

Gender Quota's in Ireland

In Ireland, legislative gender quotas require that political parties nominate 30% women candidates for general elections.

- Passed in 2012 to address gender imbalance in Parliament.
- Quotas apply to parties running at least 30 candidates.
- Parties face financial penalties for not meeting quotas.
- Aims to increase representation of women in politics.

reasons:

- The under-representation of women in Irish politics
- Voluntary measures/'soft' targets were tried but failed
 - > Party investment on attracting and promoting women in politics was low
- Political reform, democratic renewal, 'New Politics'
 - > a desire to break away from the 'old way' of 'doing' politics
- Women's mobilisation and feminist activism in society and parliament
- Levelling the 'political playing pitch'
- Party elite support in government

impact:

- 90 per cent increase women candidates
- 48 per cent increase in number of women TDs
- At the 2020 general election, 22.5 per cent women's representation in Dáil Éireann
 - > A record high but far away from gender parity



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Not published yet.
Last updated 3rd December, 2024.
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