



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF  
ARMENIA

## Making child rights a reality for the most vulnerable children

Regional parliamentary seminar hosted by the National Assembly of Armenia  
and organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations  
Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Yerevan, 14-16 June 2011



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY  
UNION

Panama City, 20 April 2011

### INVITATION

Dear Madam Speaker,  
Dear Mr. Speaker,

We are pleased to invite your Parliament to take part in the regional seminar *Making Child Rights a Reality for the most vulnerable Children*, which will be held in Yerevan from 14 to 16 June 2011.

The fulfilment of children's rights, including especially of the most marginalised and vulnerable children's of our societies, is a crucial objective for each and every country. It is a precondition for building sustainable, peaceful and fair societies and for the improvement of the lives of future generations. This objective depends on a global movement in which everyone understands and respects their duties to children and, most importantly, acts upon them.

Parliaments and their members are key actors in ensuring respect for children's rights and their protection. Their legislative, oversight and representative functions, in addition to their power to allocate financial resources, put them in a central position to champion protection of and respect for the rights of the most vulnerable children.

The regional parliamentary seminar, organised jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and hosted by the National Assembly of Armenia, will focus on two specific issues: Investing in a good start to life for marginalized children and protecting them from violence. Debates will aim at identifying at specific parliamentary actions to reach out to marginalised children, support their well being and development and ensure respect for their rights. The seminar will address all functions of a parliament – legislation, oversight and representation. Experience from various countries will be presented, and specific case studies addressed. You will find attached a seminar registration form and a hotel reservation form. Additional information documents, including the agenda, will be sent to you in due course. Information about the seminar will also be posted soon under the "Future Meetings" section of the IPU website ([www.ipu.org](http://www.ipu.org)).

The seminar is open to Members of Parliament and parliamentary staff and your Parliament is invited to send up to five participants. We encourage your parliament to send a delegation composed of members that actively work on child protection issues or belong to parliamentary committees that oversee child protection issues in your country. In line with the IPU's stated objective to promote partnership between men and women in political life, parliaments should aim at including an equal number of men and women members. Your delegation should also be representative of the political configuration of the parliament. You are also invited to include parliamentary staff members from the competent parliamentary committees.

We very much hope that your Parliament will participate in this Seminar and look forward to your response.

Hovik Abrahamyan  
President  
National Assembly of Armenia

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General  
Inter-Parliamentary Union