



Press Release

Allianz Insurance company is a new signatory of the Women's Empowerment Principles

Prague, 29 May – Allianz Insurance has joined 9,616 companies from around the world that have declared their commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment within the UN Sustainable Development Goals and ESG agenda. It did so by signing up to the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) initiative. This was jointly announced by representatives of Allianz Insurance Company and Business & Professional Women CR, which is the ambassador of the initiative in the Czech Republic, at a ceremonial meeting of WEPs signatories and supporters.

„We are very proud to be signatories to the principles that promote equality. At the same time, I must say that for Allianz, equality is a principle that we consider to be perfectly natural. The fact that we do not just talk about equality, but actually live it, is demonstrated by the fact that we have been awarded, and at the end of last year defended again, the Edge Assess equal opportunities certificate. Equal approach enables us to support and develop talented people. This benefits us as a company, our clients and our employees. It's a win-win solution for everyone. I firmly believe that our daughters will see the Gender Pay Gap in the Czech Republic reduced from its current nearly 18% – preferably to zero,“ says **Petr Hrbáček, Member of the Board of Directors of Allianz insurance company, which now boasts that it has managed to reduce the gender pay gap to 0.6%.** He also called on other companies in the country to join the initiative and together create a community to support each other and promote good practice in the field of equal opportunities.

[Business & Professional Women CR](#) (BPWCR) has been campaigning for 15 years to close the gender pay gap and contributing to women's education and empowerment. It is thus a natural link to those who are building an inclusive and equal corporate culture and are leaders in this regard.

„As part of our work, we try not only to attract new signatories, but also to share examples of good practice from companies working on equal opportunities issues. Their activities are inspiring and encourage other companies to take an active role in creating working conditions for women so that they can develop their talents to the full. Allianz is taking this step to show its commitment to equal opportunities and we are extremely pleased they become part of this important initiative. I am confident that working with Allianz and the other signatories will lead to positive changes in the corporate environment and will promote modern working conditions for all,“ says **Lenka Šťastná, president of BPWCR.**



The benefits of such an approach for the whole society were confirmed by **Jiří Rusnok, economic advisor to Allianz Insurance Company, former Prime Minister and Governor of the Czech National Bank**, who was a guest at the ceremonial meeting. According to him, not using women's potential is a lost opportunity for economic growth: *„If women in the Czech economy do not have the conditions to develop their talents, then we are depriving ourselves of the most precious thing this society has. If we were to involve women more, we could certainly expect an increase in GDP.“*

The [Women's Empowerment Principles](#) were jointly launched by UN Women and the UN Global Compact to offer guidance to businesses on how to promote gender equality and enable the active empowerment of women in the workplace, the marketplace and society at large. The WEPs draw from international labour and human rights standards and are based on a declaration that the business has an interest in and responsibility for creating a level playing field for women and men and empowering women. In the Czech Republic, signatories include for instance GasNet, ČEZ and HOPI.

Kontakt pro média:

Klára Smolová, PR and Communication Director, klara.smolova@bpwcr.cz, tel.: 777 032 579

Note for editors:

[Business & Professional Women CR](#) (BPWCR), a public benefit corporation, aims to promote the professional growth of women at all levels and to strengthen their economic independence. We connect experienced women with those who are interested in furthering their personal development, primarily through programs that help women re-enter the workforce, advance their careers or start businesses.

Through its projects, BPWCR contributes to the protection of women's rights, overcoming barriers, while emphasizing education and personal development. Key tools include mentoring and female role models.

Our vision is for an equal share of women and men in decision-making roles, with a priority to close the gender pay gap. Our flagship event is the annual two-day [Equal Pay Day](#), which helps to spark a company-wide debate and culture change, meaningfully connecting and empowering women. Other flagship international projects in which BPWCR is involved include [Women's Empowerment Principles](#) and the [Academy for Women Entrepreneurs](#).