

Motion for the Establishment of the Women's Parliamentarian Caucus Standing Committee, 2023.

WHEREAS, Standing Order 71 (4) of the Senate Standing Orders provides that a Joint Select Committee may be appointed at the request of either House with the approval of the other House;

AND WHEREAS, Standing Order 65 of the Senate Standing Orders provides that the Senate may refer matters relating to Standing Orders to the Standing Orders Committee for consideration and report;

AND WHEREAS, Standing Order 82 (1) of the Senate Standing Orders requires that notice of a motion to amend the Standing Orders be given and accompanied by a draft of the proposed amendments;

AND WHEREAS, the need for a collaborative forum for all women parliamentarians of Belize, notwithstanding party affiliation or the chamber in which they serve, has been identified;

AND WHEREAS, such forum may facilitate networking, foster productive dialogue on issues of women's rights and gender equality, and promote the undertaking of actions to positively impact the inclusiveness of the legislature, legislative process and the country as a whole;

AND WHEREAS, there has been a consensus among the women parliamentarians that this forum be established as a Bicameral Caucus of Women Parliamentarians;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Honourable House recommends that the Senate Standing Orders be amended to allow for such caucus to be established as a Joint Select Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 71 of the Senate, to sit jointly with a similarly comprised Committee from the House of Representatives;

AND BE IT RESOLVED that this motion be referred to the Standing Orders Committee of the Senate for consideration and report.