

Intervention –Mr Ivan Čelić
Croatian Parliament- Delegation to the IPU
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GENDER EQUALITY AND GENDER-SENSITIVE PARLIAMENTS AS DRIVERS OF CHANGE FOR A MORE RESILIENT AND PEACEFUL WORLD

- We are witnessing the increased atmosphere of crises in the world of today.
- Crises are multiplying and integrating into one big crises, threatening to engulf the whole world.
- Global pandemic, economic crises and, finally, this dreadful war in Ukraine seem to be the end of civilization as we know it.
- In this grim atmosphere, one part of the population is more affected than the other: women and children.
- Our duty, as parliamentarians, is to act for peace to be re-established and for those sensitive groups to be protected.
- How can we achieve that? Through legislation enforced by responsible parliaments.
- Structures need to be set in place to ensure the equality and protection especially of those vulnerable groups.
- In our Croatian Parliament, we have set the Gender Equality Committee that specializes exactly in these topics.
- It participates in the drafting, implementation and analysis of the implementation of the National Gender Equality Policy in the Republic of Croatia

- One recent piece of legislation that stands before our committees is the EU and Council of Europe Directive on Prevention of Violence against Women and Family Violence.
- Our Government has given a special emphasis on education about violence against women and girls and this emphasis will be included in our amendments to the proposed Directive.
- So, education is of utmost importance because it teaches children from the youngest age to have sensitivity against violence, be it against women or within family.
- It is also important to work on eliminating all kinds of gender prejudices and stereotypes in society. In that way, we will have a more gender-sensitive population in the future that will need no further explaining why gender violence is bad for society.
- In our Parliament, we have around 30% women parliamentarians. We would like to have more of them but it is on the political forces, political parties to bring about policies that set standards, and women quotas for elections.
- To conclude, preventing violence against women, girls and children is surely a guarantee for a more peaceful and happier tomorrow.
- We as parliamentarians have a special task and responsibility.
- Our tools are words and political debate. And this is how all the conflicts should be resolved – through talking, discussion and negotiations.
- Thank you