

Seminar for East and Southern African Parliaments



National Assembly of the
United Republic of Tanzania

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

Dar es Salaam, 5-7 December 2012

Organized by
The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the National Assembly of the United Republic
of Tanzania



Inter-Parliamentary
Union

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 East and Southern African 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 parliament's oversight and budgetary powers and 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 5 to 7 December 2012 at the White Sands Hotel in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania.

3. PARTICIPATION

The regional seminar will be open to **members and staff** of the national parliaments from following East and Southern African countries: Angola, Botswana, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

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

ORGANIZATION OF PROCEEDINGS

In accordance with IPU 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:

- (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 does not lend itself to the reading out of prepared statements. 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.

4. DOCUMENTS

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, the IPU 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 place it on a table set aside for that purpose.

The provisional agenda of the seminar is attached.

5. REGISTRATION

Invited parliaments are requested to send their list of participants attending the seminar **no later than 9 November 2012** using the enclosed Registration Form, to the following addresses:

**The Clerk,
National Assembly of the United Republic of
Tanzania**

P.O. Box 941, Dodoma, Tanzania

Tel: +255262322761-5,

Fax: +255262324218

Mobile: +255754628521

e-mail: warburgj@gmail.com

bidya80@yahoo.ca

neemakiula2002@yahoo.com

egidioson@yahoo.co.uk

With copy to: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Address:

case postale 330

1218 Grand-Saconnex

Geneva, Switzerland

e-mail: postbox@mail.ipu.org

Tel.: +41 22 919 41 50/45

Fax: +41 22 919 41 60

6. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND RESERVATIONS

Participants are kindly requested to complete the Hotel Registration Form and return it as soon as possible and no later than **9 November 2012**.

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.

7. TRAVEL, ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

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 National Assembly of the Republic of Tanzania will welcome delegates upon their arrival at Julius K. Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam 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.

Parliaments participating in the seminar are kindly asked to make their own travel arrangements. They will have to bear the travel costs and the costs related to their delegates' participation.

8. VISAS

Entry visas are required except for citizens of countries which have visa exemption agreements with the United Republic of Tanzania.

For delegates from countries where there are no Tanzanian diplomatic/consular missions, visas will be issued upon arrival at Julius K. Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam. In such cases, delegates are kindly requested to send by fax a copy of their passport, indicating the number, flight details (name of airline and date and time of arrival) in order to facilitate their entry into the United Republic of Tanzania.

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

9. 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.

10. REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION DESK

A Registration and Information Desk will be available to participants at the seminar venue from 4 December 2012. 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.

11. 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.

11. WEATHER CONDITIONS

During December the average temperatures in Dar es Salaam range between 24 C° and 27 C° and it often rains.

12. CURRENCY REGULATIONS

The exchange rate was about Tsh. 1,590 – 1,600. to 1. US\$ on 28 September 2012.

13. PRESS

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