

IPU Regional Conference on Eliminating Violence against Women in Politics

Parliamentary action for transformative change

3–4 December 2026, Montevideo, Uruguay

The Conference is convened as part of the *16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence* campaign

Provisional programme

Wednesday, 2 December

Arrival of delegations to Montevideo

09:00–18:00 Registration of delegates

19:30–21:30 **Gala dinner at Palacio Legislativo and cultural event**

Thursday, 3 December

09:30–10:30 **Opening ceremony**

Introductory remarks

Welcome address

Opening remarks

Keynote address: *From representation to safe participation: Ending violence against women in political life in the Americas and the Caribbean*

10:30–10:45 **Group photo**

10:45–11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00–12:30 **Session 1**

Regional study on sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean

The IPU, ParlAmericas and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) will launch the report *Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean*. The study is the latest in a series of regional reports produced by the IPU to uncover violence against women in parliaments. Behind every figure in this study is the experience of a woman in parliament. The report gives voice to women parliamentarians and parliamentary staff and documents the prevalence, forms and impact of the violence they encounter. In launching it, the three partners will each reflect on what the evidence shows, what it asks of parliaments, and how it can support action in the region. Their reflections will inform the discussions that unfold over the two days.

Keynote address: *From evidence to action: Addressing sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in the Americas and the Caribbean*

Presentation of the study findings

Panel discussion

Sharing of views and experiences by participants

12:30–13:30 **Lunch break**

13:30–15:00 **Session 2**

Making the invisible visible: How intersecting discrimination impacts on violence against women in politics

This session places a special focus on how gender intersects with age, ethnicity, indigeneity, disability, migration status and other characteristics to shape both the violence

women face in political life and the obstacles they encounter in seeking protection and redress. Participants will learn how an intersectional approach changes the design of laws, protocols and support services, and what parliaments can do to close these gaps. Panellists will share good practices and lessons learned. Participants will explore practical ways to make their own responses to violence against women in politics more inclusive.

[Panel discussion](#)

[Sharing of views, experiences and good practice by participants](#)

15:00–15:15

Coffee break

15:15–17:45

Session 3

Legislating to end violence against women in politics

This session examines the legal frameworks available to address violence against women in politics. It looks at the foundational standards set by the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará), together with the region's dedicated instrument, the Inter-American Model Law on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women in Political Life. Participants will learn how legislation defines and sanctions this form of violence, where progress has been made and where gaps remain across the region, and which parliamentary reforms are needed to close them. Panellists from countries that have legislated in this area will share good practices and lessons learned. Participants will explore concrete legislative options they can pursue in their own parliaments.

[Keynote address: Translating international instruments into domestic legislation](#)

[Panel discussion](#)

[Sharing of views, experiences and good practice by participants](#)

Friday, 4 December

09:30–11:00

Session 4

Countering the rise of online violence against women in politics

This session addresses the online dimension of violence against women in politics, including sexist abuse, harassment, threats, image-based abuse, disinformation and coordinated attacks directed at women political candidates and parliamentarians. Participants will consider the impact of technology-facilitated gender-based violence on women's political participation and freedom of expression, the responsibilities of digital platforms, and the legislative and institutional responses available to parliaments. As part of the session, the IPU will present its recent publication, *Combating non-consensual intimate imagery: A parliamentary action guide* (2026), which sets out concrete legislative and oversight measures for parliaments. Panellists and international experts on the topic will share good practices and lessons learned in preventing and responding to online violence.

[Keynote address](#)

[Panel discussion](#)

[Sharing of views, experiences and good practice by participants](#)

11:00–11:15

Coffee break

11:15–12:30

Session 5

Inside parliaments: Preventing and responding to violence against women in politics

This session focuses on how parliaments can design, adopt and implement effective internal protocols and mechanisms to prevent and respond to violence and harassment. Panellists will share good practices and lessons learned from parliaments that have put such measures in place, drawing on experience from the Americas and the Caribbean and from parliaments in other regions recognized for their work in this area. Participants will learn from established experience and consider how to apply it in their own institutions. Participants are encouraged to come prepared to share what their parliament is currently doing to combat violence against women in politics.

12:30–13:30

Lunch break

13:30–16:30	Session 6 Overcoming institutional challenges to prevent violence against women in politics: The role of social norms Building on Session 5, in which participants examined the internal protocols and mechanisms parliaments can put in place, in this Session 6, participants will explore the underlying causes that allow violence against women to take root in parliament. Prevention is key: it calls for changing attitudes, stereotypes and long-standing institutional cultures, not only adopting rules. Participants will explore what parliaments and their members can do to change attitude and norms, at the institutional level and at the individual level. The session opens with a plenary panel and continues in three parallel workshops 13:30–14:30 Panel discussion This panel examines how parliaments can prevent violence against women in politics by tackling its root causes. Panellists will consider the role of public leadership, awareness-raising and codes of conduct in setting a clear standard that such violence is never acceptable. The panel will bring together parliamentarians and experts from the Americas and the Caribbean, partners and specialists working on the issue. Participants are invited to share their own initiatives and good practices. 14:30–16:30 Breakout groups led by the IPU in the framework of the Women and Youth Democratic Engagement (WYDE) initiative • Training for women parliamentarians: strengthening capacities to eliminate violence against women in parliaments. The participants will focus on the support and protection available to women parliamentarians, and solidarity and resilience strategies. This session is interactive and participants are invited to share on the practical steps they can take within their own parliaments. • Training for men parliamentarians: strengthening capacities to eliminate violence against women in parliaments. The participants will focus on the role of men as allies in preventing and challenging violence against women in politics, and in changing parliamentary culture. This session is interactive and participants are invited to reflect on the practical steps they can take within their own parliaments. • Women’s Mentorship and Dialogue Session. This session will bring together women MPs with diverse levels of political experience and to exchange experiences of political leadership and explore strategies for navigating and responding to gender-based barriers and violence in politics. Participants will benefit from a space for open dialogue, peer learning and mutual support, while fostering connections among women leaders across different political and professional contexts.
16:30–16:45	Coffee break
16:45–17:15	Closing session Presentation and adoption of the Conference Outcome Document Closing speeches
Saturday, 5 December	
TBC	Cultural visit / Optional Departure of delegates
Sunday, 6 December	
09:00–18:00	Departure of delegates