For an effective parliamentary response to violence against women and girls

Lessons learned
Parliaments take action on violence against women and girls
IPU strategy

- Focuses on **all forms of violence** against women and girls at the international, regional and national levels

- Includes **men and women** parliamentarians

- Builds on parliaments’ and parliamentarians’ **political leadership and ability** to drive change

- Aims to respond to the **particular concerns and needs** of parliaments and parliamentarians
Three target areas

- Building a strong and effective legal framework
- Securing effective implementation
- Reinforcing prevention and transformation
Lessons learned
Lesson 1: Legislation and policy making are at the heart of parliamentary action

As legislators, what parliamentarians can do?

• Identify and eliminate discriminatory provisions in existing laws and policies

• Review, strengthen and develop legislation and policies on all forms of violence against women and girls

• Follow a comprehensive approach based on international standards

• Develop a consultative process (public consultations and advocacy centred on legislative agendas)

• Build your capacity in reviewing and drafting legislation on violence against women and girls
Lesson 2: Empowered parliaments and parliamentarians = effective actions on VAWG

How?

- Access to **expertise and tools** to support action by parliaments
- **Peer-to-peer engagement, exchange and learning** at the regional and global level
- **Mentorship and solidarity** between parliamentarians, especially between men and women

Tools and resources

- IPU, Parliaments take action on violence against women: Priority actions for parliaments, 2009
- UN Women, Handbook for legislation on violence against women, 2012
- UN Women, Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls (online tool): http://www.endvawnow.org
Lesson 3: A conducive environment facilitates parliament’s action on VAWG

How?

• Building **partnerships and alliances**
  – engagement with citizens, ministries, civil society, women’s organizations and other partners
  – cross-party alliances among parliamentarians

• Building **political momentum and national engagement**
Lesson 4: Implementation of laws and policies remains the main challenge

How can parliamentarians strengthen that?

• Budgeting to ensure adequate funding and long-term sustainability of programmes

• Including enforcement mechanisms in legislation and using their good offices to involve all those concerned

• Requesting regular research on the prevalence, causes and consequences of various forms of violence against women

• Regular monitoring of the implementation of legislation and policies, and assessing their impact

• Visibility and communication around legislation
Lesson 5: One cannot prevent VAWG without addressing gender inequality

How can parliamentarians strengthen that?

• Promoting respect for women and girls’ rights and their empowerment

• Creating an environment conducive for gender equality

• Working on changing social and cultural norms and attitudes

• **Engaging men and boys** in preventing and ending violence against women and girls

• Participating in media campaigns and raising awareness
Thank you

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