'female' interests', and thusly contends that expanded female portrayal results in more prominent parliamentary consideration for sex balance, family strategy and social approach.

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<sup>3</sup>J. Squires and M. Wickham-Jones, 'Women in Parliament: A Comparative Analysis', Equal Opportunities Commission, 2001, pp. 88–99.

## WOMEN AND PARLIAMENT IN RWANDA

This article centers around the effect of expanded female' portrayal in one sub-Saharan nation—Rwanda. In this locale, there is currently an impressive writing on sexual orientation and improvement and, specifically, on the reasons why female' parliamentary portrayal has been customarily low and how it may be increased. By differentiate, as Bauer and Britton note, minimal insightful consideration has been paid to craft by female in African parliaments once they have been chosen. Additionally, even on this last point, the proof from the set number of existing examinations is distinctly blended. Now and again, the expanded portrayal of female has had 'an obvious effect on the organization of parliament'. For model, female parliamentarians have changed parliamentary hours and schedules, made establishments that drive women's activist change, and brought sex into discussions and enactment, among other things. Equally essential for the reasons for this article, African female MPs have caused changes in manners that have not been found in Western settings. Bauer and Britton guarantee that African female delegates 'have a plan that is certifiably more extensive than the authoritative stages of their partners in the North'. They call attention to that land rights, neediness easing, HIV/AIDS, sexual opportunity and viciousness against female are for the most part issues that are unique and for the most part more squeezing for female in Africa than in the West. All the more explicitly, in South Africa, the parliamentary date-book was coordinated with the school schedule and prior closure times for discussions were introduced<sup>4</sup>. Indeed, the most amazing women's activist authoritative record is additionally in South Africa, where noteworthy changes or options to law in the regions of premature birth, work fairness and others have been made. For instance, Meintjes subtleties how partnerships between activists outside parliament and female delegates was urgent in passing the 1998 Domestic Violence Bill<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> H.E. Britton, 'South Africa: Mainstreaming Gender in a New Democracy' in G. Bauer and H.E. Britton (eds) 2006, *Women in African Parliaments*, Lynne Rienner, 2006, pp. 59–84; K. Ross, 'Women's Place in "Male" Space: Gender and Effect in Parliamentary Contexts', *Parliamentary Affairs*, 55, 2002, pp. 189–201.

<sup>5</sup> S. Meintjes, 'The Politics of Engagement: Women Transforming the Policy process—Domestic Violence Legislation in South Africa' in A.M. Goetz and S. Hassim (eds), *No Shortcuts to Power. African Women in Politics and Policy Making*, Z, ed Books, 2003, pp. 140–59.

In the meantime, however, the proof from other contextual analyses is progressively blended. In Namibia, female 'have assumed a critical job in creating and passing numerous ... new laws'. However, as opposed to South Africa, female appointees have 'not figured out how to make their national governing bodies more female or parent-friendly'. Moreover, while female have caused the administrative procedure in Namibia, the effective usage of changes has been problematic. In Mozambique, female' expanded portrayal has not yet converted into huge 'female focused or women's activist strategy initiatives'. Here, female representatives recognized that female in common society were increasingly compelling in the entry of the 2003 Family Act than were female in parliament.

In Uganda, desires raised by the expanded portrayal of female in parliament have not been met. In specific, it demonstrated difficult to embed a condition into the 1998 Land Bill to guarantee that female had risen to rights with men over joint property, including the homestead. One explanation behind the flimsier than-foreseen effect of female agents in African nations is the arrangement of saving parliamentary seats for female. The amount framework is typically constrained by ideological groups, and this regularly implies female feel they should be faithful to the partisan loyalty, even to the detriment of advancing sex focused authoritative changes. This reason was referred to as being especially vital on account of both Mozambique and Uganda, both of which have frameworks where one gathering is overwhelming

## **THE CULTURE OF PARLIAMENT**

As far as parliamentary culture, a few extremely striking changes were uncovered by the examination. To begin with, the Rwandan female delegates don't appear to have been consigned to customary 'female' territories' as broadly as some work has uncovered in other cases. Although the Minister for Gender and Family Promotion is a lady, there is additionally a female Minister for Education, Science, Technology and Research and a female Minister in the Office of the President. Among the lesser clergymen, females are likewise all around spoken to in non-customary territories, for example, Economic Planning and Cooperation. Female are additionally all around separated over the different parliamentary Committees. Female possess 60 percent of the bad habit

presidential positions and 27 percent of the presidential positions on the standing boards of trustees. One of the two representative speakers of parliament is a lady.

Besides, significant changes appear to have happened in the 'social atmosphere' of parliament. The talked with agents announced a positive generally speaking change in parliamentary culture, giving proof that with the more noteworthy number of females they felt progressively agreeable, increasingly certain and then some 'at home'. One delegate discussed 'the little issues that influence you ... when you work with men, they set the pace and you pursue'. A similar delegate feels like she can now 'dress like a lady' and says that 'you feel comfortable. At first, you believed you were a gatecrasher. The inclination has gone'. The expanded certainty of the female delegates was all around every now and again referenced, similar to the perception that bigger gathering numbers bring more prominent individual confidence. The appointees likewise detailed that the expanded certainty inside the gathering of female effects affected the workplace of parliament all in all. One felt that 'certainty prompts acceptance'. Now 'the female take an interest, considerably more than the men'. One representative said that 'individuals grin' and are increasingly ready to 'act naturally currently, and that the environment in the parliament is 'more pleasant'.

One subject that rose as vital in every one of the meetings was the issue of female solidarity. A few interviewees precipitously and transparently announced that they put the advancement of female in front of gathering politics. It was rehashed in a few of the meetings that the female were a group and gone about as a bound together campaign on sexual orientation issues. In any case, this solidarity appears to have been available since a long time before the 2003 flood of female. The interviewees revealed that, before 2003, female Deputies made up an exceptionally close and committed gathering: the female were 'a strong group, very focused'. They campaigned emphatically on sexual orientation issues in spite of their little numbers, with impressive achievement.

By and by, a few changes have come since the 2003 decisions and the presentation of the portion. The females are profoundly mindful of their new numerical quality. There is currently a proposal that huge numbers of the discussions around female' portrayal in parliament have turned out to be repetitive, since, as one agent compactly put it, 'you're there'. Another delegate called attention to that now 'in the event that we are missing, there's no majority that is for sure'. Many of the female

said that the job of the Forum for Rwandan Women Parliamentarians (FWRP)<sup>6</sup> had become progressively imperative in planning the exercises of the bigger gathering of female. Some likewise referenced that the greater gathering of female was additionally an increasingly various gathering, yet solidarity even inside this more extensive range of female was felt to be strong; a minority of the female met said that they felt the bigger gathering had brought more noteworthy solidarity.

In spite of the fact that, with the presentation of held seats, a large portion of the female now in parliament have been chosen in satisfaction of the quantity, no noteworthy contrasts between the standard agents and the straightforwardly chosen appointees developed among the interviewees. Female' solidarity again appeared to cover the two gatherings of agents. One representative met did express the inclination that the bigger post-2003 gathering was of blended quality and less proficient by and large than the littler prior gathering; be that as it may, she noted excessively that few of the men chose in 2003 were new to parliament and needed understanding also. Both the two amount representatives talked with consented to the general report on the improved climate in parliament and the significance of female solidarity, just as on different issues.

One explicit region of progress was the connection between the people parliamentarians. The connection between the two was commonly answered to have improved since the 2003 decisions. Albeit a portion of the representatives recognized that before 2003, a significant number of the men were sex touchy and were mutually in charge of achieving the figure of 48.8 percent, the general report was that the people's working relationship was 'not smooth'. Since 2003, however, the female (both standard and gathering chose) feel a feeling of détente between the two. A considerable lot of the female resounded the inclination that 'men see better now' and that there is more simplicity of comprehension between the male and female deputies. One of the female attested that there were 'not a ton of refinements' between the people delegates in the current parliament. Specifically, the nature of joint effort between the people in the parliament has changed. Rather than the incensed campaigning that the female used to attempt, men currently comprehend their contentions and are more 'sexual orientation delicate'— and in any case 'they need to focus' since the female presently form such a huge, and to a great extent bound together, group. One lady met said that she felt that people had now moved toward becoming 'genuine

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<sup>6</sup>A parliamentary body founded in 1996 intended to bring women MPs from all parties together.

accomplices' in their parliamentary work. In short, the female appeared to feel that since 2003, the people appointees 'have a decent relationship'<sup>7</sup>.

Be that as it may, the meetings with the representatives neglected to demonstrate changes in some different parts of parliament's political culture. In contrast to the South African case, the working of parliament—the hours worked, the date-book, the manner in which gatherings were masterminded and directed and formal basic leadership forms—had not changed at all, as indicated by the interviewees. At the point when gotten some information about this part of the parliament, one MP said 'it [parliament] works in the manner it generally works. It is done paying little respect to people. It works and it's normal'. The thought of evolving this 'ordinary' working to a way progressively positive to female did not rise in any of the meetings, even as a yearning. There was additionally no notice of getting childcare offices at the parliament. This was regardless of the way that few of the respondents alluded to the more prominent household duties of women; this issue did not appear to be seen by the men as related or interconnected with their work in parliament. The additional obligation of thinking about their youngsters at home was regularly rejected as an issue for 'female all in all' or 'female all over', and not as something meriting specific consideration in their very own working environment, the parliament. A meeting with one of the standard appointees appeared to uncover that what bargain existed among home and work life occurred inside the home instead of at the parliament. This representative said that you need to 'converse with your significant other, your entryway him', and instruct the family that parliamentary work would take up an expansive extent of time. This lady had been one of a gathering to head out to Sweden to talk about the topic of female in parliament and was stunned to learn of the high quantities of Swedish female delegates who separated in the wake of entering parliament. She stated that, interestingly, '[Rwandan female representatives have] got what it takes to deal with our youngsters and our families'.

As opposed to what may have been normal, given that the Rwandan female appointees appear to frame such a bound together gathering as to sexual orientation issues, a portion of the more experienced parliamentarians announced that since 2003, they spent less time chipping away at sex issues. They ascribed this to the way that as they have taken on new jobs in parliament, they have less time to fill in as strongly on sexual orientation issues, and that with such huge numbers

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<sup>7</sup>Mukayuhi Rwaka interview.

of female, their individual endeavors are never again so significant. One clarified: 'I'm not any less keen on female' issues, however at this point the author feel like there are others to do it'. This might be an indication that a few females are moving to move toward becoming 'parliamentarians' instead of voting public laborers. Both of the amount agents were among the individuals who referenced that the bigger number of females has liberated their assets to seek after objectives other than ones legitimately identified with female' issues. There were a few different occurrences where the inclination that there were presently such a large number of females, that it was workable for some of them to move out to different territories, was communicated.

Potentially identified with this inclination is the disparity of perspectives on the topic of female and 'grassroots' governmental issues. Albeit past work has proposed that female parliamentarians are bound to participate in grassroots legislative issues, two contradicting sees rose in the Rwandan case. The principal see held that female agents are increasingly disposed and, with their expanded numbers, have more assets to seek after grassroots governmental issues since 2003. One lady clarified that as the foundation of a considerable lot of the female appointees is in common society, they 'know the issues of the grassroots'. Another expressed that their expanded numbers enabled female to take additional break from parliament to visit their constituents. Community work including the help of female' gatherings and arrangement of post-destruction directing was referenced as the focal point of grassroots work. On the other hand, the second view, communicated by a few delegates, attested that the female have in truth less time to spend on grassroots contact as, with the expansion in their numbers, they have likewise progressed in parliament and achieved all the more requesting positions.

## CONCLUSION

What is the centrality of these discoveries for research on female in parliament? The discoveries bolster many, if not all, of crafted by Western contextual investigations, and in this sense affirm that the Western-based work has legitimacy in creating world settings. In itself, this is imperative, proposing that the experience of female' portrayal is general as opposed to setting explicit. They likewise affirm a portion of the discoveries of studies directed on other African nations.

Regarding parliamentary culture, the discoveries reverberation those of the set-up concentrates dependent on the Western experience. For instance, we found that the female thought about themselves to have a more prominent worry with grassroots legislative issues. These backings comparative discoveries by Norris on account of Britain.<sup>101</sup> Also, predictable with Dahlerup's work on Scandinavian parliaments, it creates the impression that the main change that 'consequently' goes with an expansion in female delegates is an adjustment in parliament's 'social atmosphere'. To put it plainly, 'numbers do count'<sup>102</sup> in that they ensure the proceeded with nearness and standardization (in that male MPs likewise think of them as issues deserving of parliament's thought) of female' issues on the motivation. In any case, as opposed to the case in South Africa, an adjustment in the working-hours or schedule of parliament was missing in the Rwandan precedent, and there has been no adjustment in the absence of childcare offices in parliament. Why this is the situation is unquestionably an issue deserving of further research. The meetings uncover that the appointees do believe adjusting residential and open duties to be a trouble, yet evidently this has just not prompted any proposals for arrangement change.

Additionally, striking in the political culture discoveries is the quality of solidarity communicated by the delegates. Female' solidarity in the parliament was referenced by every single one of the representatives, regularly unmistakably. The consistency of help for solidarity over the lion's share RPF agents, the portion delegates and the PSD appointee is stamped. With the expansion in the quantities of agents, the job of the FWRP in keeping up this solidarity appears to have developed, the same number of the interviewees noticed its expanded significance in planning the bigger gathering of female.

As far as the approach motivation, sex issues appear to have been set up as a major aspect of the plan preceding the expansion in numbers; in reality, they seem to have been available to a huge degree directly from the earliest starting point of parliamentary legislative issues in Rwanda in 1994. So, after 2003, the meetings uncover that female' issues have absolutely been raised all the more effectively and all the more frequently. An essential related point about the political plan that was featured by the meetings was that a sexual orientation motivation is presently seen to be 'ensured' by the nearness of more female. There was one finding from the exploration that had not been accounted for on in past investigations and which might be inferable from Rwanda's interesting sexual orientation extents. The solid promotion of 'universal women's liberation' by

numerous individuals of the representatives, their request that the Rwandan circumstance of sexual orientation value ought to be crusaded for and reproduced in different parliaments, appears to be new. This might be identified with the high extent of female—a conceivable clarification would be that since the extents of female delegates in Rwanda can't be legitimized in rising particularly higher on the grounds of equivalent portrayal, the following stage is to look outside the nation to expand portrayal—nonetheless, it is beyond the realm of imagination to expect to affirm that a close equivalent extent makes a move a progressively worldwide point of view toward sexual orientation value in such a straightforward way.

In the territory of strategy, a huge effect from the more noteworthy quantities of female isn't to be seen. This again concurs with the proof from past examinations that demonstrate that arrangement yield is the territory most impervious to sexual orientation impacts. To demonstrate this absence of impact isn't to say that Rwandan government arrangement is disagreeable to female, however an incredible inverse. In any case, huge numbers of the hugest laws (from the perspective of the situation of female) were passed before the expansive increment in female' parliamentary portrayal happened (Category One status for assault, the legacy law and without a doubt the Constitution); the sexual orientation-based savagery law is a special case in such manner. The responsibility of the overwhelming party, the RPF, to sexual orientation value and the advancement of female appears a decent clarification for both the early nearness of female' issues on the parliamentary plan and the enactment cordial to female.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The quantity of female in parliament might be unimportant in correlation with an administration duty to create enactment that advances female' rights. Then again, the progressions that have happened in the political culture of the Rwandan parliament and the working connection between its male and female representatives would have been hard to force by fiat. On the whole, the proof from the meetings proposes that they were the consequence of a long procedure of standardization emerging from the expanded quantities of female in parliament.

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