



# National Assembly of Belize

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### Launch of the Young Women in Leadership (YWiL) Belize Programme

**Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2025** — The Young Women in Leadership (YWiL) Belize Programme was officially launched on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, in front of the National Assembly, George Price Centre for Peace and Development in Belmopan. The event marked the beginning of an empowering initiative designed to inspire, educate, and prepare young women between the ages of 18 and 30 to become the next generation of leaders in political and civic life.

The YWiL Belize Programme is supported by the Women's Parliamentary Caucus (WPC), a Standing Committee of the House of Representatives comprising women parliamentarians from both the Upper and Lower Houses. The programme is being implemented with the assistance of ParlAmericas, the Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), and the Department of Youth Services. Belize proudly becomes the sixth country to implement this regional initiative.

The launch brought together women parliamentarians and young women from across Belize for a morning of inspiration, dialogue, and mentorship. Distinguished speakers included the Honourable Carolyn Trench-Sandiford, President of the Senate; Senator Janelle Chanona, Chair of the Women's Parliamentary Caucus; the Honourable Tracy Panton, Leader of the Opposition; Ms. Katie Jones, representing CIWiL Belize; and Ms. Indira Loague, Director of the Department of Youth Services. Joining virtually were Ms. Eilish Elliott, Deputy Director – Program Management, and Ms. Chrisette Benjamin, Program Officer – Gender Equality, both from ParlAmericas, along with Ms. Sasha Sahadeo, Gender Officer, CIWiL.

The programme will provide sixty (60) young women with the opportunity to acquire the knowledge, skills, and exposure needed to advance their journey toward transformational leadership. It features a five-week virtual training, followed by an in-person leadership workshop and a culminating parliamentary sitting, during which participants will simulate parliamentary roles and debate themes related to gender equality. Through this process, participants will engage with accomplished women leaders from diverse sectors and backgrounds, broadening their perspectives and strengthening their leadership capacities.

The organizers are committed to ensuring that this experience is both enriching and impactful, offering each participant the mentorship and support necessary to fulfil her leadership aspirations.

Applications for the 2025 Cohort are now open and will remain available until December 19, 2025. Young women across Belize who are passionate about leadership, public service, and community development are encouraged to apply and become part of this transformative experience.

For more information about the programme, simply scan the barcode below to access and submit the application form today.

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**YWiL**  
Young Women in Leadership