

WOMEN COUNCILLORS IN THE COMMONWEALTH (2026)



Representation of Women in Local Government

Ranked by the proportion of elected women representatives (EWR) in local government, using the latest available data.

Commonwealth Snapshot

25.7%

Average share of women councillors across the Commonwealth

Across the 44 Commonwealth countries with elected local government, women hold an average of 25.7% of council seats, slightly down from 27% recorded in 2023.

Top Performing Countries

Country	Women (%)
Antigua and Barbuda	55.6
Dominica	46.8
Rwanda	46.2
India	45.7
Namibia	44.9
Guyana	44.4

Share of Women in Local Government across the Commonwealth

Country	Women (%)	Latest Year/Status
Antigua and Barbuda	55.6%	2025
Australia	40.0%	2025
Bahamas, The	28.7%	2017
Bangladesh	23.4% ¹	2025
Barbados	-	no elected local government
Belize	32.1%	2025
Botswana	8.9%	2025
Brunei Darussalam	-	no elected local government
Cameroon	24.5%	2020
Canada	33.0%	2023
Cyprus	16.1%	2021
Dominica	46.8%	2024
Eswatini	14.2%	2019
Fiji	-	no elected local government
Gabon	-	no data available
Gambia	10.8%	2023
Ghana	4.3%	2024
Grenada	-	no elected local government
Guyana	44.4%	2023
India	45.7%	2020
Jamaica	19.7%	2025
Kenya	33.5%	2017
Kiribati	7.3%	2020
Lesotho	30.5%	2023
Malawi	14.6%	2020
Malaysia	-	no elected local government
Maldives	39.5%	2021
Malta	27.3%	2025

Country	Women (%)	Latest Year/Status
Mauritius	24.4%	2021
Mozambique	35.0%	2025
Namibia	44.9%	2020
Nauru	-	no elected local government
New Zealand	39.0%	2022
Nigeria	11.1%	2023
Pakistan	15.8%	2024
Papua New Guinea	1.5%	2013
Rwanda	46.2%	2022
Samoa	-	no elected local government
Seychelles	-	no elected local government
Sierra Leone	34.1%	2023
Singapore	-	no elected local government
Solomon Islands	18.2%	2024
South Africa	37.5%	2021
Sri Lanka	10.9% ²	2019
St Kitts and Nevis	37.5%	2022
St Lucia	-	no elected local government
St Vincent and the Grenadines	-	no elected local government
Tanzania	30.7%	2021
Togo	12.8%	2025
Tonga	1.1%	2016
Trinidad and Tobago	39.7%	2023
Tuvalu	14.6%	2025
Uganda	22.1% ³	2021
UK	35.3%	2022
Vanuatu	10.1%	2021
Zambia	8.0%	2021

Advancing Gender Equality:

The **Commonwealth Women in Local Government Network (ComWLG)** promotes women's political inclusion and leadership across the Commonwealth, supporting more women to participate in local government and strengthening their influence in local decision making. www.clgf.org.uk

¹ These figures only cover rural local government.

² Although a minimum 25 percent seats in each council are reserved for women, if the candidate quotas produce less than 25 percent representation, the Election Commission of Sri Lanka (ECSL) lacks an enforcement mandate on anything beyond the candidate nomination process.

³ Although a minimum 30% of seats are reserved for women, the percentage is under the reservation percentage due to a year where no reservations were undertaken for women as well as the revision of constituency boundaries which had an impact on the number of female councillors.