



# National Assembly of Belize

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## PRESS RELEASE

### Women Parliamentarians celebrate International Women's Month: #EmbraceEquity

—**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2023**— This March, as we #EmbraceEquity, the Belize Women's Parliamentarian Caucus calls on all Belizeans to embrace their individual role in creating a gender equal world. Today Belizean women and girls have unprecedented access to education, healthcare and creative expression. This has strengthened families, our communities and our nation as a whole. But today, Belizean women and girls also continue to face overt and insidious bias, stereotypes and discrimination. This reality continues to undermine, deter and block equitable access to those same basic human rights that help to make Belize strong.

By embracing equity, we embrace the truth that equal opportunities aren't enough. It's up to all of us to deliver true inclusion by embracing equity-based solutions which take into account the diverse lived experiences of individuals and their communities and adapting services and policies to meet the differences. The Belize Women's Parliamentarian Caucus reiterates our commitment to national interest by ensuring laws, regulations and policies meet equity thresholds.

Through collaborative cooperation as citizens, public agencies, private sector and academia, we can strengthen existing equitable practices and chart new ways forward. We can, and must, work together to create a world where our differences and our contributions are celebrated. We can create a Belize that is diverse, equitable and inclusive. Gender parity strengthens all and it starts with each of us.

Throughout this month, there are several activities designed to raise awareness about discrimination and highlight the actions we need to take to drive gender parity. By showing up, getting involved and by lending our voices to support and amplify these activities, we will help to forge women's equity.

Happy International Women's Day.

For more information about what's happening in your area, please visit <https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library> or contact the National Women's Commission office.

—The End—

*The Women's Parliamentarian Caucus is the space created by women parliamentarians from the government, the opposition, and social partners in the National Assembly to strengthen women's voices in parliament, to encourage gender perspectives in the day-to-day operations of the parliament, and to raise awareness of the importance of gender equality and inclusion in the parliament. For more information on the Caucus, contact the Interim Chair of the Women's Parliamentarian Caucus, Speaker Valerie Woods of the House of Representatives.*

