



# A parliamentary perspective on discrimination and violence against the girl child



New York, 1 March 2007

A parliamentary event organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women on the occasion of the 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women

## PROVISIONAL ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

**10.00 - 10.20 a.m.** *Inaugural session*

Mr. Pier-Ferdinando Casini, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Ms. Carolyn Hannan, Director, Division for the Advancement of Women

Chairperson

of the Meeting:

Ms. Mónica Xavier, Senator (Uruguay) and President of the IPU Coordinating Committee of Women Parliamentarians

\*\*\*

**10.20 - 10.40 a.m.** **Key note address: Violence and discrimination against the girl child: general introduction**

Ms. Rima Salah, Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF

\*\*\*

**10.40- 1 p.m.**

**Session one: Combating discrimination and violence against the girl child**

*Key themes: assessing and identifying violence and discrimination; parliamentary mechanisms to combat violence against the girl child; legislative reform; holistic approach; implementing mechanisms; international standards.*

**Theme 1:**

**A holistic and human rights based approach**

*Combating violence and discrimination against the girl child requires a multifaceted approach linking legislation, policies and development interventions to efforts to change stereotypical attitudes and behavior. A strong focus on the human rights of girls is required. How can MPs make a difference? What are some of the tools and mechanisms parliamentarians have at their disposal? What is the role of ombudspersons? Child-friendly budgeting? Parliamentary committees on children?*

Amb. Moushira Khattab, Vice Chair of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child

**Theme 2:**

**Transforming social roles**

*How to address gender stereotypes? How to change attitudes and practices? How to positively redefine the role and status of girl children? How to engage men and boys? How can MPs use their position as opinion leaders to change attitudes?*

Mr. Gary Barker - Executive Director of Instituto Promundo, Brazil

*General discussion*

---

**1 - 3 p.m.**

***Lunch break***

---

**3.00- 5.45 p.m.:**

**Session two: Empowering the girl child**

*Key themes: safe and secure environments, changing attitudes; transforming social roles and models; providing opportunities; education.*

**Theme 3:**

**Legislative reform: drawing the line**

*What type of legislation is needed to combat discrimination and violence against the girl child? What are the current challenges and gaps? What types of input (general information, data, hearings, field trips, etc) do MPs need to draft appropriate legislation? How to ensure that legislation is comprehensive and covers discrimination and violence at sub-national as well as national level (case of invisible girls).*

Dr. Susan Bissel, Chief, Implementing International Standards Unit, UNICEF Innocenti Research Center

**Theme 4:**

**Developing a safe and secure environment for girls**

*What can parliamentarians do to secure a safe environment for girls in the home, the community, the workplace? What legislation; policies, advocacy strategies and actions are required?*

TBC

**Theme 5:**

**Building capacity**

*How to ensure access to and benefit from education? How to ensure girls remain in school and have high levels of achievement? Providing equal opportunities? Ensuring gender-sensitive school environments? Building girls self-confidence? What can MPs do to ensure that national and international policies and programmes, including development cooperation, target the girl child?*

Ms. Pia Cayetano, Senator, Philippines

*General discussion*

---

**5.45– 6 p.m.**

**Closing Session**