



Parliamentary strategies for tackling violence against women and girls

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and UN Women on the occasion of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women
5 March 2013, UN Headquarters, New York



INFORMATION NOTE

During the 57th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) - whose priority theme is Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the UN Women are organising a parliamentary event entitled **Parliamentary Strategies for Tackling Violence against Women and Girls**.

The meeting will take place on Tuesday, **5 March 2013**, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 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 UN Women in order to provide a forum for debate between parliamentarians from all over the world, and to contribute to the deliberations of the 57th CSW.

The meeting will focus on strategies to prevent, protect against and prosecute all forms of violence against women and girls. It will provide an opportunity to contribute to the debates at the CSW.

The morning session will discuss how parliamentarians' motivation and responsibilities create and sustain the political will necessary to address the issue. The afternoon session will be dedicated to discussing violence against women in politics. It will focus on measures that can be put forward to eliminate such acts of violence against women for political reasons, their link to political activities or their involvement in politics.

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 the role of parliaments in preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls.

Relevant documents

Background documents to be used throughout the meeting include:

- Written contributions of the panellists, when available;
- Documents of the 57th Session of the CSW.

Participants

The participants in the parliamentary event will include:

- Parliamentarians present in New York for the 57th Session of the CSW as members of their respective delegations. A letter of invitation will be sent by the IPU Secretary General to all Member and non-member parliaments of the IPU.
- Representatives of governments, relevant organisations and funds of the UN system, and civil society will also be invited.

Programme

9.30 - 10 a.m.	Registration of delegates
10.00- 10.30 a.m.	Welcome remarks
10.30 -11:30 a.m.	Testimonials - Behind a strong political will: parliamentarians' motivation and responsibilities
11:30 a.m. - 1p.m.	Theme 1 - When parliaments commit to ending violence against women and girls
1:00 – 2:30 p.m.	Lunch break
2:30 – 4:00. p.m.	Theme 2 - Violence against women in the political arena
4 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.	What next? Future strategies for parliaments to end violence against women
5.00 – 5:30 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, 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 and vs@mail.ipu.org).

Informal side-events

- ✓ Women in Politics: Latest trends (6 March, 4:45 – 6:00p.m., Conference Room B), organized by the IPU).
- ✓ Partnerships to address violence against women: Parliamentary caucuses as a platform (6 March, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m., Conference Room B), organized by the IPU.

N.B. Conference Room B does not have interpretation facilities and these two meetings will be held in English only.