Awareness of the role gender plays in the policymaking process, as well as policy outcomes, is imperative for effective public leadership. The Women and Public Policy Program provides gender insights into work, politics, and conflict in order to develop rigorous thought-leadership that advances women and gender equity globally.

Applying research and training to reduce gender disparities in policies, public leadership, and society is pivotal to Harvard Kennedy School’s mission of building a more just, equitable world.
FROM THE CO-DIRECTOR

“Right now, gender is at the center of policy debates at all levels. While there is so much heat around this topic, it is all the more important that we remain cool-headed and promote gender equity in ways that strengthen the welfare of families, the health of communities, and the potential of nations. At the Women and Public Policy Program, we have a thriving community of scholars who generate and disseminate evidence-based strategies to leaders in all sectors. Within the larger context of the Kennedy School mission, it’s critical that we are recruiting the best minds to pursue what really works in ways that enhance the larger society.”

BY THE NUMBERS

All numbers are annual unless otherwise noted.

19
States in the United States replicated provisions for equal pay bills developed with insights from WAPPP

345,000
Users have visited the Gender Action Portal from 187 countries in five years

1,500+
Women from 64 countries received training for leadership in the public and private sectors over 15 years

59
of those trained were elected or appointed to political office; 18 currently serve across seven countries

The Work of the Women and Public Policy Program

The Women and Public Policy Program envisions a world in which everyone is able to define and fulfill their life aspirations unconstrained by gender bias. WAPPP’s focus areas include:

• Work and Gender Equity (WAGE)—including challenges of diversity and inclusion, gender in negotiation, work and family, and access to technical training and education.

• Gender and Politics—focusing on advancing non-traditional candidates for political office.

• Gender and Conflict—including gender equity in violent conflict, civil resistance, and sexual violence.

Top right: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Harvard Kennedy School alumna and former president of Liberia, speaks on campus with Zoe Marks, a lecturer in public policy and WAPPP faculty affiliate. Above: WAPPP is led by Executive Director Victoria Budson and Co-directors Iris Bohnet and Hannah Riley Bowles.