



The CIM and the OAS School of Government train Honduran women electoral candidates with a focus on gender and democracy.

The training will take place from November 30 to December 18, 2020 and will be attended by women from all over the country.

December 1, 2020 - The [Inter-American Commission of Women \(CIM/OAS\)](#) and the [School of Government \(SoG/OAS\)](#) of the [Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#), with the support of the Honduran [National Women's Institute \(INAM\)](#), are offering the 11th edition of the **Course for Women Electoral Candidates** aimed at women who will compete for the first time in the 2021 internal elections. This high-level Course is a pioneering program in the region that offers practical tools on political rights and strengthens women's abilities to reach positions of power and decision making and remain in those positions, safe from violence and discrimination.

"When we talk about parity and democracy, we must remember that half of the population in our region are women, and that being equally represented in political spaces is a requirement of democracy. We know that it is not just about being on the lists but about reaching power, because the right to political participation means the possibility of being at a decision-making table, without violence or discrimination. In times of crisis women are demonstrating their resilience and courage to place our way of seeing the world in the political space. At CIM, we know that feminizing politics is key to strengthening democracy and sustainable development in the region," said **Alejandra Mora Mora**, Executive Secretary of the CIM/OAS.

"The OAS School of Government seeks to contribute to the strengthening of leadership in the region. Our work with specialized areas and organizations of the OAS, such as the CIM, aims to strengthen civic and democratic values in our societies, promoting the areas of transparency, citizen participation and consensus building to strengthen our democracies. The promotion of the effective exercise of democracy are essential values

of social coexistence and the respect, defense and protection of human rights," said **Maria Fernanda Trigo**, Director of the Department for Effective Public Management of the OAS.

"With this course we seek to pay tribute to the lawyer Alba Alonso de Quesada, who was and will be a reference for empowered Honduran women who fight for the rights of every woman. We are moving forward, remembering that the conscious struggle comes after knowing the context and the best strategies for political management, necessary tools for everyone, but especially for women because of the multiple barriers they encounter in politics. Finally, I call on women in decision-making spaces to be the voice of Honduran women who cannot make themselves heard, because every day is a good day to fight for their rights", were the words of **Ana Aminta Madrid**, Minister of the INAM of Honduras.

After a successful national call for applications, the 50 women selected will have access to all the tools offered in this course to face a successful campaign: political leadership with a gender perspective, organization of an electoral campaign, political communication and media management, simulation of interviews and electoral debates, and strategies to identify and confront violence against women in politics. At the end, participants will have acquired tools, skills, confidence and also new perspectives that will add value to their electoral campaigns.

This edition is named "Alba Alonso de Quesada", in honor of the memory of the Honduran lawyer and academic who played a key role in the development of women's rights and the strengthening of democracy in her country. She was the first woman to become a lawyer in Honduras and the first woman to serve as Secretary of the Ministry of Work.

The CIM and the School of Government have already trained more than 600 participants from 13 countries in the hemisphere, seeking to strengthen democracy in the region along with the promotion of a collective commitment from States, political parties and international organizations. The objective of the Course is to strengthen the political skills of women to lead their electoral campaign, as well as to provide them with tools to confront discrimination and gender-based political violence in the electoral campaign.

The [CIM/OAS](#) is the main political forum in the region for the recognition of women's human rights and gender equality. Since its creation in 1928, the CIM has played a predominant and strategic role in the promotion of women's rights in the hemisphere.