

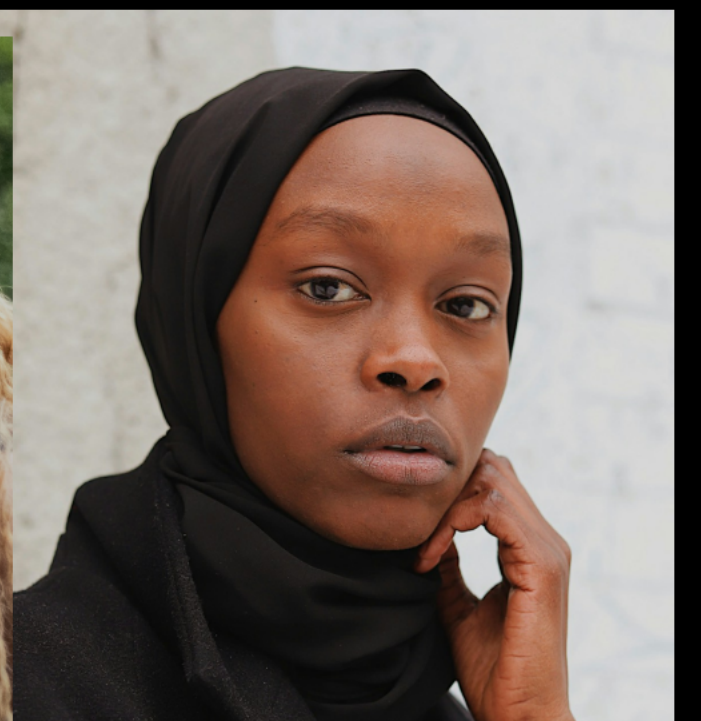
YES! FOR HER FUTURE

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO THE RESERVED SEATS FOR WOMEN BILL (HB 1349)

One Nigeria, One YES

On December 9th and 10th, the National Assembly will vote on the Reserved Seats for Women Bill (HB1349). This bill will create extra seats only for women in the Senate, House of Representatives and State Houses of Assembly, so that more women can help make Nigeria's laws.

This toolkit provides useful information so you can support the bill and ask your leaders to VOTE YES.



CAMPAIGN ASSETS

Campaign video

[Watch the Full Video here](#) | [Watch the Short Video here](#)

Campaign posters to share

[Download here](#)

Create poster with your picture

[Create here](#)

Usable Hashtags

#PassTheBill #SpecialSeatsBill

#ReservedSeatsForWomenBill

#VoteYESForWomen #OneNigeriaOneYES



HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED/ WHAT YOU CAN DO



1.

Learn & Share

- Read this toolkit
- Create a poster with your photo using this [link](#) to show support for the bill.
- Share with others and share one thing you learnt

2.

Post & Tag

- Use campaign posters and download templates that say: **"I support the Reserved Seats for Women Bill (HB1349)."**
- **"Vote YES for her future."**
- Add hashtags: **#PassTheBill #SpecialSeatsBill #ReservedSeatsforWomenBill #VoteYESforWomen #OneNigeriaOneYES**

3.

Talk to Leaders

- Politely ask your Representatives and Senators to vote YES for HB1349.
- Share why you believe Nigeria is stronger when women and men lead together.

A photograph of two women smiling and laughing together. The woman on the left is looking up and to the right, while the woman on the right is looking towards the camera. The image is dimly lit with a dark overlay.

CORE CALL TO ACTION LINE (FOR ALL MATERIALS):

**“VOTE YES FOR THE RESERVED
SEATS FOR WOMEN BILL (HB 1349).**

VOTE FOR MY FUTURE.”

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

A. WHY – Why do we need this bill?

Right now in Nigeria:



There are **469** seats in the National Assembly (Senate + House of Representatives).



Only 21 of those seats are held by women (4 in the Senate, 17 in the House). That is less than 5%



In the 36 State Houses of Assembly, **only around 54–55 women out of around 990 members are elected** – about 5% again.



International rankings by the Inter-Parliamentary Union show that Nigeria is near the bottom of the world table for women in parliament, **ranked 178 out of 182 countries.**

This means:

1. Half of Nigeria's population (women and girls) is barely represented where laws and budgets are made.

2. Important issues like schools, health, safety, jobs and justice are decided mostly without women at the table.

The bill is a “corrective instrument” – a special tool to help fix this problem.

B. WHAT – WHAT DOES THE BILL ACTUALLY DO?

The Reserved Seats for Women Bill (HB1349) changes Nigeria's 1999 Constitution to add new seats that only women can contest in. The proposal which is subject to change based on what is agreed upon includes:



1. Senate (National level)

- Today: **109** Senators (3 from each State + 1 from FCT).
- Bill proposes: 1 extra woman Senator for every State and the FCT.
- That means **37 new women-only seats in the Senate.**



2. House of Representatives (National level)

- Today: **360** Members
- Bill proposes: 1 extra woman Representative for every State and the FCT.
- That means **37 new women-only seats in the House of Reps**

3. State Houses of Assembly (State level)

- Today: each State has its own number of seats (**between 24 and 40**)
- Bill proposes: 3 new women-only seats in every State House of Assembly, one for each Senatorial District in that State.
- That means **108 new women-only seats across all 36 States.**

TOTAL EXTRA SEATS FOR WOMEN

74 at the National
Assembly (37
Senate + 37 House).

108 in State
Assemblies

182 new seats for
women in total

! **Very important:**

- These are additional seats, not reserved old ones.
- Women can still contest the regular seats as before. The bill does not stop women from competing with men in the usual elections
- The new seats are directly elected by voters, just like all other lawmakers. They are not appointed or gifted.

C. WHO – WHO IS BEHIND THIS BILL?

The 10th National Assembly with principal members sponsoring and championing the bill. It has gained support from key stakeholders like The Nigeria Governors Forum, Nigeria Governors Spouses Wives Forum, the First Lady of Nigeria and many Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners etc.



D. WHEN – WHEN HAS THIS BILL MOVED, AND WHAT’S NEXT?

Short timeline (10th Assembly focus):

- **9 July 2024** – The House of Representatives passes HB1349 (Special/Reserved Seats for Women Bill) for Second Reading and sends it to the Committee on Constitution Review.
- **October 2024** – PLAC releases a detailed Bill Analysis explaining the seats, sections, costs and 16-year review.
- **July 2025** – National Assembly leaders hold briefings and town halls to build support. The bill is described by the Deputy Speaker as a “temporary special measure” to correct decades of under-representation
- **September 2025** – A national hearing on the bill took place.



WHAT STILL HAS TO HAPPEN BEFORE IT BECOMES LAW?

For a Constitution amendment like HB1349 to pass, the following must happen:

1. At least two-thirds of members in the House of Representatives (at least **240 of 360**) must vote YES.

2. At least two-thirds of Senators (at least **73 of 109**) must also vote YES.

3. Then, at least 24 of the 36 State Houses of Assembly must approve it.

4. Finally, the President of Nigeria must sign (assent) to make it part of the Constitution.

That is why public awareness and pressure now are so important.

E. HOW — HOW DOES THE BILL CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION?

The bill changes specific sections of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to create new women-only seats:

- **Section 48** - Composition of the Senate
Adds one extra Senate seat for women for each State and the FCT.
- **Section 49** - Composition of the House of Representatives
Adds one extra House seat for women for each State and the FCT.
- **Section 91** - Number of seats in State Houses of Assembly
Adds three new women-only seats per State (one per Senatorial District) and raises the maximum cap from 40 to 43 to make room.
- **Sections 77(1) and 117(1)** - Elections to the National Assembly and State Assemblies
Makes sure the special women's seats are filled by direct elections, not appointment.

The bill also clearly states that:

Women-only seats are in addition to existing seats.

- Women keep their full rights to contest regular seats.

- Women elected to special seats have the same powers, vote and responsibilities as all other lawmakers.



F. HOW LONG – WHAT IS THE 16-YEAR “SUNSET CLAUSE”?

HB1349 is not meant to last forever. It is a Temporary Special Measure:

- It will start working from the next National and State Assemblies (after the current one).
- Change them, or
- It must be reviewed after four general election cycles - that is 16 years.

After those 16 years, Nigeria can decide to:

- Keep the reserved seats,
- Change them, or
- Remove them if women are already fairly represented.

This is why the bill is called a “corrective instrument” or temporary measure - it is like a bridge to help us move from a place of deep imbalance to a more equal democracy.



RECOMMENDED PATH TO GET CONTACT INFO FOR LEGISLATORS (BEST PRACTICE)

1.

Start with the official National Assembly Directory [here](#)

Visit the National Assembly's website by clicking [here](#)

- Click "Senators" or "House of Representatives"
- Use the list to find your State or Federal Constituency
- Open your lawmaker's profile
- Copy any email or phone number listed

This is the most official and authoritative source.

2.

Cross-Check ShineYourEye Using (Civic-Tech Directory)

If the NASS profile has missing or incomplete information, cross-check [here](#)

ShineYourEye (by EiE Nigeria & civic partners) provides:

Lawmaker profiles

Constituency information

In some cases, additional contact details

Social media handles

Performance and accountability data

It is one of Nigeria's most trusted citizen platforms for elected officials' data.

3.

If No Direct Contact Exists – Use the NASS General Address

If your Senator or Representative's profile does not list direct contact
Email: info@nass.gov.ng

Write a short message asking the National Assembly administrative office to forward your request to your specific legislator

It is one of Nigeria's most trusted citizen platforms for elected officials' data.

4.

Follow Up via Social Media

Most lawmakers are active on:

- X (Twitter)
- Facebook
- Instagram

Search their name → follow → tag them politely.

Public tags increase visibility and are often harder to ignore.

Example:

“Dear Hon. ____, as your constituent from ____ LGA, I’m respectfully urging you to vote YES for HB1349 – the Reserved Seats for Women Bill. Nigeria is watching. Thank you.”

5.

Encourage Others to Join

Once you find your legislator’s contact:

- Share it with friends and neighbours
- Share it in WhatsApp groups
- Add it to your social media story
- Encourage your community to write or call

The more citizens who politely speak up, the stronger the pressure for YES.

RESOURCE LIST

1.

Comprehensive constitutional analysis, breakdown of additional seats, costing implications, and explanation of the 16-year sunset clause.

Click [here](#) for PLAC Factsheet

2.

PLAC – Special Seats Bill Infographic & Explainer

Simplified visuals explaining how the bill works, temporary nature, eligibility rules, and the corrective purpose.

Click [here](#) for PLAC Infographic

3.

WILAN Global – State of Women's Leadership Report & Dashboard

Nigeria's most comprehensive dataset on women's leadership across all 36 states + FCT. Supports evidence-based advocacy.

Click [here](#) for WILAN Dashboard

4.

Track the bill instantly by clicking [here](#)