

Parliaments' role in strengthening democratic resilience



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Professor Cristina Leston Bandeira

Challenges to democracy



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- 'backsliding'
- Populism
- Short-termism
- Increasing inequalities
- Perennial crises

Paradoxical times



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Decline voter
turnout

Decline party
membership

Never these
many elections

Never this
much
participation

Decline trust

Increased
scepticism
towards politics

Never this
much
information

Never this
much
accountability

Increased
demands for
political reform

Increased
misinformation

Never these
many political
changes

Never these
many
innovations

Parliament's role



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- Ideally placed as a democratic connector
- The 'Mediator Parliament'

- ✓ Legitimacy through elections
- ✓ Effective communicating and listening

Nurture
Democratic Resilience

Mechanisms to nurture resilience



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- Post-legislative scrutiny
- Citizen focused mechanisms
 - Enabling both understanding
 - And meaningful participation
 - Being part of the conversation
- Reach to diverse audiences
 - Beyond ‘usual suspects’
 - Future generations oriented
 - Pro-active reach



Challenges



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- Invisibility of parliament
- Media / social media as key information anchors
- Fast pace of politics



- Politicians vs Parliaments
- 'Bubble' parliamentary environments
- Appropriate parliamentary resources

In sum...



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- Huge challenges to democracy, not met by traditional structures and processes
- Parliaments can play key role in enhancing democratic resilience
- Need for more flexible and better resourced structures and processes which ensure continuity, scrutiny and meaningful listening





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Thank you

E: C.Leston-Bandeira@Leeds.ac.uk

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/cristina-leston-bandeira-9aa5bb29/>