



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

For an effective parliamentary response to violence against women and girls

Lessons learned





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Parliaments take action on violence against women and girls

IPU strategy

- Focuses on **all forms of violence** against women and girls at the international, regional and national levels
- Includes **men and women** parliamentarians
- Builds on parliaments' and parliamentarians' **political leadership and ability** to drive change
- Aims to respond to the **particular concerns and needs** of parliaments and parliamentarians



Three target areas

- Building a strong and effective **legal framework**
- Securing effective **implementation**
- Reinforcing **prevention** and **transformation**





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Lesson 1: Legislation and policy making are at the heart of parliamentary action

As legislators, what parliamentarians can do?

- Identify and eliminate **discriminatory provisions** in existing laws and policies
- Review, strengthen and develop **legislation and policies** on all forms of violence against women and girls
- Follow a **comprehensive approach** based on **international standards**
- Develop a **consultative process** (public consultations and advocacy centred on legislative agendas)
- **Build your capacity** in reviewing and drafting legislation on violence against women and girls



Lesson 2: Empowered parliaments and parliamentarians = effective actions on VAWG

How?

- Access to **expertise and tools** to support action by parliaments
- **Peer-to-peer engagement, exchange and learning** at the regional and global level
- **Mentorship and solidarity** between parliamentarians, especially between men and women

Tools and resources

- IPU, Parliaments take action on violence against women: Priority actions for parliaments, 2009
- Parliamentary Network “Women Free From Violence”, PACE, *Handbook for Parliamentarians: Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence*, August 2012.
- UN Women, Handbook for legislation on violence against women, 2012
- UN Women, Supplement to the Handbook for legislation on violence against women: “Harmful Practices” against women (2012)
- UN Women, Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls (online tool): <http://www.endvawnow.org>



Lesson 3: A conducive environment facilitates parliament's action on VAWG

How?

- Building **partnerships and alliances**
 - engagement with citizens, ministries, civil society, women's organizations and other partners
 - cross-party alliances among parliamentarians
- Building **political momentum and national engagement**



Lesson 4: Implementation of laws and policies remains the main challenge

How can parliamentarians strengthen that?

- Budgeting to ensure **adequate funding** and **long-term sustainability** of programmes
- Including **enforcement mechanisms** in legislation and using their good offices to **involve all those concerned**
- Requesting **regular research** on the prevalence, causes and consequences of various forms of violence against women
- **Regular monitoring** of the implementation of legislation and policies, and **assessing their impact**
- **Visibility and communication** around legislation



Lesson 5: One cannot prevent VAWG without addressing gender inequality

How can parliamentarians strengthen that?

- Promoting respect for **women and girls' rights** and **their empowerment**
- Creating an **environment conducive** for gender equality
- Working on **changing social and cultural norms and attitudes**
- **Engaging men and boys** in preventing and ending violence against women and girls
- Participating in **media campaigns** and **raising awareness**





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Thank you

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