



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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146TH IPU ASSEMBLY
المنامة، البحرين
MANAMA, BAHRAIN
11-15 MARCH 2023 - ١٥-١١ مارس ٢٠٢٣

146th IPU Assembly

Manama (11–15 March 2023)

Panel discussion on parliamentary solidarity with MPs at risk

Tuesday 14 March, 15:00 – 16:30
Hall 2 (EWB)

Concept note

Background and objectives

Every year, many MPs around the world face abuse, mistreatment or even death. The IPU [Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians](#) (CHRP) seeks to protect and defend them. The only international mechanism with such a remit, it has an outstanding [track record](#) of helping MPs under attack.

The principle of parliamentary solidarity underpins the Committee's work. This approach is based on the belief that parliaments and their members can do much to help their colleagues at risk, wherever they are. The Committee therefore seeks to enlist the assistance of IPU Member Parliaments and their members in helping to promote satisfactory settlements in the cases before it and to give prominence to parliamentary action to promote such solutions.

The panel discussion aims to bring together parliamentarians from all regions of the world in order to share good-practice examples of parliamentary solidarity in response to calls made by the IPU and its CHRP. It is hoped that these initiatives will inspire others.

The event will also give participants a better understanding of what parliamentary solidarity entails and how to put this concept into practice. Attendees will learn about concrete steps taken by their peers to help MPs at risk and discover how to give visibility to these efforts, including by reporting back to the IPU.

At the end of the session, interested participants will have an opportunity to provide their contact information and join the "Friends of the CHRP", in order to receive regular updates on ongoing cases, calls for action and inspiring examples of parliamentary solidarity.

Format

The session will consist of four segments:

1. Opening remarks by the President of the CHRP and victims' testimonies (15:00 – 15:15)

The President of the CHRP will welcome participants and briefly introduce the concept of parliamentary solidarity. In order to convey the human dimension of the CHRP's work, participants will see brief testimonies from MPs who are victims of human rights violations, or from members of their families.

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2. Panel discussion (15:15 – 15:45)

Participants will hear examples of parliamentary solidarity in practice from MPs from different regions.

3. Open debate (15:45 – 16:15)

The open debate segment will allow participants to interact with the panel, to share national examples of initiatives taken following IPU decisions on human rights cases, and to identify challenges in this area. Participants may also wish to make recommendations on how the IPU, the CHRP and its Secretariat can improve existing practices and better contribute to the satisfactory settlement of human rights cases submitted to the Committee.

4. Conclusions (16:15 – 16:30)

Members of the panel will react to questions and comments from the floor and the President of the CHRP will provide brief concluding remarks.

Participation

The panel discussion will be open to registered delegates attending the 146th IPU Assembly.

Languages

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, Arabic and Spanish.