

UNION INTERPARLEMENTAIRE



INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

CHEMIN DU POMMIER 5  
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Geneva, 15 October 2008

Dear Madam President,  
Dear Mr. President,

I write to inform you that UNICEF, in partnership with the European Commission, is organizing a *Conference on Legislative Reform to Achieve Human Rights*. The Conference will take place in New York, at the Millennium UN Plaza Hotel, on 19 November 2008. The IPU is pleased to lend its support to the event.

As the meeting will be held on the eve of IPU's Annual Hearing at the United Nations (20 and 21 November 2008), we would like to encourage the delegation of your Parliament to the Hearing to take advantage of its trip to New York to also attend the UNICEF event. Of course, should you wish to send a parliamentary delegation specifically to the UNICEF meeting, this would be more than welcome by the organizers.

The UNICEF Conference is part of the joint effort of UNICEF and its partners to promote the adoption of legislative and policy frameworks that comply with international standards and serve as a basis for promoting democratic governance and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The Conference is planned as a forum for learning, sharing, and building momentum for legislative reform to achieve children's rights and advance the well-being of every child. It is a first step towards bringing together key actors engaged in legislative reform initiatives and initiating discussions on how to formalize these initiatives into a coordinated effort.

The Conference will draw on expertise from members of parliament, representatives of the UN system, practitioners, and civil society representatives to explore good practices, lessons learned, challenges and new ideas in legislative reform. You will find attached the draft agenda and a registration form for the meeting.

I hope that your Parliament will be able to take part in this meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Anders B. Johnsson  
Secretary General

**Note ved omdeling i REU:**

Hvis der er udvalgsmedlemmer, der er interesserede i at deltage i mødet, bedes dette meddelt udvalgssekretariatet inden den 30/10-08 mhp., at sagen kan blive drøftet på udvalgs mødet.

## Legislative Reform for Children's Rights

Conference organized by UNICEF  
19 November 2008, New York

### Draft agenda

8.30 – 9.00	Registration
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome and Opening remarks <b>Ms Ann Veneman, Executive Director UNICEF (TBC)</b>
9.15 – 9.30	Keynote address <b>M. Anders B. Johnsson, IPU, Secretary-General</b>
Overall Moderator	<i>Beatrice Duncan, Expert Ghana</i>
9.30 – 11.30	<b>Panel 1</b> <b>Promising approaches to achieve children's rights</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Integrating the human rights-based approach in legislative reform</li> <li>2. Constitutional reform and children's rights</li> <li>3. Translating the Convention on the Rights of the Child: Consolidated children's codes</li> <li>4. How can legislative reform help achieve the MDGs?</li> </ol>
11.30 – 11.45	Coffee Break
11.45 – 1.30	<b>Panel 2</b> <b>Advancing the human rights relationship between women and children through legislative reform</b>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Legislative Reform and Traditional Practices: gender-based discrimination</li> <li>2. Gender Equality and Anti-Discrimination Law</li> <li>3. Legislative Framework to Address Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children</li> <li>4. Legislative reform and children's right to health</li> </ol>
1.30 – 2.30	Lunch
2.30 – 4.30	<b>Plenary Session</b> <b>Panel 3</b> <b>Legislative Framework: Enforcement and Implementation</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Institutional Framework</li> <li>2. Human Rights Institutions and other actors in the legal system</li> <li>3. The Legislature and its role</li> <li>4. Ensuring enforcement and implementation: budget and resource allocation</li> </ol>
4.30 – 4.45	Coffee Break
4.45 – 5.30	Conclusion and Discussion of Recommendations
5.30 – 7.30	Reception

# Legislative Reform for Children's Rights

Conference organized by UNICEF, in partnership with the European Commission and with the support of the Inter-Parliamentary Union

19 November 2008, New York

## FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION IUP / IPU REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form and send it back before:

*Nous vous prions de nous renvoyer ce formulaire avant le :*

**10/11/2008**

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**Pays ou Organisation / Country or Organisation**

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**Délégué(e)s / Delegates**

Mme M. / Nom / Prénom  
*Ms. Mr. / Name / First name*

Titres et fonctions au sein du Parlement /  
*Titles and functions within the Parliament*

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*Ms. Mr. / Name / First name*

Titres et fonctions au sein du Parlement /  
*Titles and functions within the Parliament*

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Fax/E-mail

Date

Signature

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GRP/2008/Inf.5  
20 October 2008

**A PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

*Third Conference for Members of Parliamentary Committees on the Status of Women  
and other Committees Dealing with Gender Equality*

**Geneva, 2-4 December 2008**

Dear Madam Speaker,  
Dear Mr. Speaker,

As part of its efforts to strengthen the capacity of parliaments to promote gender equality, the Inter-Parliamentary Union organizes an annual conference for chairpersons and members of parliamentary committees dealing with the status of women and gender equality. This year's conference, which will take place from 2 to 4 December 2008, will focus on combating violence against women (VAW).

Violence against women remains a major issue on the international human rights agenda. It is a universal problem, differing only in scope and nature from one country to another. It occurs in the broad context of gender-based discrimination with regards to unequal power relations in both public and private spheres. In the private sphere it encompasses family and intimate violence, including harmful cultural practices and traditions. Within the public sphere, this includes sexual violence, harassment and exploitation. States, through their agents or their public policies, may also inadvertently condone VAW. This is manifested through inadequate laws or ineffective implementation of laws, effectively allowing perpetrators of violence against women go unpunished for their acts.

Violence against women is an unacceptable reality which needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. The IPU has committed itself to stepping up action in this field and supporting parliaments in making the fight against VAW a national priority. This commitment serves to complement, from the parliamentary perspective, the United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign on VAW, which was launched in March 2008.

...

The three-day event will provide an opportunity for members of parliament to take stock of the situation, discuss the various types of violence against women and debate concrete parliamentary initiatives that can be taken to combat such violence. Specific attention will be paid to legislative frameworks and effective enforcement. The topics on the agenda will be introduced by members of parliament and/or experts and representatives of international and/or regional human rights bodies. As in the past, the emphasis will be on discussion, and everything will be done to leave ample time for a free exchange of views. Interpretation into Arabic, English, French and Spanish will be provided.

All national parliaments are invited to this event. It is proposed that delegations be composed of two parliamentarians who are members of committees dealing directly or indirectly with the status of women and gender equality issues or who are experts in this field, along with their advisers. Where possible, the principle of gender balance should be respected in the composition of delegations.

We will be sending the agenda and organizational details as soon as they have been finalized. Meanwhile, we are pleased to attach a registration form. I would like to point out that participants should handle all matters relating to their visas, hotel accommodation and transportation. To facilitate hotel bookings, I am enclosing a reservation form which participants may wish to use.

We look forward to receiving your delegation in Geneva at this event.

Yours sincerely,



Anders B. Johansson  
Secretary General

**A PARLIAMENTARY RESPONSE TO  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**



**UNE REPONSE PARLEMENTAIRE A LA  
VIOLENCE CONTRE LES FEMMES**

GENEVA, 2-4 DECEMBER 2008 / GENÈVE, 2-4 DECEMBRE 2008

**FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION UIP / IPU REGISTRATION FORM**

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**21/11/2008**

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Fax/E-mail

Date

Signature



**FORMULAIRE DE RESERVATION HOTELIERE  
HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM**



**Une réponse parlementaire à la violence contre les femmes**  
Genève, Centre International de Conférences Genève CICG, 2 – 4 décembre 2008  
**A Parliamentary Response to Violence against Women**  
Geneva, International Conference Centre Geneva CICG, 2 – 4 December 2008

UIP1208

Merci de compléter ce formulaire et de le renvoyer aussitôt que possible mais au plus tard le : **31.10.2008** →  
*Please complete this form and send it back as soon as possible, but not later than :*

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****	<input type="checkbox"/> 310.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 340.00	

Les prix incluent le petit déjeuner. / *The prices include breakfast.*

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**IMPORTANT : TO GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION** (field to be completed)

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NOM DU DETENTEUR DE LA CARTE / CARD HOLDER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

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*Our office will confirm your reservation and will do its best to retain rooms according to your request, but must reserve the right to make alternative arrangements if necessary (particularly regarding late requests).*

