

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

Mona Lena Krook
Juliana Restrepo Sanin
Rutgers University

*The
Challenging
World of
Women in
Politics*

RECENT TRENDS

More women in
political office



Challenge politics
as a male domain
Public = male
Private = female

Acts of violence
Sexism in media



Mechanisms to
communicate that
women do not
belong in politics

EXAMPLES

- Murder or kidnapping (real or threat)
- Sexual assault (real or threat)
- Pressure and threats to resign
- Sexual harassment by colleagues
- Character assassination, incl. morality
- Sexualized, criticized as wives/mothers
- Denied resources; false information

VAW IN POLITICS

Explicit

- Physical violence
 - Murder, assault
- Psychological violence
 - Intimidate, harass

- Not reported, covered in media

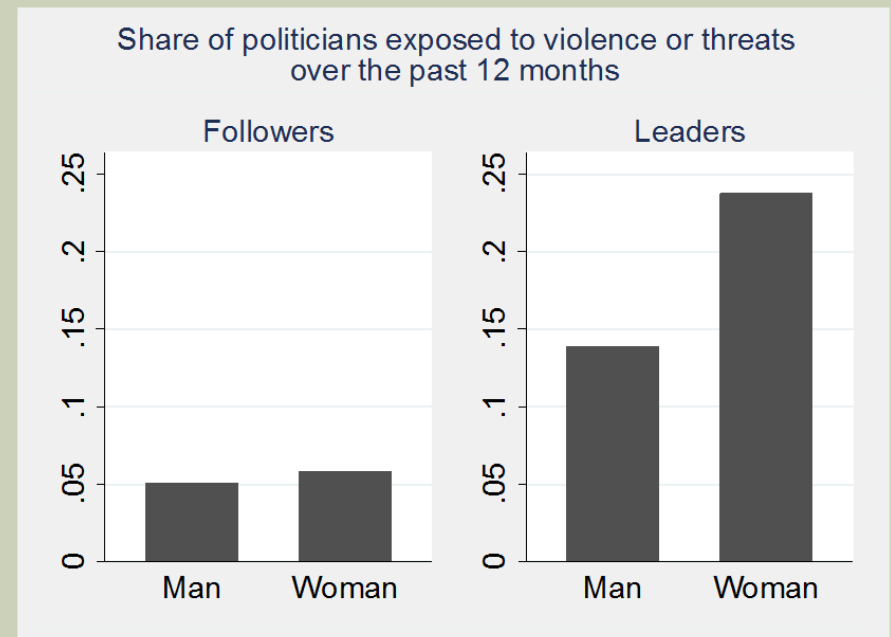
Implicit

- Work environment
 - Routines, behaviors
- Media coverage
 - Criticism as woman

- Naturalized, not questioned as such

KEY POINTS

- Recognize VAWIP in various versions
 - *Why* violence
 - *How* perpetrated
- Variety of actors
- Problem exists in all countries, esp. when define widely



- Above and beyond 'political violence'

POLICY SOLUTIONS

- Laws on violence and harassment
- Support networks for elected women
- Call centers to report violence
- Sexual harassment policies
- Campaigns on sexism in media
- Training, recruiting female journalists
- Using social media to report, publicize

WHY THIS MATTERS

- Restricts women's legislative work
 - Impacts women's political ambition
 - Shapes and reflects views on women in society; perpetuates inequality
 - Affects integrity of democracy
- Who runs, how they perform; climate

CONTACT

Email: m.l.krook@rutgers.edu

Web: mlkrook.org

Twitter: [@mlkrook](https://twitter.com/mlkrook)