



# A PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

*Conference for Chairpersons and Members of Parliamentary Bodies  
Dealing with Gender Equality  
GENEVA, CICG, 2-4 December 2008*

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

**Tuesday, 2 December 2008**

08.30-09.30	<b>Registration of participants</b>
09.30-10.00	<b>Welcome remarks</b> Anders B. Johnsson, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union
10.00-10.30	<b>Keynote address:</b> <b>Preventing and addressing violence against women: a question of human rights and sustainable development</b> Pregaluxmi Govender, former Member of Parliament, South Africa
10.30-10.45	<b>Group photo</b>
10.45-11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11.00-13.00	<b>Session I: Overview of Approaches and Strategic Directions to End Violence against Women and Girls</b> The session will look at trends in terms of responses to VAW and discuss the different components of a comprehensive approach ( <b>prevention of violence against women, protection and support of the victim</b> ). Discussions will also focus on the different challenges faced that limit progress in addressing VAW. Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Maria Jose Alcalá, Senior Adviser, Ending Violence against Women, UNIFEM</i></li></ul> Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.
13.00-14.30	<b>Lunch break</b>
14.30-14.45	<b>Brief presentation on iKNOW Politics</b>
14.45-16.15	<b>Session 2: Violence against women: Recent trends and emerging forms</b> The session will provide an overview of the <b>different forms</b> of violence against women in the public and private spheres and look at new <b>emerging forms</b> of violence against women. Presentations by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <i>Prof. Yakin Erturk, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women</i></li><li>- <i>Ludivina Menchaca, Senator, Mexico</i></li></ul> Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.
16.15- 16.30	<b>Coffee break</b>

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16.30-18.00 **Session 3: International and regional legal frameworks to address VAW**

This session will look at the international and regional **legal frameworks** dealing with VAW. It will highlight in particular States' obligations and identify how these instruments set standards for achieving progress at the national level. The particular role of Parliaments in ensuring compliance with international and regional obligations related to VAW will also be examined.

Presentations by:

- *Nathalie Stadelmann, Petitions Unit, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights*
- *Nadine Puechguirbal, Advisor, Women and War, ICRC*
- *Claudia Herrmannsdorfer, Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM)*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate

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18.00 **Cocktail hosted for participants (IPU Headquarters)**

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### Wednesday, 3 December 2008

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09.00–11.00 **Session 4: Legislating against VAW**

The session will discuss **legislation** as a critical parliamentary step in addressing violence against women. Debates will focus on different components of legislating on VAW and provide examples of good practices

Presentations by:

- *Christine Brautigam, Chief, Women's Rights Section, UN Division for the Advancement of Women*
- *Attorney Rowena Guanzon, Philippines*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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11.00-11.30 **Coffee break**

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11.30-13.00 **Session 5: Implementation of legislation: ensuring adequate funding**

While legislation is a critical first step in addressing VAW, ensuring proper implementation is a prerequisite to progress. The session will look at the role of parliament in overseeing proper implementation of laws on VAW. Attention will be placed on **costing violence against women and action to address it**. It will look at how **gender sensitive budgeting** can contribute to better implementation of VAW legislation.

Presentations by:

- *Prof. Katherine McKenna, Department of History and the Centre for Women's Studies and Feminist Research, The University of Western Ontario*
- *Emma Oteo, Almenara Institute for Social and Economic Studies*
- *Ynze de Jong, Consultant*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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13.00-14.30 **Lunch break**

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14.30-16.00 **Session 6: Implementation of legislation: Monitoring and overseeing governmental action**

The session will look at the role of parliament in monitoring progress and overseeing governmental action in relation to the implementation of legislation. The role of **parliamentary committees** will be particularly highlighted. Specific attention will also focus on the need to use **indicators to monitor progress**. Regular review processes, and national institutional mechanisms, will also be discussed.

Presentations by:

- *Steven Malby, Research Officer, Statistics and Surveys Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)*
- *Mercé Pigem, Member of the Spanish Chamber of Deputies, Member of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee on follow up to the Violence against Women Law*
- *Claudia Herrmannsdorfer, Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM)*

Presentations followed by a plenary debate.

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16.00-16.15 **Coffee break**

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16.15-18.00 **Session 7: Partnerships: working with men**

The panel will discuss the importance of **working with men** in preventing and addressing violence against women and provide examples of where such partnership has been key in making change, whether in the development of legislation, the sensitization of populations, the changing of attitudes and behaviour.

Presentations by:

- *Chris Green, Executive Director, White Ribbon Campaign, United Kingdom*
- *Elizabeth Powley, Consultant in gender and governance*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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**Thursday, 4 December 2008**

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09.30-11.00 **Session 8: Making VAW a priority issue**

The session will highlight ways to ensure that VAW remains a priority issue at the national and international levels. It will present various case studies, including **campaigns** and other initiatives developed with the media, civil society etc.

Presentations by:

- *José Mendes Bota, Vice-President of the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, Rapporteur of the parliamentary dimension of the Campaign to Combat Violence against Women, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*
- *Alika Kholsa, Associate Director, Breakthrough, India*
- *Presentations on various United Nations Campaigns*

Presentations to be followed by a plenary debate.

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11.00-11.30 **Coffee break**

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11.30-13.00 **What next? Strategies for the future**

The session will aim at identifying priorities for parliamentary committees and mechanisms to support progress. What can parliamentary committees do? What priorities and what commitments? It will also discuss possible cooperation with international organizations and other partners in this field.

Presentations by:

- *Dominique Tilmans, President of the Advisory Committee on Equal Opportunities between women and men, Senate of Belgium*
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13.00-14.30 **Lunch break**

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14.30-16.00 **Lessons Learned and Defining a Future**

Discussion on lessons learned  
Elaboration of follow-up activities.

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