



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

New Delhi, 15-17 September 2011



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The conference for Asian parliaments on *“Preventing and responding to violence against women and girls: From legislation to effective law enforcement”* co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliament of India, will be held from 15 September to 17 September 2011, at the Parliament House Complex, New Delhi.

### 1. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE SEMINAR

Violence against women and girls is a human rights violation and an extreme form of gender-based discrimination. It is rampant both in the public and private spheres and jeopardizes rights, freedom, health, the quality of life and the very life of women, irrespective of their nationality, age and social status. This form of violence has considerable human, social and economic costs and reduces women’s contribution to development, peace and security.

Several Asian countries have shown their willingness to eliminate this scourge and have adopted relevant legislation. Parliaments and parliamentarians are responsible for passing laws to prevent and crack down on all forms of violence against women and girls, but parliamentary responsibility does not end there. This first step often remains insufficient and must be accompanied by strong measures to secure effective law enforcement and initiatives to raise awareness and change attitudes.

This seminar aims to provide men and women parliamentarians of the region with the elements of a comprehensive and multisectoral response to violence against women and familiarize them with the components of legislation to effectively tackle this problem. Special emphasis will be placed on prevention and parliamentary mechanisms to secure the effective enforcement of relevant legislation, including parliaments’ oversight and budgetary powers and their ability to monitor and facilitate law enforcement.

Parliamentarians will be afforded the opportunity to exchange experiences, take stock of the situation in the region and express their opinions. During the seminar, parliamentarians will be able to identify appropriate parliamentary action required to ensure respect for the fundamental rights of women and girls and their right to a life free of violence.

### 2. VENUE AND DATE

The seminar will be held from 15 to 17 September 2011, at the Parliament House Complex, New Delhi (India).

### 3. PARTICIPATION

The seminar is open to parliamentary delegations from the following Asian countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam.

Parliaments are invited to send delegations not exceeding three members and composed of both sexes.

### 4. ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with the IPU's practice, all participants will have equal speaking rights. So that the discussions can be as fruitful and enriching as possible, the following arrangements have been foreseen so far:

- (a) There will be no list of speakers on any agenda item. After an agenda item has been introduced by the resource persons, the floor will be open to participants for questions and comments.

(b) Experience has shown that this kind of meeting is not suitable for pre-prepared statements to be read out. Subject to arrangements which the Chair may make to suit the circumstances, oral contributions may not exceed three minutes. Participants may, however, speak several times on each item, particularly to respond to other statements.

(c) A General Rapporteur will be called upon on the last day to sum up the work of the Seminar at its concluding session.

The debates will take place in English. Delegations who wish to have interpretation into their own language are kindly requested to inform the host Parliament which will arrange for interpretation booths and necessary equipment. The delegations concerned will be responsible for recruiting and covering the expenses of their interpreters.

## 5. DOCUMENTS

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Written texts of the presentations by the resource persons will be distributed to participants as they become available.

To the extent possible and for the information of participants, IPU's Secretariat will make available background documentation relevant to the issues under discussion.

Participants wishing to distribute to their colleagues relevant documentation will be required to provide it in sufficient quantities and put it on a table set aside for that purpose.

## 6. REGISTRATION

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Invited parliaments are requested to send their list of participants attending the seminar **no later than 2 August 2011** using the enclosed Registration Form, to the following addresses:

### Contact/Address in India:

Mr. U.S. Saxena  
Joint Secretary  
Lok Sabha Secretariat  
Parliament House Annexe  
New Delhi – 110 001  
India  
Tel: +91-11-23035168  
Fax: +91-11-23015885; +91-11-23092953  
E-mail: [ussaxena@sansad.nic.in](mailto:ussaxena@sansad.nic.in);  
[ipuc-lss@sansad.nic.in](mailto:ipuc-lss@sansad.nic.in)

### cc:

Inter-Parliamentary Union  
5 chemin du Pommier  
case postale 330  
1218 Grand-Saconnex  
Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 22 919 41 50  
Fax: +41 22 919 41 60  
e-mail: [postbox@mail.ipu.org](mailto:postbox@mail.ipu.org); [vs@mail.ipu.org](mailto:vs@mail.ipu.org)

## 7. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND RESERVATIONS

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The Host Group has made block bookings at the following hotels:

(i) **The Ashok** (Diplomatic Enclave, 50-B Chanakayapuri, New Delhi - 110021 INDIA, Phone: +91-11 26110101, +91-11 26116161, Fax: +91-11 26876060, +91-11 26873216, Email: [ashokhotel@vsnl.com](mailto:ashokhotel@vsnl.com); [ashoknd@ndb.vsnl.net.in](mailto:ashoknd@ndb.vsnl.net.in), Web Site: [www.theashok.com](http://www.theashok.com), [www.theashokconvention.com](http://www.theashokconvention.com);

(ii) **Hotel Samrat** (Kautilya Marg , Chanakyapuri, New Delhi-110021, INDIA, Phone: +91-11-26110606, Fax: +91-11-26887047, Email: [info@hotelsamrat.co.in](mailto:info@hotelsamrat.co.in))

Participants are kindly requested to complete the hotel registration form and return it no later than 15 August 2011.

Reservations received after this date cannot be guaranteed and will be subject to availability. Reservations will be dealt with on a first-come first-serve basis. Participants are asked to settle their bill directly with the hotel.

## 8. ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

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In order to ensure an efficient reception service, all participants are kindly requested to provide the necessary arrival and departure information, including dates, flight numbers and arrival and departure times on the hotel reservation form.

The competent services of the Lok Sabha will welcome delegates upon their arrival at New Delhi International Airport, and arrange their ground transfers to and from the airport. They will also provide transfers for delegates between their hotels and the official seminar venue and related events.

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## **9. VISAS**

Entry visas are required except for citizens of countries which have visa exemption agreements with India.

For delegates from countries where there are no Indian diplomatic/consular missions, visas will be issued upon arrival at New Delhi International Airport. In such cases, delegates are kindly requested to send by fax a copy of their passport indicating its number, as well as flight details (name of airline and the date and time of arrival at New Delhi), in order to facilitate their entry into India.

Please note that this arrangement is applicable only for entering and leaving India. For travels routed through other countries, delegates must make their own arrangements to comply with the immigration requirements of transit countries.

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## **10. MEDICAL FACILITIES**

During the seminar, first aid facilities will be provided at the venue. All other medical facilities and prescriptions will be at the participants' own expense.

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## **11. REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK**

A Registration and Information Desk will be available to participants at the seminar venue from 15 September to 17 September. It shall operate from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Participants are kindly requested to register with this service as soon as possible after their arrival. It will issue identity badges, deal with enquiries concerning the seminar and handle messages and mail.

For the purpose of identity badges, delegates are kindly requested to send their passport-size photographs with white background to the Host Secretariat along with their travel details through e-mail. A profile / Bio-data of the delegate may also be enclosed.

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## **12. SECURITY**

All necessary security measures will be taken by the national authorities. Participants are required to wear their identity badges at all times when they are at the seminar venue and at all official functions during the seminar.

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## **13. WEATHER CONDITIONS**

New Delhi does not witness much of rainy season. The monsoon lasts from July to September. October sees the end of the monsoon. The month of September is reasonably pleasant. The average temperature will be 26 - 34°C and the average rainfall will be 178 mm.

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## **14. CURRENCY REGULATIONS**

In May 2011, the exchange rate was about Rs.43.15 = US\$ 1.

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## **15. PRESS**

Journalists wishing to cover the seminar are requested to obtain accreditation from the Host Parliament.

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## **16. OTHER SERVICES**

The following services will be available to participants in the seminar venue:

- Bureau de change at State Bank of India, Parliament House
- Cyber Cafe
- Stenographic assistance
- Photography

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## **17. SOCIAL EVENTS**

The programme of social events will be communicated to participants in due course.