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## SUMMARIES

► *Karen Celis*

**How to improve the representation of women?**

More and more countries implement quotas and install women's policy agencies as an answer to the under-representation of women and gender-related interests in politics and policy. The main argument is that more women MPs and the structural presence of attention for women's interests not only contribute to just and democratic politics, but also enhance the quality of democratic decision and policy-making on a substantive level. Women MPs and women's policy agencies would foster the inclusion of women's interests and gendered perspectives. However, it remains unclear what 'substantive representation of women' and improving it actually mean. This article first deals with the 'what' of substantive representation of women in terms of the acts and contents involved: what is it about? Next, it focuses on the improvement of the substantive representation of women: what is better substantive representation and how can it be reached? My answer to this question refers to quantitative improvements (e.g. more support for women's interests) and qualitative improvements (e.g. support for more women). 'Good' substantive representation implies recognizing diversity and ideological conflict regarding women's interests and gendered perspectives.

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► *Silvia Erzeel and Petra Meier*

**Do quota laws make a difference?**

The recruitment and selection of candidates by Belgian political parties since the adoption of gender quota laws

This article analyses the impact of the 1994 and 2002 statutory gender quotas on the recruitment and selection rules and practices of Belgian political parties. Investigating the party statutes and rules, and interviewing a number of key actors within ten Belgian political parties, the findings suggest that parties only slightly changed their practices. Sex became an important selection criterion as is shown by the appearance of women candidates on party lists. Parties needed to recruit women candidates more actively than they did in the past, relying, amongst others, on the networks of female recruiters. But parties did not change their rules regarding recruitment and selection, nor did the interviews reveal that they question any gender bias within their norms and practices regarding recruitment and selection. Given the temporary character of the statutory gender quota, the authors argue that it might be useful to complete them with other measures focusing on the relation between gender and power within political parties.

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► *Suzanne Knol*

**Igun in our days**

From a halakhic possibility to a cultural accepted practice

One of the biggest problems within Jewish law in our days is men withholding a Jewish religious divorce (*get*) from their wives in order to obtain a divorce on their grounds. Even though there have always been recalcitrant husbands, this phenomenon has increased over the past half a decade. It seems to have become culturally accepted that a man uses the *get* as a bargaining tool. Women also often do not find support from the rabbinate due to the difficulties that surround issues of forbidden relationships (allowing a woman a divorce while this is halakhically not preferable will render her following relationship forbidden). This article, based on my PhD research, looks at the influence this increase of *get*-recalcitrance has on Jewish women and communities.

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