



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
Parliament

Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

Virtual meeting, 19 and 20 August 2020
In-person conference, 2021 in Vienna

Special event *Countering terrorism and violent extremism: The perspective of victims*

Thursday, 20 August 2020 (4–4.45 p.m. CEST)

Concept note

In view of the International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism on 21 August, this event focuses on victims of terrorism and what can be done, especially by parliamentarians, to adequately support them.

For several years now, the IPU has been engaged in raising the awareness of the global parliamentary community to the needs of victims of terrorism. With millions of victims of terrorism worldwide, parliaments are called upon to provide an enabling environment for legislative actions to protect victims' rights, address their needs, and enable their rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Nowadays, more and more countries are affected by terrorism, but the number of victims has largely been concentrated in a small number of States. Not all of them have the resources or capacity to effectively counter terrorism or to fulfil victims' medium- and long-term needs (including physical, psychological, social and financial support).

Parliamentarians are required to play an important role in promoting, protecting and respecting the rights of victims. As the representatives of the people, parliamentarians are crucial in supporting victims of terrorism by adopting relevant legislation, allocating budgets to programmes supporting victims, and advocating for the voices of their constituents. Parliamentarians also translate international commitments on victims of terrorism into local realities.

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Guiding questions:

- What role can parliamentarians play in the prevention of violent extremism?
- What is the role of subnational governments in countering terrorism and addressing the needs of victims?
- What can parliamentarians do at the international level to counter terrorism, prevent violent extremism, and support victims? How can the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and parliamentary assemblies in general support these efforts?
- What is the best way for the United Nations to engage with parliaments in efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism? What has already been done at the multilateral level in this respect?

