



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism

Webinar

From victims to voices: Advancing prevention through justice, resilience and parliamentary action

Friday, 21 August 2026, 14:00–15:30 CEST (Geneva time)

Concept note

Background

The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism provides an opportunity to honour victims of terrorism, recognize their dignity and reaffirm the importance of protecting their rights.

In recent years, important efforts have been made to strengthen national responses to the needs of victims of terrorism. As part of these efforts, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism/United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNOCT–UNCCT), developed the Model Legislative Provisions to support the needs and protect the rights of victims of terrorism, providing practical guidance to assist parliaments in establishing legislative frameworks that recognize and protect the rights of victims.

Building on this joint work, this webinar will focus on the unique role of parliaments in translating legislative standards into practical support for victims of terrorism, with a particular focus on access to justice.

The Model Legislative Provisions provide guidance on access to justice for victims of terrorism; underscore the importance of victim participation in criminal proceedings and the potential of restorative justice programmes; and encourage Member States to take into account the specific needs of child victims of terrorism and victims of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) by terrorist groups.

While legislative standards are an essential first step, implementation remains a significant challenge. In many countries affected by terrorism, victims continue to face difficulties in accessing justice, assistance and long-term support. Weak institutional capacity and limited resources, coupled with insecurity and geographical isolation, often prevent victims from fully benefiting from the rights recognized in domestic legislation. In many contexts, they also face significant barriers in accessing reliable information about their rights, available services and the institutions responsible for providing assistance. As a result, legal protections do not always translate into effective support – a situation that highlights the need for practical approaches that help bridge the gap between legislation and implementation.

Against this background, the webinar will explore how parliaments can move from legislative standards to practical implementation. It will examine how victims' rights, in particular their right to access to justice, can be made more effective through legislation, oversight, resource allocation, institutional reform and partnerships, while recognizing the important contribution that victims themselves can make to strengthening resilience and preventing future acts of terrorism. The discussion will also consider innovative approaches that could help improve access to support services, particularly in contexts where institutional presence is limited.

Objectives

The objectives of the webinar will be as follows:

- To commemorate the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism by placing victims of terrorism at the centre of the discussion
- To explore how parliaments can translate victims' rights into practical support and protection
- To exchange good legislative and policy practices for strengthening victim's access to justice and assistance to victims of terrorism
- To highlight the contribution of victims to building resilience and preventing future acts of terrorism
- To explore innovative and practical approaches to improve victims' access to information, assistance and support, particularly in contexts where resources and institutional capacity is limited, and to identify possible follow-up initiatives

Guiding questions

The webinar may explore the following questions:

- What are the key aspects of the right to access to justice for victims of terrorism and how can parliaments help ensure that this right is effectively implemented?
- What practical measures can parliaments adopt to strengthen assistance, rehabilitation and long-term support for victims?
- How can victims' experiences contribute to resilience, prevention and stronger public policies?
- What challenges do countries face in implementing support mechanisms for victims, particularly where institutional capacity is limited?
- How can innovative tools and digital platforms improve victims' access to information, assistance and support, particularly in countries with limited institutional capacity?

Opening remarks

- Ms. Anda Filip, IPU Secretary General

Moderator

- Ms. Marcela Guerra Castillo, Member of the Chamber of Deputies of Mexico, and Chairperson of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG)

Speakers

- Mr. Roberto Arbitrio, Chief, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC
- Mr. Aristide Melissas Founder of Together Stronger Foundation
- Mr. Kalifa Kabre, Member of the Transitional Legislative Assembly of Burkina Faso
- Ms. Nadia Ghulam, Founder of Building Bridges, Fostering peace

Participants

This event is open to all parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from national parliaments and regional parliamentary assemblies, as well as to representatives of international organizations, victims' organizations and youth networks.

Languages

The main language of the webinar will be English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in French, Spanish and Arabic.

Proposed programme

Session I: Protecting the rights of victims of terrorism: Advancing access to justice through parliamentary action

This session will examine how parliaments can strengthen victims' access to justice by translating international standards and domestic legal frameworks into effective legislation, institutions and support mechanisms. Particular attention will be given to the challenges faced by countries with limited institutional capacity.

Possible issues for discussion include the following:

- Victims' rights to access justice;
- Barriers to accessing justice, particularly in countries affected by terrorism;
- The role of parliaments in strengthening legal and institutional frameworks;
- Access to legal assistance, information and remedies;
- Parliamentary oversight and implementation.

Session II: From victims to voices: Building resilience and advancing prevention

The second session will explore how victims can contribute to strengthening resilience, informing public policy and supporting prevention efforts. It will also examine practical approaches that can improve victims' access to information, assistance and support, particularly in contexts where institutional capacity is limited.

Possible issues for discussion include the following:

- The role of victims as partners in prevention
- Community resilience
- Parliamentary action
- Innovative approaches

Expected outcome

The webinar will provide participants with practical insights into how parliaments can strengthen victims' access to justice by translating legislative frameworks into effective support for victims of terrorism. It will promote the exchange of good practices, encourage stronger parliamentary engagement in protecting victims' rights, and explore innovative approaches that can help ensure victims are heard, supported and empowered while contributing to more resilient societies and more effective terrorism prevention.

Please register no later than 20 August 2026 using the following registration [link](#).