



Taking Action on Political Violence against Women

A panel discussion organised by IPU and UNDP



Conference Room A
25 February, 3:00-4:15 p.m.

Violence or the threat of violence is a significant impediment to women's political participation in many countries. Political violence against women can be generally defined as any acts of pressure, threats, harassment or persecution against a woman or her family aimed at preventing her from or restricting her in exercising her political rights and duties or causing her to take decisions against her will, principles or the law.

Gender based violence against women can also be a significant impediment to women's political participation as voters and candidates in an election, as well as elected or incumbent politicians in the exercise of a public or political function. It can have multiple sources and encompass actions committed within political parties, by opposition parties, by the media, by family and by members of the public.

This event will discuss the different manifestations of political violence against women and its root causes. It will also examine effective measures to put in place and actors to involve with a view of eliminating this scourge.

Panel Discussion

Chair/Moderator: **Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams**
Vice-President of the National Council of Namibia
Second Vice-President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

Format: Panellists will make a presentation focussing on concrete examples. Presentations will be followed by a discussion.

- **Ms. Julie Ballington**
Gender Advisor, Global Programme for Electoral Cycle Support (GPECS)
Democratic Governance Group, Bureau for Development Policy
United Nations Development Fund (UNDP)
- **Ms. Sonja Lokar**
CEE Network for Gender Issues
- **Ms. Loga Virahsawmy**
Gender Links Director, Mauritius and Francophone office
President of the Media Watch Organisation
- **Member of Parliament (to be confirmed)**

The debate will be held in English.