



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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T +41 22 919 41 50
F +41 22 919 41 60
E postbox@ipu.org
www.ipu.org

Chemin du Pommier 5
Case postale 330
1218 Le Grand-Saconnex
Geneva – Switzerland

Speech by Ms. Anda Filip, IPU Secretary General

International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism
Webinar: From victims to voices: Advancing prevention through justice, resilience and
parliamentary action

Virtual, 21 August 2026

Madam Chairperson of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent
Extremism,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Distinguished representatives of international organizations,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this webinar marking the International Day of Remembrance and
Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.

Today provides an opportunity not only to remember and honour the victims of terrorism, but also to
reflect on what parliaments can do to ensure that their rights are effectively protected in practice.

For the Inter-Parliamentary Union, this commemoration is a reminder of the important role that
parliaments play in turning international commitments into national realities. Through legislation,
oversight and the allocation of resources, they can help ensure that victims' rights are not only
recognized in law, but effectively implemented in practice.

Today's webinar brings together these two complementary dimensions. First, participants will explore
how parliaments can strengthen victims' access to justice through effective legislative and institutional
action. Second, they will consider how the experiences of victims can help inform parliamentary
responses, strengthen resilience and contribute to preventing future acts of terrorism.

This commitment is reflected in the Model Legislative Provisions to Support the Needs and Protect the
Rights of Victims of Terrorism, developed jointly by the IPU, the United Nations Office on Drugs and
Crime, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. These provisions provide parliaments with
practical guidance on how to strengthen national legal frameworks and support a more effective
response to the needs of victims.

However, legislation alone is not enough.

Across many parts of the world, particularly in countries most affected by terrorism, victims continue to
face significant challenges in accessing justice and the support to which they are entitled. This is where
parliamentary leadership becomes essential: ensuring that laws are implemented, institutions are
strengthened and public policies respond to the realities faced by victims.

Our objective today is to continue building on this work by exchanging parliamentary experiences and
identifying practical ways to strengthen implementation. In doing so, this

discussion will provide an opportunity to explore practical approaches to strengthening victims' access to
justice while also considering how the experiences and perspectives of victims can help inform public
policy, strengthen resilience and contribute to preventing future acts of terrorism.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our partners at the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, to the distinguished parliamentarians, experts and representatives of victims' organizations joining us today, and to all participants for contributing to this important discussion.

I wish you a very productive discussion and look forward to the practical ideas and recommendations that will emerge from today's exchange and help strengthen parliamentary action in support of victims of terrorism.

It is now my pleasure to invite Ms. Marcela Guerra Castillo, Chairperson of the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, to introduce today's programme.

Thank you very much.