



A parliamentary perspective on discrimination and violence against the girl child



New York, 1 March 2007

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union
and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
on the occasion of the 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

INFORMATION NOTE

During the 51st Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), which will consider the "elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl-child", the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women (UNDAW) are organising a parliamentary event entitled *A parliamentary perspective on discrimination and violence against the girl child*.

The meeting will take place on **1 March 2007**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
in the **ECOSOC** chamber at UN Headquarters in New York.

Objectives

In keeping with its policy of contributing to major international forums by seeking to introduce a parliamentary dimension into the proceedings of intergovernmental organisations, the IPU is organising this one-day event with UNDAW in order to provide a forum for debate between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of the 51st CSW Session which will focus on the *Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl-child*.

In cooperation with partner organisations, the event will aim to highlight the specific contribution of parliaments and the difference they can make in protecting and empowering the girl child while combating the discrimination and violence she faces. Parliamentarians will therefore be invited to share experiences and reflections on their role in protecting and supporting girl children. As detailed in the provisional agenda, the meeting will address two main topics: (1) Combating discrimination and violence against the girl child and (2) Empowering the girl child. Each general topic will be introduced by panellists, and will give rise to a general discussion.

Expected outcome

At the close of the meeting, a brief message to the CSW will be issued, stressing areas for future priority action, with particular emphasis on how parliaments can and should contribute to eliminating discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists;
- Documents of the 51st Session of the CSW;
- Report on the UN Expert Group Meeting on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl-child (Florence, Italy, October 2006)
- Women in Parliament 2006: The year in perspective

Participants

The participants in the Parliamentary Event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 51st Session of the CSW as members of their respective national delegations. A letter of invitation will be sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU. Efforts will be made to encourage the participation of chairpersons and members of gender equality parliamentary committees.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organisations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also be invited.

Programme

9 – 10 a.m.	Registration of participants and distribution of documents
10 – 10.30 a.m.	Inaugural session
10.30 a.m.- 1 p.m.	Session 1: Combating discrimination and violence against the girl child General discussion
1 - 3 p.m.	Lunch break
3 - 5.30 p.m.	Session 2: Empowering the girl child General discussion
5.30 – 6 p.m.	Closing session

Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in the four languages customarily used at IPU Assemblies, namely English, French, Spanish and Arabic.

Access badges for United Nations Headquarters

As is customary during General Assembly sessions, security arrangements are very strict and no one may enter the United Nations premises without a special badge (for delegates and visitors). In keeping with normal practice, national delegations and diplomatic missions in New York will be invited to attend to all matters relating to visas, UN Badges, hotel reservations and transportation. Participants must therefore request their badge from their country's permanent mission to the United Nations.

Registration

Persons wishing to participate in this meeting are urged to register as soon as possible using the attached form. Once this form has been filled out, it should be sent directly to IPU Headquarters (Fax: +41 22 919 41 60; e-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org), copy to the Office of the Permanent Observer (Fax: 1 212 557 39 54 or e-mail: ny-office@mail.ipu.org).