



MIGRATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN EUROPE

PARIS, 10 AND 11 DECEMBER 2009
Salle Lamartine, French National Assembly



Regional Conference organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

INFORMATION DOCUMENT

1. **OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR**

Women are particularly exposed to violence at all stages of the migration process. Sometimes, gender-based persecution and violence are behind their decision to migrate, although this type of persecution is not always recognized as grounds for protection in their receiving country. Women can also be forced to migrate in the context of trafficking aimed at exploiting them for sexual or labour purposes. During their journey and upon their arrival in Europe, their vulnerability can be heightened by their precarious socio-economic situation, isolation and migration policies and laws that marginalize them.

The Conference is intended to inform European parliamentarians about the causes of the heightened vulnerability of women migrants to gender-based violence and identify responses with a view to guaranteeing respect for their fundamental rights. The proceedings will focus on regional and international human rights treaties dealing with violence against women, human trafficking, the rights of women migrant workers and refugee status. The Conference will also provide an opportunity to explore various forms of international cooperation in combating violence against women in the context of migration.

2. **PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

The provisional programme of the Conference is attached.

3. **ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS**

Members of parliament and/or experts and representatives of international organizations will introduce the topics on the agenda. The emphasis will be on discussion, and everything will be done to leave ample time for a free exchange of views.

4. **PARTICIPATION**

This Conference is intended for the Member Parliaments of the Twelve Plus Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. The parliaments concerned are invited to send a delegation of no more than two persons, preferably one male and one female delegate, with experience in the areas of human rights, immigration and the status of women and/or who are members of a parliamentary committee dealing with those issues. The meeting is also open to PACE's Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and its Committee on Migration, Refugees and Population.

5. **LANGUAGES**

The Secretariats of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe will provide simultaneous interpretation into English, French, German, Italian and Russian. Documents will be distributed in English and French where possible.

6. VENUE AND DATES

The Conference will be held on 10 and 11 December 2009 at the Salle Lamartine of the French National Assembly in Paris. Please find attached a map of the building indicating the exact location of the Salle Lamartine.

7. REGISTRATION OF DELEGATES

The parliaments participating in the Seminar **are kindly requested to make known the composition of their delegations before 20 November 2009 using the attached registration form.**

This information should be sent to the following address:

▶ Inter-Parliamentary Union	Telephone: +41 22 919 41 50
5, Chemin du Pommier,	Fax: +41 22 919 41 60
Case postale 330	e-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org
1218 Grand-Saconnex	
Geneva, Switzerland	

8. TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Delegates will be responsible for making their own travel arrangements.

9. HOTEL RESERVATIONS

Matters concerning hotel accommodations are to be handled by the participants. A list of hotels close to the French National Assembly is attached.

10. TRANSPORTATION IN PARIS

The Inter-Parliamentary Union will not provide ground transportation services in Paris.