



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy, for everyone.

Regional Seminar for Asia-Pacific Parliaments

Ending the cycle of violence against girls in Asia-Pacific

Dhaka, 23-25 September 2014

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



Bangladesh Parliament

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 23 September 2014

9.30 – 10 a.m. **Registration of participants**

10 – 11 a.m. **Inaugural Ceremony**

Programme for the Inaugural Ceremony will be available on the spot.

11.10 – 11.30 a.m. **Group photo and tea break**

11.30 a.m. – 12.45 p.m. **Session 1**

Violence against women and girls: Forms, causes and consequences

This session will address the reasons why violence against girls should be tackled as a matter of priority. It will look at the situation of girls - the girl-child and teenage girls - in the Asia-Pacific region, discuss the most common forms of violence they face, and explore the differences between the response to violence against women and the response to violence against girls. The session will also shed light on the root causes and consequences of violence on girls' health, education and economic empowerment, and on the development of Asia-Pacific societies.

Chairperson: **Ms. Meher Afroze**, MP, State Minister, Ministry of Women and Children Affairs of the Government of Bangladesh

Panellists:

Ms. Anna-Karin Jafors, Regional Programme Manager, Ending Violence against Women, UN WOMEN

Dr Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli, Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Scientist, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (WHO)

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

12.45 a.m. – 1.45 p.m. **Session 2**

Elements of a comprehensive and effective response to violence against women and girls

The discussion will be centred on the different elements of an effective response to violence against girls and will give an overview of the international human rights standards that should guide this response. Participants will look at how legislation, enforcement, budgeting and monitoring law implementation can be crucial steps in providing an effective parliamentary response to violence against girls.

Panellists:

Ms. Violeta Neubauer, Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

Ms. Brigitte Filion, Programme Officer, Programme for Partnership between men and women, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

1.45 - 2.45 p.m. **Lunch**

2.45 – 4.15 p.m.	Session 3 Early marriage This session will address the situation of early marriage in Asia-Pacific. Participants will examine the core elements of the development and implementation of legal reform on early marriage and examples of good practice. They will also look at national action plans, specific programmes and preventive measures. Chairperson: Dr. Neena Raina , Regional Advisor Child and Adolescent Health (CAH), WHO/SEARO Panellists: Ms. Elisa Scolaro , Technical Officer, Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. Mohammed Sirajul Akbar , Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh Question-and-answer session and plenary debate
4.15 - 4.30 p.m.	Tea break
4.30 - 6 p.m.	Session 4 Violence against girls in the family The session will look at the situation of violence against girls in the home and in the family in Asia-Pacific. Specific attention will be paid to the needs of girls and what should be done to improve protection and response. Chairperson: Ms. Kasthuri Patto , Member of parliament of Malaysia Panellists: Mr. Stephan Adkisson , Deputy Regional Director of UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia Ms. Lepolo Taunisila , Country Focal Officer for Tonga – Secretariat of the Pacific Community, Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team, Former MP Question-and-answer session and plenary debate
<hr/> Wednesday, 24 September 2014	
9.15 – 9.30 a.m.	Welcoming remarks by Ms. Salma Atallahjan , Senator; Member of the IPU Executive Committee, IPU Goodwill Ambassador on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health
9.30 - 11 a.m.	Session 5 Sexual violence against girls This session will address the situation in Asia-Pacific and identify challenges and strategic directions needed to strengthen legislation and policies aimed at combating sexual violence against girls. Participants will also debate the need for and ways of creating safer environments for girls in schools, communities and cities. Chairperson: Mr. Dophu Dukpa , MP, National Assembly of Bhutan Panellists: Ms. Kiran Bhatia , Gender Adviser, Asia and Pacific Regional Office (APRO), UNFPA Mr. Leo Kenny , UNAIDS Country Director for Bangladesh Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors , Regional Programme Manager, Ending Violence against Women, UN WOMEN and Ms. Kiran Bhatia , Gender Adviser, Asia and Pacific Regional Office (APRO), UNFPA Question-and-answer session and plenary debate

11 – 11.15 a.m.	Tea break			
11.15 a.m.- 12.45 p.m.	Session 6 Parliamentary strategies for developing and effecting legal reform on violence against women and girls Participants will examine the elements of the legislative process required to put an end to violence against girls by analysing how violence is addressed in national legislation, identifying loopholes and defining the purpose of legislative reform. The discussion will focus on examples of good practice of parliamentary strategies for legislating and preparing the public to accept a relevant law. It will also underscore parliaments' contribution to effective implementation of legislation on violence against girls, through their oversight role and the allocation of adequate funding from the national budget. The role of committees and other parliamentary bodies will be highlighted. Chairperson: Mr. Saber Hossain Chowdhury , Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh Panellists: Ms. Fazilatun Nessa , Member of the Parliament of Bangladesh Ms. Sun Sapoeun , Member of Parliament of Cambodia Ms. Gatolaoifaana Amataga Gidlow , Member of Parliament of Samoa Question-and-answer session and plenary debate			
12.45 - 2 p.m.	Lunch			
2 - 4.30 p.m.	Session 7 (Part I) Working groups on parliamentary needs, strategies and actions to end violence against girls <table><tr><td>1) Early marriage Moderator : Dr Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli (WHO) Rapporteur : Dr. Habibe Millat, Member of parliament of Bangladesh</td><td>2) Violence against girls within the family Moderator : Mr. Leo Kenny, (UNAIDS) Rapporteur : Ms. Taranah Halim, Member of parliament of Bangladesh</td><td>3) Sexual violence against girls Moderator : Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors (UN Women) Rapporteur : Mr. Nima, Member of the National Council of Bhutan</td></tr></table>	1) Early marriage Moderator : Dr Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli (WHO) Rapporteur : Dr. Habibe Millat , Member of parliament of Bangladesh	2) Violence against girls within the family Moderator : Mr. Leo Kenny , (UNAIDS) Rapporteur : Ms. Taranah Halim , Member of parliament of Bangladesh	3) Sexual violence against girls Moderator : Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors (UN Women) Rapporteur : Mr. Nima , Member of the National Council of Bhutan
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4.30 p.m.	Visit of the Parliament of Bangladesh			
7 p.m.	Cultural programme and dinner offered to be hosted by the Honourable Speaker of the Parliament of Bangladesh in honour of the participants of the seminar, at Grand Ball Room, Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel			
Thursday, 25 September 2014				
9.30 - 10.45 a.m.	Session 7 (Part II) Reports of the working groups on parliamentary needs, strategies and actions to end violence against girls Chairperson: M. Martin Tofinga , Member of Parliament of Kiribati Presentations of the reports 1) Early marriage Presented by Dr. Habibe Millat , Member of parliament of Bangladesh 2) Violence against girls within the family Presented by Ms. Taranah Halim , Member of parliament of Bangladesh 3) Sexual violence against girls Presented by Mr. Nima , Member of the National Council of Bhutan Question-and-answer session and plenary debate			

10.45 - 11 a.m.	Tea break
11 a.m.-12.30 p.m.	Session 8 Partnership in the prevention of and response to violence against girls To be effective, actions to prevent and stop violence against girls must be based on close collaboration of various stakeholders at different levels of society. This session will focus on awareness-raising campaigns and other initiatives based on strong alliances between the parliament, government, media, civil society and local communities. The importance of working with boys and men will also be highlighted. Chairperson: Ms. Normala Abdul Samad , Member of Parliament of Malaysia Panellists: Dr. Sancheeta Ghosh , Manager - M&E, Breakthrough: bring human rights home Ms Jamie Terzie , CARE Bangladesh's Country Director Question-and-answer session and plenary debate
12.30 - 2 p.m.	Lunch
2 - 3.30 p.m.	Session 9 Summary of the seminar General discussion on lessons learned from the seminar and follow-up action. Presentation of final conclusions by the General Rapporteur Chairperson: Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury , MP, Honourable Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament
3.30 - 4 p.m.	Closing session Ms. Salma Atullahjan , Senator; Member of the IPU Executive Committee, IPU Goodwill Ambassador on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Dr. Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury , MP, Honourable Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament
