



Regional Seminar for Asian Parliaments

**Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls:  
From legislation to effective enforcement**

New Delhi, 15-17 September 2011

Organized by  
The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Parliament of India



Inter-Parliamentary Union

**PROGRAMME**

**Thursday, 15 September, 2011**

9 -10 a.m.

**Opening session**

**Addresses by:**

**Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab**, President of the IPU

**Ms. Meira Kumar**, Speaker of the Lok Sabha

**Mr. T. K. Viswanathan**, Secretary General of the Lok Sabha and of the Lok Sabha Secretariat

10.15 a.m.-12 noon

**Session 1: Violence against women and girls: Forms, causes, consequences and overview of strategic approaches in Asia**

*Violence against women has reached epidemic proportions and spares no society. It can take many forms and appears everywhere: domestic violence, sexual abuse in schools, sexual harassment in the workplace, early or forced marriage, so-called honour crimes, sexual assault, rape as a weapon of war, etc. This session seeks to shed light on the root causes and consequences of the various forms of violence against women and girls in the world and in Asia. Discussions will also focus on trends in terms of responses to end this scourge.*

Chair: **Ms. Kumari Selja**, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Culture (India)

- Video message from **Ms. Michelle Bachelet**, Executive Director, UN Women, to be displayed

Panellist:

- **Ms. Amarsanaa Darisuren**, Human Rights Specialist, UN Women East and Southeast Office

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

12.10-1.30 p.m.

**Session 2: International legal instruments and model framework on legislation to address violence against women and girls**

*This session will examine the international legal instruments dealing with violence against women. Special emphasis will be placed on the way the relevant instruments set standards with a view to obtaining results at the national level. It will also focus on legislation, a crucial step in providing an effective parliamentary response to violence against women and girls. In particular, participants will look at the various components of legislation and examples of good practices.*

Chair: **Ms. Eva Abdulla**, Member of Parliament (Maldives)

Panellists:

- **Ms. Indira Jaising**, Member of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (India)
- **Ms. Rosalyn Park**, Research Director, The Advocates for Human Rights (USA)

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

1.30-3 p.m.

**Hosted lunch**

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3-5 p.m.

**Session 3: Process and challenges of developing and effecting legal reform on all forms of violence against women**

*Participants will examine the elements of the legislative process required to put an end to violence against women by analysing how violence is addressed in national legislation, identifying loopholes, defining the objective of legislative reform, consulting all interested parties, in particular those who will have to apply the law, resorting to experts, etc. The discussion will also include parliamentary strategies for legislating and preparing the public to accept a relevant law: The role of committees and other parliamentary mechanisms, partnerships with civil society and joint action between men and women, sensitization and consultative parliamentary missions, etc.*

Chair: **Ms. Sumitra Mahajan**, Member of Parliament (India), Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Rural Development, Lok Sabha

Panellists:

- **Ms. Njoki S. Ndungu**, Judge of the Supreme Court, Former Member of Parliament (Kenya)
- **Ms. Rozaina Adam**, Member of Parliament (Maldives), Chairperson of the Domestic Violence Prohibition Bill Evaluation Committee, Vice Chairperson of the National Security Committee, and the Vice President of Dhivehi Rayyithunge Party (DRP) Women's Wing

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

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Evening

**Reception hosted by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha**

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Friday, 16 September, 2011

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9.30-11 a.m.

**Session 4: Implementation of legislation: Costing violence against women and ensuring adequate funding**

*The direct and indirect costs of gender-based violence are extremely high for women, their families, communities and countries as a whole. During this session, attention will be given to costing violence against women and to the role of parliament in making these costs visible in the national budget. The session will also focus on how gender-responsive budgeting can contribute to better implementation of legislation and plans of action to combat violence against women.*

Chair: **Ms. Kinrana Sumaweng**, Senator (Thailand)

Panellists:

- **Ms. Libby Lloyd AM**, Chair (Commonwealth's) Violence Against Women Advisory Group (VAWAG), Board Member White Ribbon Foundation (Australia)
- **Ms. Yamini Mishra**, Regional advisor on gender responsive budgeting, UN Women

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

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11.10 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Session 5: Implementation of legislation: Monitoring and overseeing government action**

*It is important to legislate in order to obtain results, but it is equally crucial to ensure proper enforcement of legislation. The session will look at the role of parliament in monitoring progress and overseeing government action in relation to the implementation of legislation and national policies on eliminating violence against women. Special emphasis will be placed on the role of parliamentary committees. Specific attention will be given to adequate responses in place for victims, and on cracking down on perpetrators and combating impunity. The session will also deal with the coordinated action of the various key stakeholders.*

Chair: **Ms. Fouzia Habib**, Member of the National Assembly (Pakistan)

Panellists:

- **Ms. Rosalyn Park**, Research Director, The Advocates for Human Rights (USA)
- **Ms. Paroma Ray**, Programme Officer, Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative (India)
- **Ms. Pusadee Tamthai**, Member of the House of Representatives (Thailand)

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

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1-2.30 p.m.

**Hosted lunch**

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2.30-5 p.m.

**Session 6 (first part): Working groups on legislation and effective enforcement**

**1) Domestic violence**

Moderator: **Ms. Rosalyn Park**,  
The Advocates for Human  
Rights

Rapporteur: **Ms. Chong Eng  
Chong**, Member of Parliament  
(Malaysia)

- Country experiences
- Drawing up a plan of action

**2) Sexual violence and sexual  
harassment in public spaces**

Moderator: **Ms. Stephanie  
Miedema**, Partners for  
Prevention

Rapporteur: **Ms. Nancy Shukri**,  
Member of Parliament  
(Malaysia)

- Country experiences
- Drawing up a plan of action

**3) Harmful practices against wom**

Moderator: **Ms. Amarsanaa  
Darisuren**, UN Women

Rapporteur: **Ms. Eva Abdulla**,  
Member of Parliament (Maldives)

- Country experiences
  - Drawing up a plan of action
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Evening

**Free**

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**Saturday, 17 September, 2011**

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9.30 - 10.45 a.m. **Session 6 (second part): Reports of the working groups on legislation and effective enforcement**  
**Chair: Ms. Nurhayati Ali Assegaf**, Member of Parliament (Indonesia), President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

Presentations of the reports

- 1) Domestic violence : **Ms. Chong Eng Chong**, Member of Parliament (Malaysia)
- 2) Sexual violence and sexual harassment in public spaces: **Ms. Nancy Shukri**, Member of Parliament (Malaysia)
- 3) **Harmful practices against women: Ms. Eva Abdulla**, Member of Parliament (Maldives)

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

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11 a.m.-12.30 p.m. **Session 7: Preventing violence against women and girls and creating an enabling environment**  
*What can be done at different levels of society to help prevent violence against women? The discussion will be centred on primary prevention and social change. Participants will examine what measures that can be taken to bring about a change in attitude and behaviour. The importance of working with boys and men in gender-based violence prevention programmes will also be highlighted. Case studies will be presented primarily on education and awareness-raising campaigns and other initiatives taken by the media, civil society, etc.*  
**Chair: Ms. Angelica Amante-Matba**, Member of Parliament (Philippines)

Panellists:

- **Ms. Stephanie Miedema**, Research Analyst, Partners for Prevention: Working to Prevent Violence against Women, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women & UNV Regional Joint Programme for Asia and the Pacific
- **Mr. Rajiv Kale**, Director, Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Delhi (India)

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

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12.30-2 p.m. **Hosted lunch**

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2 - 2.30 p.m. **Presentation of the IPU programme "Parliaments Take Action on Violence against Women"**  

- **Mr. Martin Chungong**, IPU Director, Division for the Promotion of Democracy

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2.30-3.30 p.m. **Session 8: Summary of the seminar**  
**Chair: Ms. Nancy Shukri**, Member of Parliament (Malaysia)

Lessons learned

Follow-up action

Presentation of final conclusions by the General Rapporteur **Ms. Attiya Inayatullah**, Member of the National Assembly (Pakistan)

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3.30-4 p.m. **Closing session**  
**Addresses by:**  
**Mrs. Harsimrat Kaur Badal**, Member of Parliament (India)  
**Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab**, President of the IPU

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