



Addressing discrimination and violence against the girl child : the role of parliaments



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

INVITATION

Geneva, 18 December 2006

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

We are pleased to write to invite your parliament to participate in a one-day parliamentary event entitled *Addressing discrimination and violence against the girl child: the role of parliaments*. The event, hosted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, is being convened on the occasion of the forthcoming 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2007.

The parliamentary meeting will take place on **1 March 2007**, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 6 p.m., in the ECOSOC chamber at UN Headquarters in New York.

The IPU strongly encourages your parliament to request that both male and female members of parliament be included in your country's delegation to the CSW Session, including chairpersons or members of gender equality committees. Not only would this ensure their attendance and contribution to the parliamentary event, but it would also facilitate parliamentary inclusion in the CSW discussions which will take place from 26 February to 9 March 2007. A copy of the agenda of the 51st session of the CSW can be found on the following website: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/51sess.htm>

The 2007 parliamentary event will place particular emphasis on the role of parliament and the difference it can make in addressing and putting an end to violence and discrimination against the girl child. In so doing it will provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates at the CSW which has as its main theme "The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child". One of the meeting's primary objectives is therefore to bring a parliamentary perspective and input to the CSW's deliberations.

Please find attached additional information on the event. We look forward to hearing from you, at your earliest convenience and preferably before **7 February 2007**.

Anders B. JOHNSON
Secretary General
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

Pier Ferdinando CASINI
President
of the Inter-Parliamentary Union