

GENDER BASED DISINFORMATION IN ELECTIONS

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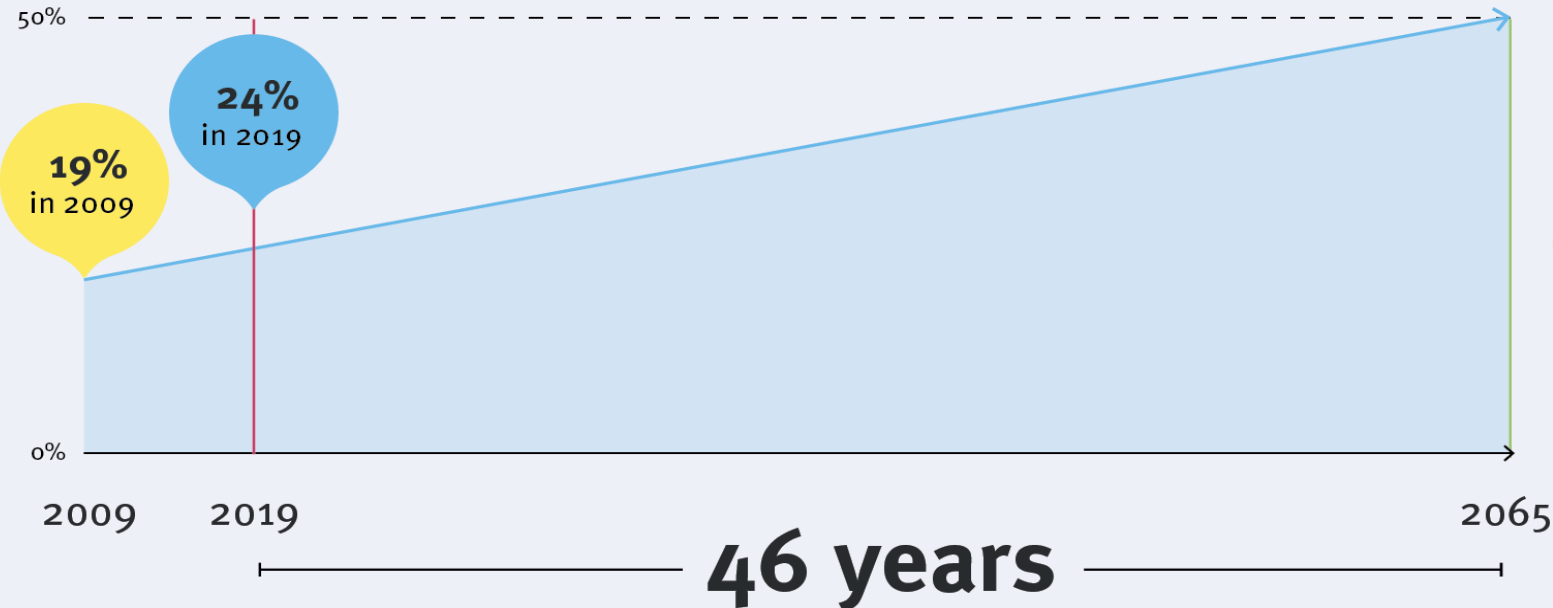


Women currently play different roles in the political and electoral life:

**voters,
candidates,
electoral administrators,
party supporters,
elected representatives**

However, the full and equal participation of women in electoral and political processes is still far from being achieved...

How long will it take to reach gender parity in parliaments?

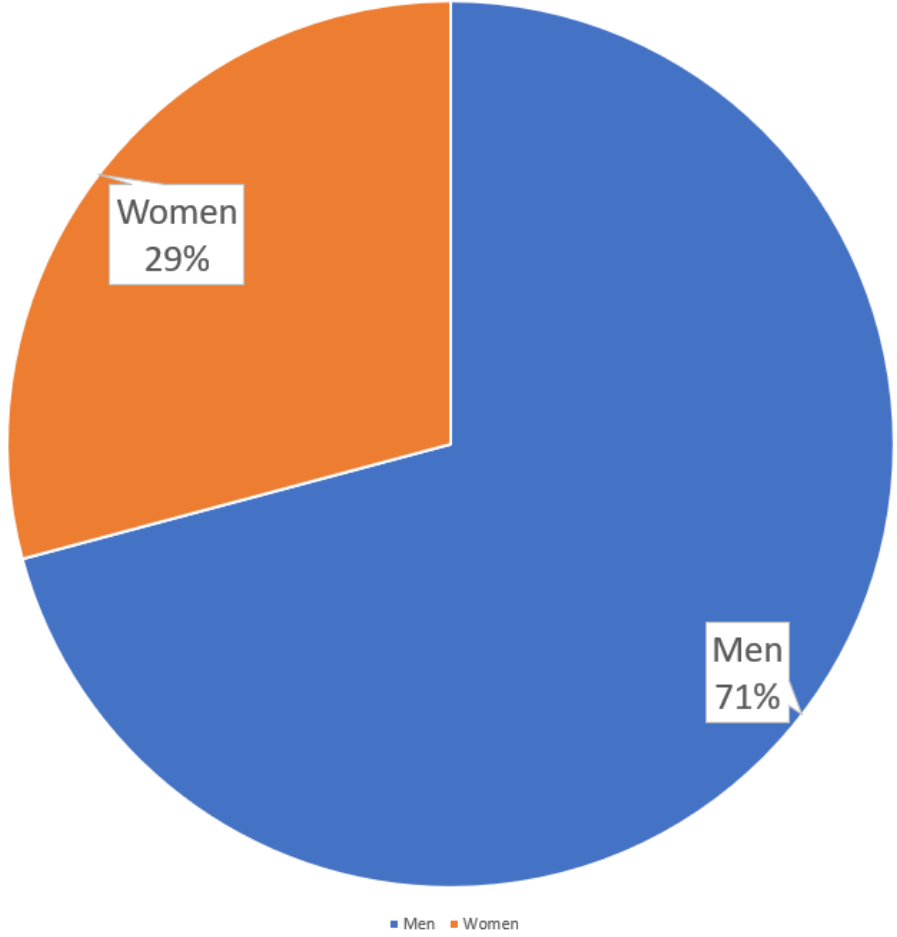


Equal numbers of men and women in parliaments

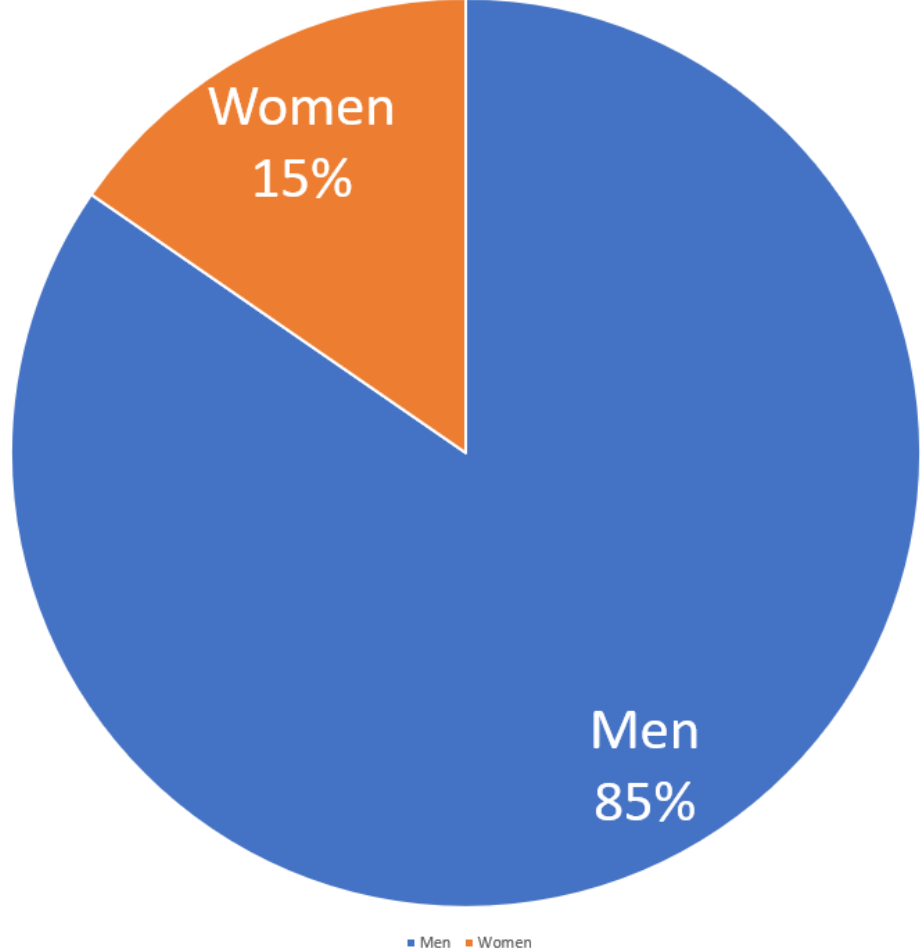


Note: International IDEA's own calculations based on the Varieties of Democracy data set (V-Dem 2019) and on data collected by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (<https://www.ipu.org/our-impact/gender-equality>, accessed 1 August 2019).

Women in EMBs..



Out of 24 independent EMBs across Europe, 7 are chaired by women.



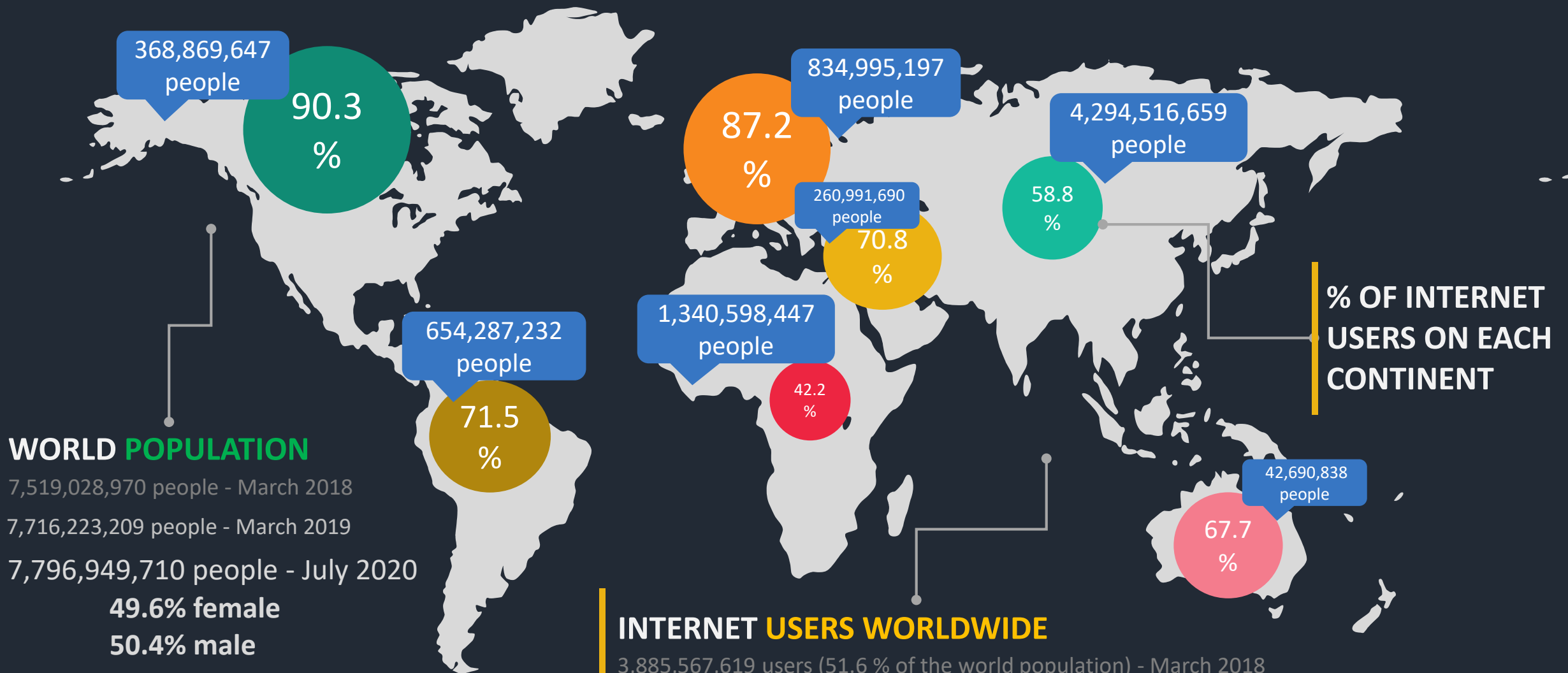
Out of 26 EMBs for 18 countries in the Latin America and the Caribbean 4 are chaired by women.



WHY

these numbers?

WORLD INTERNET USAGE RELATIVE TO THE NUMBER OF INHABITANTS IN EACH GEOGRAPHICAL AREA



WORLD POPULATION

7,519,028,970 people - March 2018

7,716,223,209 people - March 2019

7,796,949,710 people - July 2020

49.6% female

50.4% male

sources:

<http://www.internetworldstats.com;>

<https://countrymeters.info/en/World>

July 2020

INTERNET USERS WORLDWIDE

3,885,567,619 users (51.6 % of the world population) - March 2018

4,383,810,342 users (56.8 % of the world population) - March 2019

4,833,521,806 users (62.0 % of the world population) - July 2020

This came with (new?) challenges for women...

Online:

- **(gendered) disinformation**
- violence
- humiliation
- cross platform harassment
- intimidation
- defamation
- doxing
- identity thief and impersonation
- sexual objectification
- threats
- ...

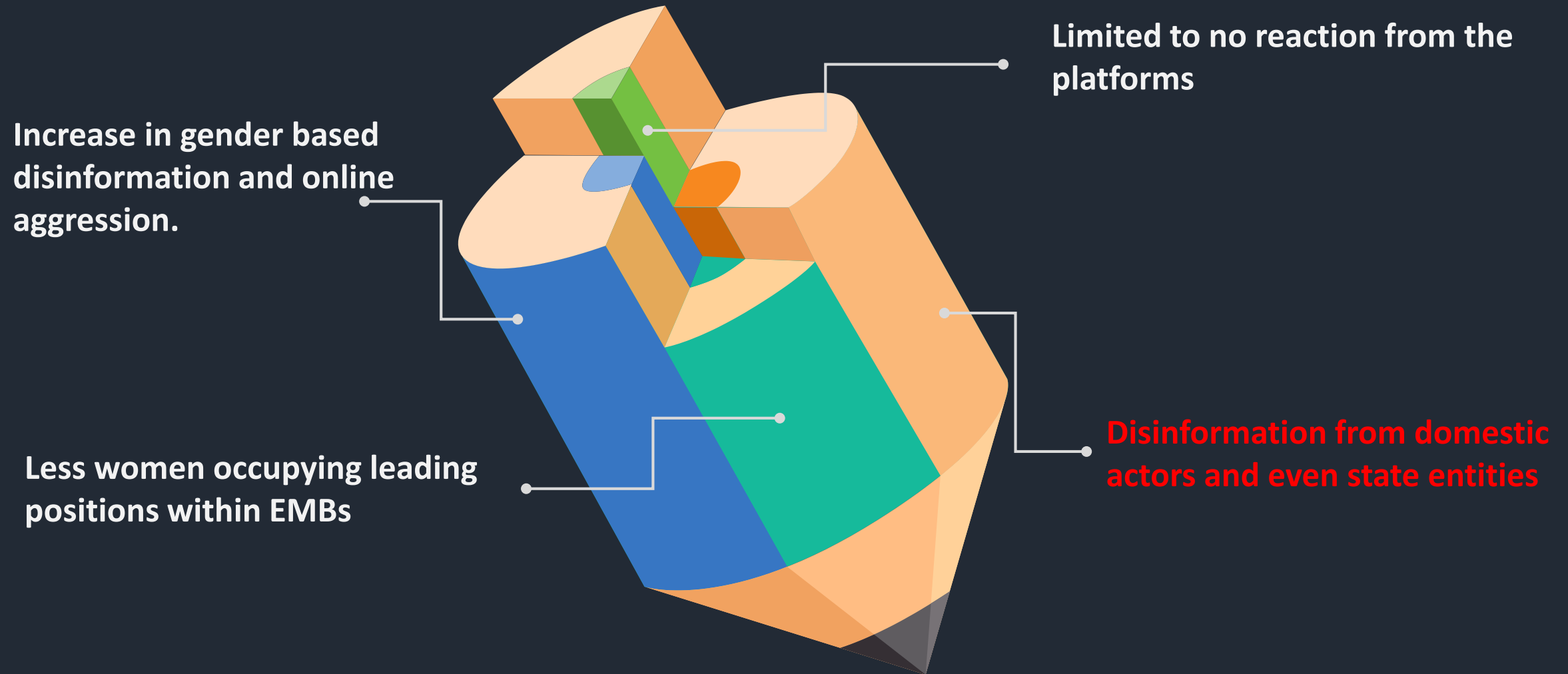


WHAT is the
purpose?

These practices are aimed at..

- Silencing women's voices;
- Discouraging women from exercising their political and civic rights;
- Discouraging women from acceding to various positions in the electoral and political environment;
- ...

4 (more) WORRYING TRENDS





WHAT TO DO?

*Nancy Pelosi and 100 more women all over the world's
letter to Facebook...*



- *Quick removal of posts that threaten candidates with physical violence, sexual violence or death, and that glorify, incite or praise violence against women; disable the relevant accounts, and refer offenders to law enforcement.*
- *Eliminate malicious hate speech targeting women, including violent, objectifying or dehumanizing speech, statements of inferiority, and derogatory sexual terms;*
- *Remove accounts that repeatedly violate terms of service by threatening, harassing or doxing or that use false identities to attack women leaders and candidates; and*
- *Remove manipulated images or videos misrepresenting women public figures.*
- *Stop the amplification of gendered disinformation on your platform. Much of the most hateful content directed at women on Facebook is amplified by your algorithms which reward extreme and dangerous points of view with greater reach and visibility creating a fertile breeding ground for bias to grow.*

AN EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION PLAN DEVELOPED BY ELECTORAL MANAGEMENT BODIES SHOULD:

**Position the EMB as the
main source of
information and
expertise on everything
related to elections**

Inform and
educate the
citizens

Build and
maintain trust
and credibility

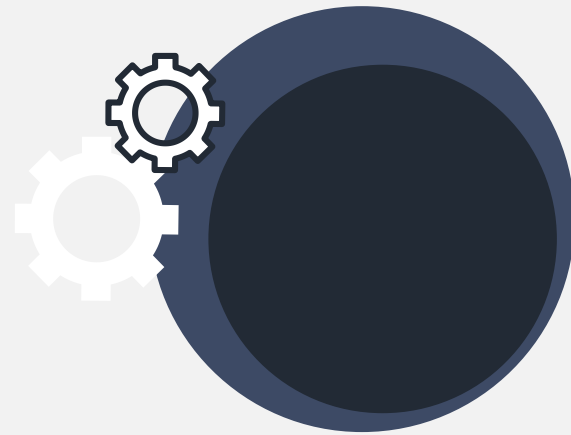
Address
rumours and
disinformation

Support
informed
decision-
making
mechanisms

Facilitate
bidirectional
communication,
collaboration
and
cooperation

CRITICAL THINKING, CRITICAL!

Social media it's a *symptom* and must be addressed accordingly.



THANK YOU

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