

Changing Political Masculinities



A Program of the National
Democratic Institute

TOOL A1: INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS

AIM

By the end of the session, participants will have:

- Begun to build closer working relationships.
- Shared their expectations of the workshop, in order to align them with the workshop goals and content.



MANIFESTATIONS OF RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

Male political leaders must understand that women's participation and leadership benefits entire communities and increases citizens' trust in government and other political institutions. Men and women must be involved in championing reforms.

There may be many reasons, however, why men might not support this change agenda:

- **Sexism:** Men may not think women are their equals and deserve equal rights to participate fully in political life.
- **Ignorance:** Men may not recognize the sexism that excludes women from politics.
- **Privilege:** Men may understand that as more women get more involved in politics, there will be fewer positions for men.
- **Fear:** Men may fear the reactions of other men (e.g. ostracism, intimidation, and/or violence) if they choose to support women's political participation.
- **Inertia:** Men may think that changing political institutions is difficult, and championing women's political participation is unrealistic.
- **Capacity:** Men may support the idea of women's political participation and leadership, but don't know how to put this idea into practice.
- **Political moment:** Men may support the idea of women's political participation and leadership, but believe that the current moment is not right to push for this idea to be acted upon.