



# WOMEN REPRESENTATION IN STATES' CABINET & HOUSES OF ASSEMBLY

Women are underrepresented in politics globally. According to a 2021 report by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA), 24% of parliament members and 22% of cabinet members in Africa are women. Rwanda, South Africa, and Namibia are the top 3 African countries in African ranking of women in parliament. Unfortunately, **Nigeria is far behind and has one of the lowest rates of female representation in parliament globally and across Africa, ranking 180 out of 190 countries globally.**

PERCENTAGE	FEMALE	HoA MEMBERS	STATES	COMMISSIONERS	FEMALE	PERCENTAGE
-	0	24	ABIA*	3	0	-
4%	1	25	ADAMAWA	25	3	12%
8%	2	26	AKWA-IBOM	23	4	17%
3%	1	30	ANAMBRA	19	6	32%
-	0	31	BAUCHI	21	3	14%
8%	2	24	BAYELSA	26	3	12%
7%	2	30	BENUE	16	3	19%
-	0	28	BORNO	22	2	9%
20%	5	25	CROSS RIVER	39	7	18%
7%	2	29	DELTA	25	1	4%
12%	3	24	EBONYI	29	4	14%
-	0	10	EDO**	0	0	-
15%	4	26	EKITI	17	3	18%
12%	3	24	ENUGU	17	2	12%
8%	2	24	GOMBE	21	3	14%
7%	2	27	IMO	22	5	23%
-	0	30	JIGAWA	10	1	10%
3%	1	34	KADUNA	14	6	43%
-	0	23	KANO	21	2	10%
-	0	34	KATSINA	16	1	6%
-	0	24	KEBBI	21	2	10%
-	0	25	KOGI	15	1	7%
-	0	24	KWARA	15	10	67%
7%	3	40	LAGOS	23	7	30%
-	0	24	NASSARAWA	15	2	13%
4%	1	27	NIGER	21	4	19%
4%	1	26	ONDO***	4	0	-
16%	4	25	OGUN	19	4	21%
8%	2	26	OSUN	23	4	17%
6%	2	33	OYO	17	2	12%
4%	1	23	PLATEAU	23	3	13%
3%	1	32	RIVERS	26	3	12%
-	0	23	SOKOTO	28	3	11%
-	0	24	TARABA	25	2	8%
-	0	24	YOBE	21	2	10%
-	0	24	ZAMFARA	21	2	10%

\* The Governor of Abia State, Mr Okezie Ikpeazu dissolved the State Executive Council on January 23, 2021. However, 3 commissioners still retain their positions - the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr Uche Ihediwa; the Commissioner for Information, Chief John Okiyi-Kalu, and the Commissioner for Health, Dr Joe Osuji. Prior to the dissolution, there were 23 commissioners in the State – 17 men and 6 women.

\*\* The Governor of Edo State, Godwin Obaseki is a two-term governor, and he is yet to appoint commissioners in his second term. In his first term, he appointed 18 commissioners – 15 men and 3 women.

\*\*\* The Governor of Ondo State, Rotimi Akeredolu, a two-term governor appointed 4 commissioners in his second term. In his first term, he appointed 18 commissioners – 16 men and 2 women.

POSITIONS	NUMBER OF AVAILABLE SEATS	NUMBER OF WOMEN ELECTED FROM 1999 TO 2019						
		1999	2003	2007	2011	2015	2019	TOTAL†
Presidency	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senate	109	3	4	9	7	8	8	39
House of Representative	360	13	21	25▲	19	20	11	109
Governorship	36	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
36 States House of Assembly	990	12	38	54	57	46	44	251

† Total number of seats occupied by women over 6 democratic election cycles.  
▲ 358 number of available seats.

In 2016, the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill (GEO) was sponsored by Abiodun Olujimi, a senator representing Ekiti South Constituency. The Bill aims to eradicate gender inequality in politics, education and employment in Nigeria. It also seeks to enforce land rights for women and enforce human rights laws that protect against gender-based violence. **If the Bill is passed, the law will state that 35% of ministers in Nigeria’s government must be women, as well as 20% of state commissioners.**

**This bill has been sitting in the Senate for the past 5 years! When will the nation prioritise gender equality?**

In 2019, President Buhari **appointed 7 females as ministers out of 44 ministers.**

Source: Kimpact Research