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Principles of Parliamentary Public Engagement

2025

Guides on Citizen Engagement for Parliaments

Start ›››

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Copyeditor: Research Retold

DOI: doi.org/10.31752/idea.2025.35
ISBN: 978-91-7671-963-3

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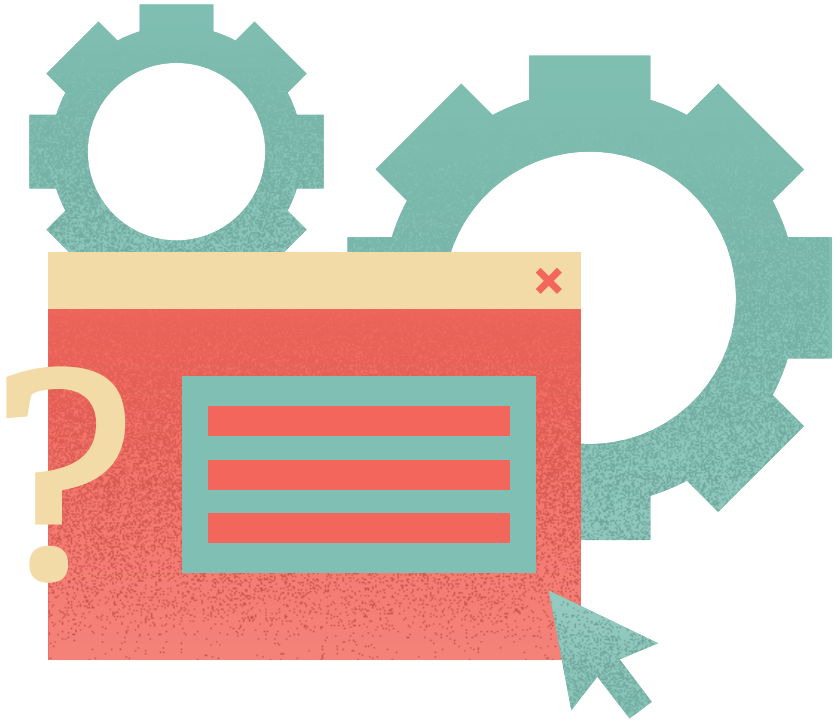

This guide includes a clickable, interactive menu at the top of each page

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Executive summary

There is an increasing understanding among parliaments that their relationship with citizens needs to go beyond the ballot box. With trust in institutional politics declining around the world, public engagement is an essential tool for safeguarding parliamentary democracy into the future.

In order to achieve "genuine representation of the public"[1], parliaments must develop mechanisms for two-way engagement with citizens. This enables citizens to better understand the role of parliament and contribute to its decisions. Democracies then reap dividends in the form of better legislation and policy grounded in the views and experiences of people, greater legitimacy for parliaments and enhanced trust in democratic processes.

Public engagement includes many different types of activities, from education about parliamentary processes to participation in parliamentary business. In this Guide we take a step back and consider the core principles that should drive public engagement activities in general.

[1] Pitkin, H. (1967) *The concept of representation*. University of California Press (p.240)

In many ways these principles are ideals to pursue, rather than prerequisites. However, we hope they provide valuable guidance on the core values that should drive parliamentary public engagement and the institutional arrangements needed to support it.

This Guide identifies **eight parliamentary public engagement principles:**

- Purpose
- Inclusion
- Openness and transparency
- Collaboration and empowerment
- Ethical standards
- Planning and resourcing
- Integration and coordination
- Impact and evaluation

This Guide outlines how to implement each principle in practice. We discuss the importance of:

- defining and communicating the purpose for engagement
- considering who has a right to be involved and how you can support them to engage (inclusion)
- providing clear and accessible information throughout the process (openness and transparency)
- building participants skills, knowledge and agency (collaboration and empowerment)
- ensuring engagement activities meet ethical standards
- mapping out your engagement programme and ensuring you have the right resources (planning and resourcing)
- linking engagement to parliamentary business (integration and coordination)
- monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of engagement activities (impact and evaluation)

We showcase examples from a wide range of countries and political systems – with different levels of resources, including older, newer, larger and smaller parliaments – to illustrate each principle.

Introduction

This Guide presents **a set of eight principles for public engagement in a parliamentary context**. Many excellent resources exist on what makes for high-quality public engagement. However, there is a lack of resources that focus on the parliamentary context, taking into account its particular characteristics and constraints.

In outlining eight key principles that address the parliamentary context, this Guide aims to help parliaments assess how they can improve the way they design, deliver and evaluate public engagement activities and programmes.

The principles have been developed in consultation with parliamentary officials and academics working on public engagement and with reference to research on best practice. The Guide also reflects feedback from two international collaborative workshops (held in October 2024), which discussed a draft version of this Guide.

- **Section 1** outlines the principles themselves
- **Section 2** provides guidance on how to put them into practice
- **Section 3** points to other useful materials to consult when thinking about principles for public engagement

What do we mean by public engagement?

Our Guides on Citizen Engagement for Parliaments (see the full list in Section 3) use the term 'public engagement' to refer to programmes and activities that parliaments carry out to connect with their citizens.

We understand parliamentary public engagement to consist of five main types of activity:[2]

- **Information:** providing updates on parliamentary business using tools such as websites, social media, radio or materials disseminated to communities.
- **Communication:** enabling interaction between people and parliaments, building on information channels to enable two-way engagement.
- **Education:** improving public understanding of parliament and its work, usually with a focus on young people.
- **Consultation:** facilitating input into parliamentary business from the general public or specific groups.
- **Participation:** directly involving individuals or groups in parliamentary processes or decisions.

[2] Inter-Parliamentary Union (2022) *Global Parliamentary Report – Public Engagement in the Work of Parliament*

Section 1: The principles

We see 'principles' as the key considerations that should shape the delivery of public engagement by parliaments. We identify eight such principles (Table 1).

Table 1: Definition of the principles of parliamentary public engagement

Principle	Definitions
Purpose	Activities are linked to parliamentary duties and strategic goals and designed to meet specific aims and objectives.
Inclusion	Activities are designed to include diverse voices, ideas and information, with substantive efforts made to involve marginalised and seldom-heard groups. Communications and activities are as accessible as possible to all participants and consider the needs of different groups.
Openness and transparency	Activity details, documents and decisions are clearly communicated to participants and other stakeholders. Outcomes are not predetermined, but expectations are managed. Citizens are informed of how their input will be used, and of the outcomes of engagement.
Collaboration and empowerment	Activities are informed by relevant expertise and delivered in partnership with specialist organisations where appropriate. Citizens are involved in decisions about design, delivery and evaluation where possible. Citizens gain knowledge, skills and democratic agency to support future engagement.
Ethical standards	Activities uphold ethical standards such as confidentiality, data protection and respectful treatment of citizens. Safeguarding practices are followed, involving relevant experts in considering and mitigating risks of harm. Staff uphold values of impartiality and non-partisanship in their engagement with citizens, parliamentarians and other stakeholders.
Planning and resourcing	Activities are appropriately resourced. There is enough time for careful planning and effective delivery and evaluation and staff have the right skills and information. Risks (e.g., safeguarding, security, MP availability) are considered and mitigated. Plans are made for next steps, including how results will be used (and linked to parliamentary business where appropriate) and how updates will be communicated to participants.
Integration and coordination	Parliamentary staff are aware of different engagement opportunities and actively signpost these. Staff identify and make the most of opportunities for coordination between engagement functions and parliamentary business. Activities feed meaningfully into parliamentary processes, with relevant decision-makers (e.g., parliamentarians and senior officials) committed to taking the process seriously and engaging with the results of engagement initiatives.
Impact and evaluation	Activities produce meaningful change, for example in citizens' attitudes to parliament, or Members of Parliament (MPs) taking action on an issue. Data on activities, including participant feedback, is collected routinely, and considered reflectively to enable improvement, innovation and sharing best practice.

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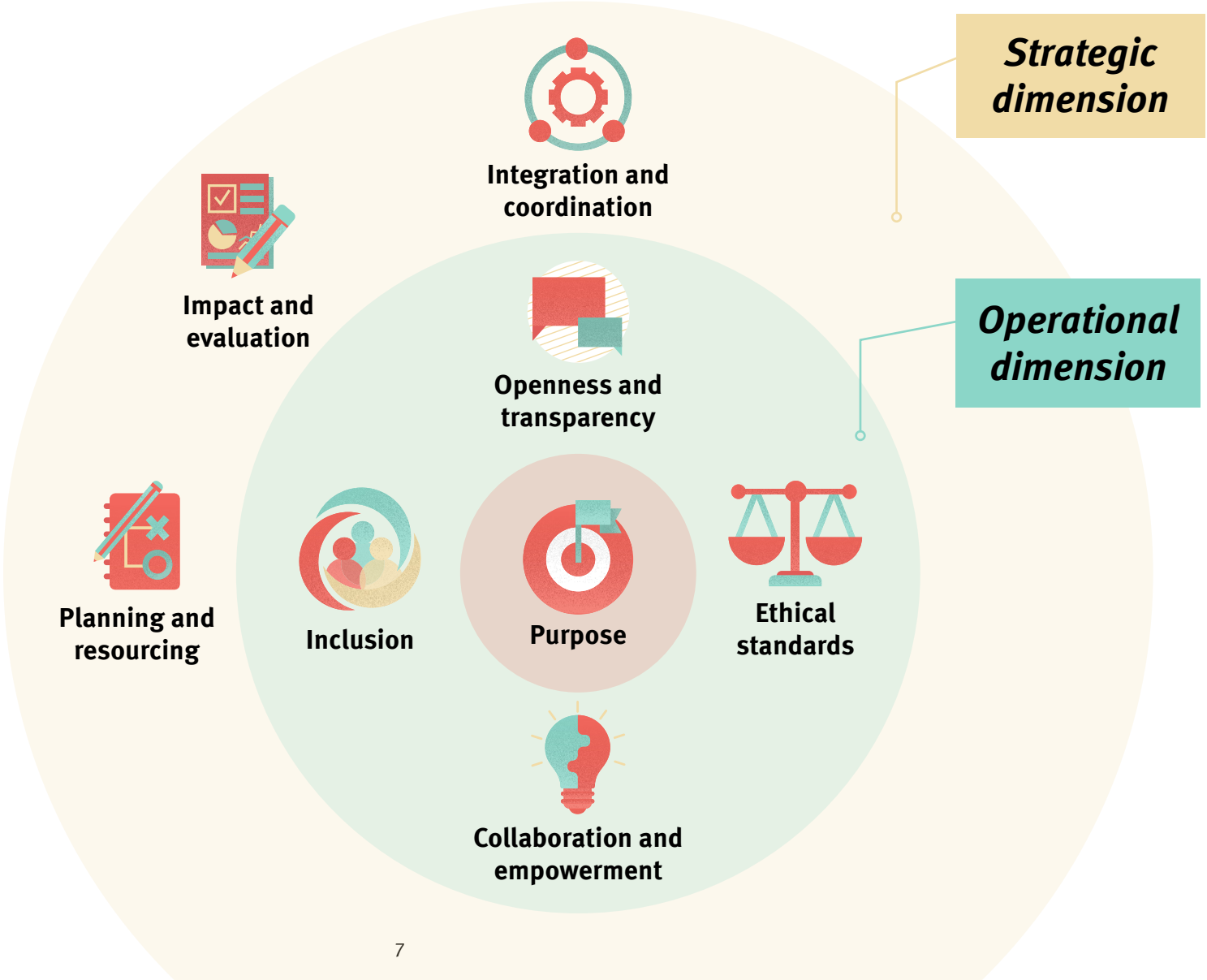
Figure 1 shows how the eight principles relate to core dimensions of parliamentary work:

- The **strategic dimension** concerns institutional practices that support delivery of effective engagement.
- The **operational dimension** relates to how engagement is carried out on the ground and the factors that should guide decision-making.
- The **purpose of engagement** sits at the centre of all other considerations, signalling the importance of considering the specific aims of each public engagement initiative.

Navigate to Section 2 for more detail and guidance on how to put the principles into practice.

Figure 1: Focus of the eight principles



Section 2:
How to put the principles into practice

This section outlines the principles in more detail and provides guidance on how to put them into practice.

The specific actions taken to meet principles will depend on:

- the **type of engagement activity** (e.g., education, consultation)
- **institutional features** (e.g., the resources available and the range of stakeholders involved)
- **characteristics of the wider political system** (e.g., general public attitudes, openness of public discourse, the relationship between parliament and the executive, the strength of parliament as an institution)

Purpose

Inclusion

Openness and transparency

Collaboration and empowerment

Planning and resourcing

Ethical standards

Integration and coordination

Impact and evaluation

Purpose

Having a purpose for engagement provides clarity for all involved: staff and MPs understand what they are doing and why, which in turn helps citizens to get involved effectively.

This purpose can be determined by key regulatory documents such as the constitution, rules of procedure and/or a specific public engagement strategy. Many countries, including **Chile, Kenya, Morocco, South Africa** and **Zambia**, specify a public engagement duty for parliament in their constitutions. In some cases specific bodies (such as committees) or mechanisms (such as petitions) are cited, while in other cases the duty is more general. In **South Africa** and **Zambia**, the constitutional duty to engage is supported by an engagement strategy developed by the parliament.

[3] Constitution of Kenya (2010)

Constitution of Kenya, Article 118 (1)[3]

118. (1) Parliament shall—

(a) conduct its business in an open manner, and its sittings and those of its committees shall be open to the public; and

(b) facilitate public participation and involvement in the legislative and other business of Parliament and its committees.

A clear purpose also helps those who are reviewing results and making decisions (e.g., MPs) to engage with outputs of public engagement initiatives. This might increase the potential for impact both on citizens and on policymaking. Purpose can also help to ensure that resources are being used appropriately.

Parliaments are often under pressure to 'be seen' to deliver engagement activities. But doing so without thorough consideration of the specific aims and objectives of an activity can lead to tokenistic engagement.

The purpose of engagement programmes or activities does not have to be elaborate to be meaningful – what matters most is that it is clearly defined, with stakeholders aware of their responsibilities towards it.

Public engagement with parliaments can be understood to serve broader aims such as:

- Increase public understanding of parliament and its functions.
- Better connection and responsiveness between citizens and democratic institutions, leading to greater legitimacy and trust.
- Better legislation and policy through better understanding of the needs and experiences of citizens.

Broader engagement aims shape the purpose of individual engagement activities.

How to put purpose into practice

- Think about who needs to be **involved** in deciding on the purpose of a public engagement activity. For a large programme or for an engagement strategy, this will likely include MPs as well as senior parliamentary officials. For specific activities delivered by staff, this may include external stakeholders and/or citizens themselves.
- Consider how the purpose will be **communicated**, both to internal stakeholders whose buy-in you might need and to the target audience for engagement.
- Consider whether existing **resources** are sufficient to meet the stated purpose.
- Start planning for **evaluation** early on and use your purpose to assess success.

Inclusion

Inequalities in political participation often reflect inequalities in society. Every society will have 'seldom-heard' groups, possibly including those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, ethnic and linguistic minorities, and disabled people. It is important to consider how different groups can be included equitably; for example by providing materials in a range of formats (e.g., sign language, audio, Braille, large print) or making sustained efforts to build the trust that will enable them to engage.

CASE STUDY

Including remote communities

Inclusion sometimes means going beyond the parliament building to meet communities where they are.

For example, several parliaments such as those in **Fiji**, **Germany** and **Zambia** operate buses that tour the country, offering remote communities the opportunity to participate.

Trinidad and Tobago has a similar initiative called the Public Outreach with Parliament Caravan. The Caravan takes parliamentary staff across the country to speak with local communities and gather their feedback on the work of parliament. The results are then passed on to the relevant committees. The Parliament of the **Solomon Islands** conducts week-long constituency visits on a regular basis, consisting of morning sessions in local schools followed by afternoon and evening sessions in villages to engage those returning from the day's work.

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How to put inclusion into practice

» For any engagement activity, think about **who should be involved** – who has an interest in the policy, law or issue at hand?[4] Then consider who might be less likely to engage and might need **support** to help them to do so.

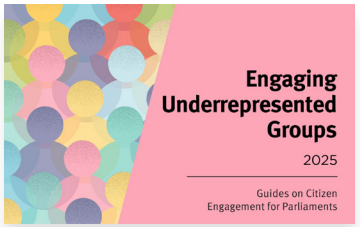
» Encourage discussion among parliamentarians and senior officials about **including groups who are not currently engaging**. Continue to monitor this during recruitment and delivery and adapt your approach accordingly.

» **Learn about the barriers** different groups face and how you can help them engage, so that engagement activities are as accessible as possible. Barriers to engagement might include lack of time, funds, or internet connectivity, language differences, disability, or lack of trust in democratic institutions.

» **Develop activities tailored towards specific groups** where their input might be especially important to parliamentary business, or where data shows that engagement from this group is lacking. This may involve going to where these communities are, rather than inviting them to come to parliament.

» Consider what support or advice you might need in order to engage particular groups effectively. **Find out what expertise exists** within parliament and what external organisations you might want to consult.

» **Focus on inclusion throughout the engagement activity**, not just at the recruitment phase. The way in which an engagement activity is designed and facilitated – including the choice of location or virtual format – can have big implications for inclusion. Ensure that venues are accessible, check that participants are able to use any necessary technology, and plan for how you will manage different voices during discussion and decision-making (if applicable).



See our Guide on 'Engaging Underrepresented Groups' for more detail on how to put inclusion in practice

[4] Decisions about who has a right to be involved may be affected by judgements about which ideas or viewpoints are legitimate. Tensions may need to be navigated around parliamentarians' preferences as to which groups they hear from, as well as considerations about misinformation and how to counter it during engagement activities

Openness and transparency

Parliaments are increasingly taking steps to ensure that information about parliamentary processes is accessible to citizens. Organisations such as the Open Government Partnership and the Open Parliament e-Network work with parliaments to promote open parliament commitments. They advocate for open legislative and oversight processes, enhanced monitoring of parliaments and parliamentarians, civic education and other engagement activities.[5]

These principles of openness and transparency should extend to the design and delivery of public engagement initiatives: information about what to expect from the initiative must be made clear to citizens, so that they feel supported throughout their engagement experience.

CASE STUDY

Parliamentary open days

Beyond openness with information, several parliaments open up their physical spaces to the public to enable better understanding of the institution and what happens there.

While many parliaments offer tours on a regular basis throughout the year, these special open days are a way of boosting engagement with parliament.

They are often held on days of particular significance for the country. In **Estonia**, for example, the Riigkogu Open House Day commemorates the first ever sitting of the parliament in 1919. The passage of the National Assembly Act in **Slovenia** is commemorated on the third Saturday in October with a special Open Doors Day, when visitors are able to access parts of the parliament building not usually shown in tours (e.g., the Parliamentary Library and broadcasting rooms).

Parliaments in other contexts link up with city-wide initiatives to maximise engagement. For example, the **French** National Assembly participates in the Nuit Blanche art festival, when the parliament building joins other cultural institutions across Paris in opening to the public for the night and hosting art installations or performances.

[5] Open Parliaments | Open Government Partnership and OPeN – Open Parliament e-Network

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How to put openness and transparency into practice

- Consider what information should be made available **before, during and after an engagement activity**. For example, citizens need to be able to track the progress of their inputs in petitions systems.

- **Providing various touchpoints** throughout the process of engagement can help participants to feel that the institution cares about them and their input, and that they are being heard. Regular updates on how their input is used and possible outcomes can help prevent frustration and disillusionment.[6]

- **Ensure that information is accessible to citizens**, easy to find, and shared in a range of formats to meet the needs of different groups. The Parliament of **Ghana**, for example, employs a variety of tools such as a public telephone number, newspaper announcements and community radio to make sure people are able to reach them. This is particularly important for people who live in rural areas.[7]

- Ensure that information is **free from political bias**. For deliberative methods where participants engage with external experts, ensure a range of views is represented.

CASE STUDY

Tracking progress of citizens' initiatives

In **Estonia** citizens can easily follow the progress of citizens initiatives proposed through the Rahvaalgatus system. They can track progress online of all initiatives, as well as sign up for email notifications for any further action on initiatives.

This type of tracking helps citizens feel more ownership of the process. Many parliaments enable this feature.

For example, the parliaments of **Austria**, **Brazil** and **Chile**, all offer detailed information on the progress of citizens initiatives and/or petitions submitted.

[6] Leston-Bandeira, C. and Siefken, S. T. (2023). The development of public engagement as a core institutional role for parliaments. *The Journal of Legislative Studies*, 29(3), 361–379.
[7] Inter Parliamentary Union (2022), *Global Parliamentary Report on Public Engagement*, p.51.

Collaboration and empowerment

Practitioners and theorists of engagement alike recognise that it is all too easy to conduct engagement activities that fail to delegate real power or agency to citizens. Features of the parliamentary context, such as tight schedules and risk aversion, make this more likely. To overcome this, parliaments should think about empowering citizens in the design of activities.

For example, this could involve reflecting citizens' ideas about what engagement should focus on, how it should be carried out, and what it should produce. This could help meet the democratic goals mentioned above – greater understanding of parliament, improved relationships between citizens and parliaments, and better policy and legislation.

Engagement processes are often improved by involving those who work closely with target audiences in the design, delivery and evaluation of activities. Models such as co-production might involve collaborating with a selected group from the target audience itself.

CASE STUDY

Zambian Youth Parliamentary Academy

In 2024, the administration of the **Zambian** parliament delivered a Youth Parliamentary Academy programme (an initiative devised by INTER PARES). The Academy is an intensive programme designed to develop deep practical knowledge about the work of parliament among a group of young people selected in a competitive process.

The programme has a strong commitment to collaboration with young people. The main focus of the programme was to develop a youth engagement strategy in consultation with the young people. Parliamentary officials also presented draft educational materials to the young people for their feedback.

How to put collaboration and empowerment into practice

- Consider **who should be involved** in decisions about the engagement activity such as its design and **how it will be evaluated**. This might include internal stakeholders, external specialist organisations who know the target audience well, or participants themselves.
- Design activities to **give citizens the skills, knowledge and democratic agency** to act on the issues they are interested in.[8] Information should help them understand how to take action on the issues they care about.
- **Develop long-term relationships and networks with civil society actors** to build and maintain trust and lay foundations for future engagement.

[8] Walker, A. (2021) Paper 9: Parliaments and Public Engagement. *Guide to Parliaments. Global Partners Governance.*

Planning and resourcing

Parliaments are often fast-paced environments where activities rely on tight budgets. Engagement should be viewed as a key priority across the institution to avoid the risk that quality is compromised to meet parliamentary deadlines or due to a lack of specialist staff. This means cultivating practical engagement and communications skills among staff and MPs, and where possible developing specialist skills.

> *"Employ [some] people who don't give a monkey's about standing orders but are really excellent at knowing how to get people's attention with a social media post, how to communicate to different audiences and how to break down complex information…in a way that people want to listen to it".*[9]
>
> *– interviewee*

Core engagement skills include communication as well as facilitation and the ability to design formats tailored to meet specific engagement aims and the needs of different groups (based on knowledge of a range of methods).

Parliaments with very limited resources could prioritise activities that achieve greater public value, flexibly redirect budget allocations, and involve civil society organisations as delivery partners. This allows parliaments to access skills and networks they don't hold themselves. Parliaments new to engagement can draw on evidence from comparable parliaments to build a case for resource allocation.

Planning and resourcing specific engagement activities involves taking time to consider risks, ethical standards, staff capacity and outputs. Documenting decisions and rationales enables continuous learning and improvement.

Having a clear plan in place also helps to push back against the inevitable pressure to turn projects around quickly and without due care for important considerations around risks, participant safeguarding, or intended outputs.

[9] Interview, June 2024
[10] Inter-Parliamentary Union (2024) *Taking parliament to the people: South Africa*

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How to put planning and resourcing into practice

- Develop a **planning process** that involves stakeholders and facilitates consideration of resource requirements and risks.
- Enhance your **capacity to engage through collaboration** with external organisations who can help you in communicating opportunities or even delivering activities.
- **Map out the core engagement programme for the year or parliamentary session.** This allows teams to see which groups are being engaged by core activities and where bespoke activities need to be developed. It also allows for teams to collaborate at key points in the parliamentary calendar: for example, in the delivery of Parliament Open Days or Parliament Weeks.
- Consider the engagement programme or activity **from start to finish**, from purpose through to potential impacts and how you will evaluate.
- Where possible, **develop specialist teams** who can focus on delivering high quality engagement, and are empowered to propose and implement innovations.

CASE STUDY

Effective collaboration with civil society: South Africa's Climate Change Bill[10]

In 2022, the Parliament of **South Africa** launched an extensive consultation process on its draft Climate Change Bill in line with its commitments under the constitution and the parliament's Public Participation Model (a strategic approach that leverages the parliament's regional infrastructure and a wide range of engagement tools).

The parliament held 27 field hearings in nine provinces, used social media and radio to reach out to different communities, and invited written evidence. Civil society organisations, such as the Parliamentary Monitoring Group and the Centre for Environmental Rights, amplified the call for evidence through their networks, with a focus on those most affected by climate change. This support boosted responses to the consultation, with the parliament receiving over 13,000 responses over a five-week period.

Ethical standards

Engagement activities often involve participants sharing information about themselves, their opinions and their experiences, and/or encountering environments and language which can be unfamiliar or alienating. It is important that participants are treated with respect, and that participants' data is handled responsibly and in line with regulations.

Given the specific nature of parliamentary environments, it is also crucial that participants and their views are treated impartially. Disagreement between participants and/or with parliamentarians is natural. However, staff should endeavour for the range of views and experiences to be represented in an equitable manner as much as possible.

Engagement activities require consideration from a safeguarding point of view as well. This ensures that engaging with parliament does not put participants at risk of harm (e.g., physical, emotional, professional, reputational). This applies to everything from tours and visits to educational workshops and deliberative events, including online activities.

CASE STUDY

Respect in practice

In 2024 the **New Zealand** Parliament conducted a school visit to a Te Reo Māori immersion school as part of its Speaker's Outreach programme. In line with the school's language immersion practice, the entire visit (including a debate roleplay) was conducted in Te Reo Māori – the first time for a Speaker's Outreach session. The debate topic – school uniforms – was chosen by the students.

The visit was shaped not only by language, but also followed *tikanga* (Māori protocol). For example, the visit started with a *powhiri* (Māori greeting ceremony).

This example demonstrates how respect for different communities' culture can be built into engagement.

How to put ethical standards into practice

- Ensure that staff and parliamentarians understand the **relevant regulations and policies** around fundamental responsibilities such as data protection and safeguarding.
- Ask specialist organisations how best to **protect the rights of particular groups**, and disseminate this information to staff and members.
- Build **ethical considerations** into the planning process and follow these up in evaluation.

Integration and coordination

The field of parliamentary public engagement is growing steadily, with parliaments delivering a range of activities to feed into better representation, legislation, oversight and budgeting processes. However, researchers and practitioners alike recognise that engagement is most effective when it is institutionalised – that is, supported by institutional processes and procedures, recognised and understood across the institution, and appropriately resourced.

This institutionalisation connects engagement activities and inputs with each other and with parliamentary business.

Some parliaments deliver all activities in-house while others rely on civil society or aid organisations to deliver some activities. For example, it is common for specialist youth organisations to be involved in delivering youth parliaments.

Parliaments should ensure that where external organisations deliver activities, these still foster real connection with parliament, and that appropriate resources are provided in-house to do so.

Bringing engagement activities in-house, where possible, by upskilling existing staff or hiring for specialist roles, can establish greater institutional ownership of engagement and enhance integration and coordination. It can also help towards better learning within the institution, making public engagement more sustainable.

CASE STUDY

Building in-house capacity: the Scottish Parliament's Participation and Communities Team

The Participation and Communities Team is a specialist engagement team that supports the work of committees at the **Scottish** Parliament. They do this in three main ways, whilst working closely with committee clerks and MPs:

- community engagement through meetings and workshops
- digital engagement such as online calls for views and discussion forums
- a deliberative democracy programme (delivering methods such as citizens' panels and assemblies)

Developing this skill and expertise in-house has enabled committees to carry out engagement on a regular basis and to a high standard. In the case of deliberative methods in particular, having this capacity in house reduces the substantial cost of commissioning these processes.

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How to put integration and coordination into practice

» Ensure that engagement staff understand each other's roles and activities and make links between them. Ideally, a **strategy** links different engagement services, and **regular channels of communication** exist both between different public engagement service teams and with those teams that handle parliamentary business.

» Consider explicitly **how public engagement activities should link with core parliamentary business** and the work of parliamentarians. Establish clear accountability mechanisms for ensuring that this takes place, including by assigning ownership of the engagement agenda to a specific senior leader.

» Make sure that information about **parliamentary business and ways to get involved is clearly signposted on public platforms** such as the parliamentary website. Many parliaments make use of networks of constituency offices to disseminate information and encourage participation. In contexts such as **Indonesia** and **Nigeria**, these offices are significant hubs for engagement in the community.

» Foster **cross-party support for engagement activities**, so that engagement programmes are not vulnerable to changes in parliamentary membership or captured by one side. Ensure that strategies cross over general election periods so that they survive changes in political leadership.

» Provide **training for staff and parliamentarians on engagement skills** and methods to build institutional capacity.

Impact and evaluation

The planning of an engagement activity or programme should include an idea of the impact(s) it could have and provide a framework for assessing this impact.

This framework should include the experience of participants and measurable outcomes such as mentions in committee reports, parliamentary decisions or media discourse.

Evaluation enables learning and continuing improvement, including from innovative engagement practice: for example, through the trialling of new methods or activities aimed at particular groups.

CASE STUDY

Evaluating petitioners' experience at the Portuguese Parliament

In 2024 the **Portuguese** Assembly of the Republic started collecting data on who submits petitions and their experiences of the system.

This is done via a survey sent to all petitioners when their petition has closed. It collects key demographic data on petitioners (e.g., gender, age), as well as how satisfied they felt with the petitioning process. This is then published online as a report.

This evaluation helps staff understand better the petitioning experience from the petitioner's perspective. It also informs developments of the petitioning system.

How to put impact and evaluation into practice

- Develop **a plan prior to the activity** detailing how the results will be used, including the process by which stakeholders (including parliamentarians) will discuss them, decide upon next steps, and communicate outcomes to participants, where relevant.
- Consider **what feedback you need from participants** (as well as parliamentarians and staff involved in delivery) to help you understand their experience and the effect it had on them, as well as ways you could improve. Make participant feedback processes as simple as possible and build in enough time. Asking for feedback immediately after engagement usually leads to better response rates.
- Along with feedback, it is useful to **keep track of *who* is engaging in activities** in terms of demographics. Gathering this data, anonymously and in line with data protection principles, can help to highlight gaps in participation and identify differences in experiences between different groups.
- Make time for **regular discussions on evaluation data**, both within the team and with other stakeholders including parliamentarians. Monitor how engagement outputs are used: for example, how they affect parliamentary activity and decisions.
- Establish **mechanisms and spaces for innovation** and ensure that parliament keeps pace with advances in the engagement field.

Section 3:
Useful materials on principles of public engagement

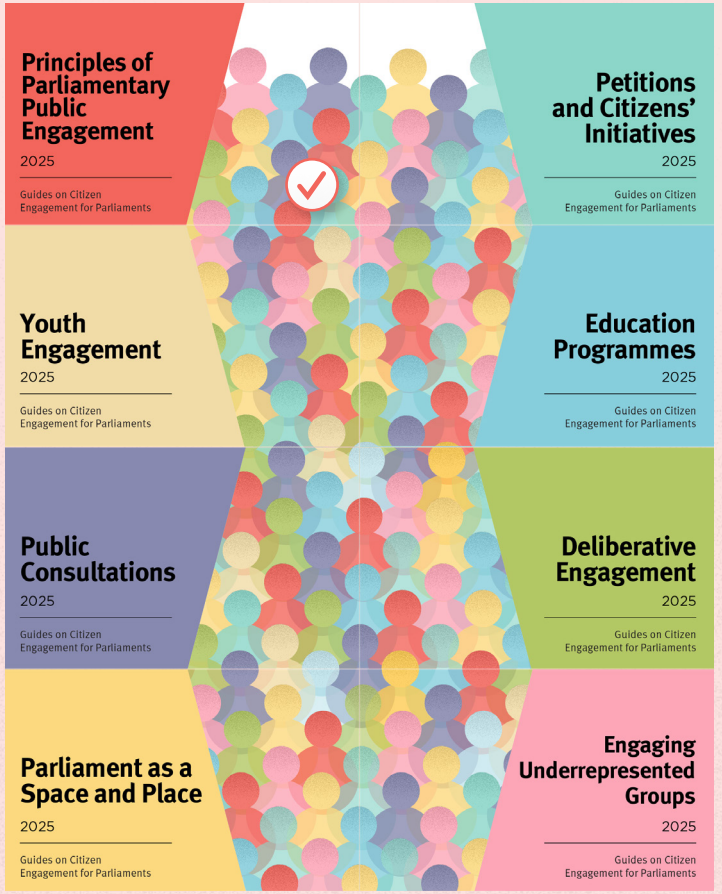
- **International Association for Public Participation (IAP2),** Core Values, Ethics and Spectrum – The 3 Pillars of Public Participation
- **Open Government Partnership,** Participation and Co-Creation Standards
- **Involve,** Nine principles of effective deliberative public engagement

See our other **Guides on Citizen Engagement for Parliaments**

This Guide was developed by Professor Cristina Leston-Bandeira and Juliet Ollard at the International Parliament Engagement Network (IPEN) in collaboration with Inter Pares I Parliaments in Partnership – the EU's Global Project to Strengthen the Capacity of Parliaments.

The Guide draws from extensive research carried out in 2024 and 2025, including: a review of relevant academic research; interviews with academics and parliamentary officials from across the world; analysis of relevant practitioner reports and parliamentary documentation; testimonies from members of IPEN; and relevant seminars and workshops organised by Inter Pares and/or IPEN.

The Guide also incorporates feedback from an international Advisory Group established to develop this suite of Guides on Citizen Engagement for Parliaments, as well as from the IPEN Executive Team. The authors are very grateful to all those who shared their knowledge and expertise as part of this project.



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