



DEUTSCHER
FRAUENRAT



**THE WOMEN'S
LOBBY**

**ADVOCACY FOR
GENDER EQUALITY.**



Impressum

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**LARGEST WOMEN'S
LOBBY IN GERMANY**



OUR UMBRELLA ASSOCIATION

As the umbrella association for 60 women's organizations active throughout Germany, the Deutscher Frauenrat (DF – National Council of German Women's Organizations) is the largest lobby for gender equality in the country. It promotes women's rights in Germany, in the European Union, and at the United Nations.

As a registered non-profit organization and NGO, our women's lobby is part of civil society. Its funding comes in large part from the budget of the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

“Men and women shall have equal rights. The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist.”

OUR MISSION

The DF's advocacy seeks both legal and actual equality for women and men in all areas of life, as anchored in article 3, paragraph 2 of the German constitution (Grundgesetz).



OUR LOBBYING WORK

We are active on the federal policy-making level. Our contacts and negotiating partners are members of the federal parliament, where the DF is registered as an official lobbying organization. We also maintain contact with the decision-making and administrative levels of federal ministries. We advance our positions in statements and at hearings. We publicize them in both traditional and social media. Our representatives sit on numerous committees, councils and commissions from other associations and alliances where their expertise is sought. We join forces with

other women's and human rights organizations in projects and alliances.

As a founding member of the European Women's Lobby (EWL), we help generate synergies between European and national gender equality policies.

Our special advisory status at the UN's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) enables us to participate in the annual sessions of the UN's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

We are part of Women 20 (W20), an official G20 engagement group and transnational network of women's organizations, entrepreneurs' associations and think tanks.



OUR POLICY FIELDS

/// Labor market and the economy

/ Care economy

/ Digitalization

/// Gender equality

/ Parity

/ Gender-fair budgetary policies

/// Health

/// Violence against women and girls

/// Family rights and policies

/// Social welfare

/// Education

/// Refugees, integration and migration

/// Peace, security and human rights

/// International women's policies

/ Gender equality in Europe

/// Civic engagement



OUR MEMBERS

In representing their interests to policy makers, we speak for women in professional, political and welfare organizations, as well as in political parties, trade unions, religious organizations, sports, culture, media and business. Our women's lobby draws its strength from its wide range of member organizations. Our membership reflects the entire spectrum of women's democratic political concerns and activities in Germany.

See our current list of members at: www.frauenrat.de.

OUR EXECUTIVE BODIES

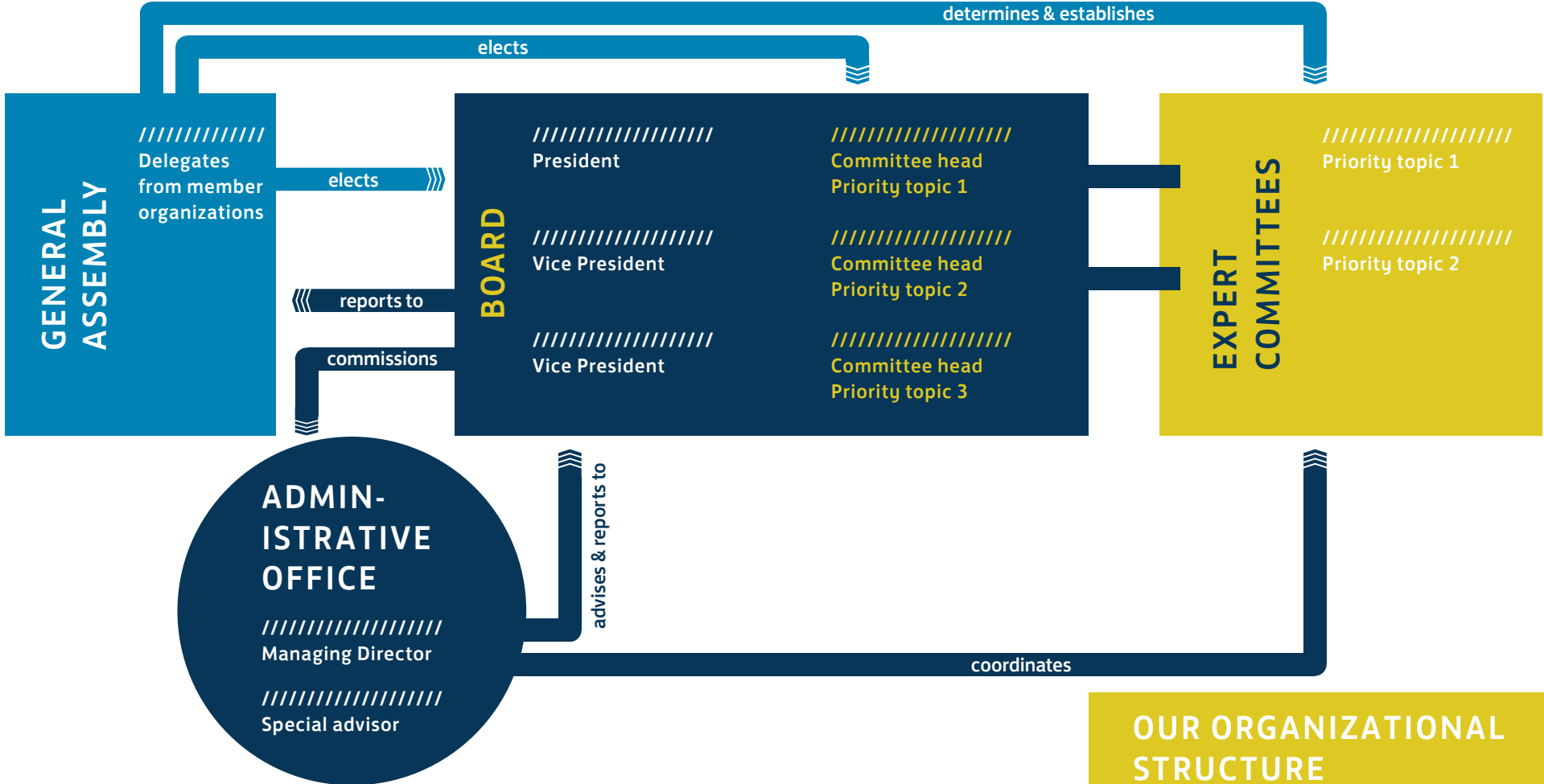
The sovereign body of the DF is the General Assembly. It meets every year to discuss and agree upon the future course of policy and program for action. It determines the priority topics and establishes the Expert Committees to work on them.

Every four years the General Assembly elects a new Board, which serves on a voluntary basis. Its members – a President and two Vice Presidents – are responsible for advancing policy and acting as external representatives of our lobby. The General Assembly also elects the individuals responsible for each priority topic, who then head the respective

Expert Committee. The Committee heads become special members of the Board for the duration of their directorships. Additional experts from our member organizations are appointed by the Board to work on these Committees.

Our Petition Committee provides advice and assistance in formulating petitions to the General Assembly. Its members are elected for three-year terms.

See our current Committees and their members at: www.frauenrat.de.



OUR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Ein Projekt der Arbeitsgemeinschaft der deutschen Familienorganisationen (AGF)



OUR MEMBERSHIPS AND PARTNERSHIPS

We are members or partners of numerous associations, networks, alliances, foundations and juries. We are active on advisory boards and working committees of public institutions.

See our current memberships and partnerships at: www.frauenrat.de.



OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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**DEMOCRACY IS ONLY POSSIBLE
WITH GENDER EQUALITY**

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**DEUTSCHER FRAUENRAT –
THE WOMEN’S LOBBY**

The Deutscher Frauenrat (DF) – the National Council of German Women’s Organizations – is the main lobby for women in Germany. Founded in 1951, it has been a driving force for women’s rights in the country, the European Union and worldwide with the aim of achieving both legal and actual equality for women and men in all areas of life. The DF’s policies seek gender equality across time (life stages) and space (urban to rural settings). They incorporate relevant categories such as biological sex, gender, sexual identity, age, culture, ethnicity, (dis)ability and socio-economic status.

As the umbrella association for women’s organizations active all over Germany, the DF is the largest lobby for women’s rights and gender equality policy in the country. It represents women in professional, political, welfare and policy organizations, as well as in political parties, trade unions, religious organizations, sports, culture, media and business. In a process of political decision-making it gathers and focusses the interests of its members, promotes them on the German federal level, and represents them on the EU level as a member of the European Women’s Lobby. It takes a strong stand on matters of social and economic policy.

//////////////////////////////////// WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS!

The DF's mission is based on article 3, paragraph 2 of the constitution (Grundgesetz) of the Federal Republic of Germany: "Men and women shall have equal rights. The state shall promote the actual implementation of equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate disadvantages that now exist."

The DF bases its calls for equality on international human rights agreements, especially the Vienna Declaration from the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, and the Beijing Platform for Action passed by the 1995 World Conference on Women which lays out strategic aims and measures to achieve equality, eliminate discrimination and empower women. The DF pursues these aims via its commitment to the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women, and particularly to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979, as well as to associated recommendations by the UN CEDAW Committee and other UN organizations, especially the ILO and WHO.

////////// PROFILE

The DF represents the interests of women in all stages and contexts of life. It is pluralistic, non-partisan and unaffiliated with any movement or religion. As the main women's lobby it plays a key role in shaping society. It strives to remove barriers and promote full participation and co-determination by women in society, business and government.

Every member organization can help shape the DF's policy work and profile, represent its interests and actively contribute its expertise. The guidelines for this policy work consist of the resolutions adopted by the DF's General Assembly.

The DF is a recognized authority on gender equality. It identifies issues, analyses women's and equality policies, and reviews policy initiatives to promote both new laws and the implementation of these laws. Key responsibilities include critically examining political processes on a prompt and ongoing basis, and assessing how proposed legislation will affect gender equality.

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VALUES

GENDER JUSTICE

Gender justice is an essential element of the democracy anchored in the German constitution. The DF promotes civic education to strengthen the commitment to shared democratic values, and raises public awareness of the crucial relationship between democracy and gender equality.

Gender equality can only be achieved on the basis of equal opportunities for women and men in all areas of society, politics and the economy. This means unrestricted social, political and economic participation, which includes recognizing and valuing both the paid and unpaid work done by women.

The DF supports different forms of family and partnerships, regardless of their current legal status. Equality also means that different sexual identities and orientations can be lived openly and without discrimination, based on the commitment to human dignity enshrined in the first sentence of the constitution.

GENDER MAINSTREAMING

is an instrument for putting gender equality into practice. According to the 1997 Treaty of Amsterdam, it is mandatory for all member states of the European Union and must be consistently implemented in all areas of society and in all new policy. According to German constitutional law, the state is required to actively pursue equality policies, or in other words to put the laws that stipulate equal rights for women and men into actual practice. That includes consistent, structured and gender-just financial and tax-related policies. Gender equality strengthens democracy.

FREEDOM FROM DISCRIMINATION

The United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the European Union's Charter of Fundamental Rights, and the German constitution all state that women and men have the same dignity and the same rights and obligations. Discrimination on the basis of gender violates this basic principle. The DF promotes active anti-discrimination policy in keeping with Germany's General Act on Equal Treatment (AGG) and strives to combat stereotypical gender roles.

Legislative bodies must create the legal framework that enables men and women to shape the course of their individual lives. Everyone must have equal access to the relevant requisite resources.

FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

All persons have to the right to physical and psychological integrity. This also applies to relationships with partners and within families. Freedom from violence is the prerequisite for self-determination and social participation, including the ability to determine one's own sexual identity.

Freedom from violence must be both the basis and the aim of all anti-discrimination and equality policy. Protection from violence is one of the main responsibilities of the state. The DF works to lay the foundations for this in society. Major policy priorities must be the elimination of violence, the prevention of violence, and the prosecution of all forms of structural violence. The latter refers especially to the violence faced by women and girls in connection with armed conflict, war, persecution, flight and displacement.

SUSTAINABILITY

The DF promotes ecologically, environmentally and socially compatible business, and healthy and life-promoting treatment of the environment. Our natural resources are finite, so it is crucial to put climate-friendly measures into place. Access to resources like water and land must be ensured for women and men alike. Economic sustainability means shaping production processes to be socially responsible, gender-just and non-discriminatory. Economic, financial and development policies must become more strongly interconnected. The aim of political action must be to eliminate social injustice between poor and rich countries and between the sexes. The DF seeks to put the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals into practice in Germany.

PARTICIPATION

The DF stands for an inclusive, socially responsible and gender-just society. Women must have unrestricted access to all areas of society and must take part in all decisional processes. The DF promotes fair participation by women in all value-adding processes and fair distribution of resources, income and assets.

A secure material basis, access to immaterial resources like education and culture, and access to public services are essential – also and especially for family members, children, and individuals in need of care – in order for all people to determine the course of their lives in a democratic society.