



[Finland's Parliament Approves the Nomination of the World's Youngest Prime Minister](#)

This week, Finland's Parliament approved the nomination of Sanna Marin, the 34-year old Finnish Minister of Transport and Communications, as the country's next Prime Minister. Of the Parliament's 200 members, 99 voted in favor of her nomination and 70 against it, with 30 members absent from the vote. As she officially takes the role, Marin will become the world's youngest sitting Prime Minister. She was elected by her party, Finland's Social Democratic Party, to the post of Prime Minister following the resignation of outgoing leader Antti Rinne – who resigned after losing coalition partners over the handling of a postal strike. She will head the country's coalition government which consists of five parties, all of which are led by women as well. In addition to becoming the world's youngest sitting Prime Minister, Marin will also make history as the Scandinavian nation's youngest-ever head of government.

Marin was elected to serve as the next Prime Minister by members of the Social Democratic Party Council, as she received a total of 32 votes from the governmental body. She narrowly defeated her opponent, Antti Lindtman, who received 29 overall votes from the council. Lindtman is a Finnish politician from the same political party as Marin – the Social Democratic Party – and has been a member of the Parliament of Finland since 2011. The Social Democratic Party emerged as Finland's largest party following the recent April 2019 election, thus they are able to appoint one of their own members to the position of Prime Minister.

During the aforementioned April 2019 election, Marin stepped in for outgoing Prime Minister Rinne as the leader of the Social Democratic Party while he was on a two-month leave of absence after falling ill with pneumonia. She led the party's campaign in the run-up to the election, helping the Social Democrats win the largest number of seats in the Finnish Parliament and allowing Rinne to assume the role of Prime Minister. Rinne's recent resignation was prompted by a two-week postal strike that drew nationwide sympathy after it was discovered that hundreds of package handlers were going to have their salaries reduced following a transfer of their contracts. The strike spread to the country's national airline – Finnair – and other industries, leading to calls for the Prime Minister's resignation.

Marin is a left-leaning progressive and was raised in a "rainbow" family by a single mother who was in a same-sex relationship. She describes herself as feeling invisible as a child because of how society would not talk about same-sex relationships. Marin has stated that "For me, human rights, equality, or equality of people have never been questions of opinion but the basis of my moral conception...I joined politics because I want to influence how society sees its citizens and their rights." She began her career in civil service back in 2012 when she was elected to the City Council in Tampere at the age of 27. She served as Chair of the Tampere City Council and was then elected to the Parliament of Finland as a MP in 2015. She was re-elected in April 2019 and became the Minister of Transport and Communications in June of this year, before her recent nomination to Prime Minister.