



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
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Canada

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations are pleased to invite you to take part in a side event that will be held on the occasion of the 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women on:

## ***Sexism, Harassment and Violence against Women MPs***

Tuesday 14 March 2017, from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.  
Uganda House, New York

The increase in the number of women in politics, once a predominantly male domain, has changed a pre-established order and provoked resistance, including gender-specific forms of intimidation and violence. A study by the IPU reveals that [sexism, harassment and violence against women MPs](#) are global problems that impede gender equality and undermine the foundations of democracy. Women MPs worldwide are facing troubling level of psychological, sexual and physical violence from member of the public and from fellow MPs in parliament.

So, what needs to be done? The report calls upon male and female MPs to denounce such behaviours and reject sexist violence wherever it occurs. It calls parliaments to lead by example. Sexism and gender-based violence must no longer be viewed as the inevitable consequences of women's political participation.

This event will provide an opportunity to debate on an issue common to all nations and identify ways to remove these obstacles so women MPs can carry out their work freely and securely. The IPU survey (<http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/issuesbrief-e.pdf>) will be presented along with positive examples from individual women and men MPs and from parliaments that decided to say loud and clear that misogyny and gender-based violence have no place in politics just like they are not tolerable in all other settings.<sup>1</sup>

**Welcome remarks:** **Ms. Margaret Mensah-Williams**  
President of the IPU Bureau of Women Parliamentarians  
Chairperson of the National Council of Namibia

**Remarks by:**

- **The Honourable Maryam Monsef**  
Minister of Status of Women, Canada
- **Mr. Martin Chungong**  
IPU Secretary General
- Mr. Kolbeinn Óttarsson Proppé, MP (Iceland)

The presentations will be followed by an open discussion among parliamentarians.

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<sup>1</sup> The room does not have interpretation facilities and the side event will be held in English only.