



GRP/2010/DSG.4
Geneva, 22 October 2010

**International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
(25 November 2010)**

Dear Madam President,
Dear Mr. President,

On 25 November, the world will mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. As part of its campaign *Parliaments Take Action on Violence against Women*, the IPU encourages your parliament to join forces with other parliaments and organizations everywhere in organizing a special event with a view to making this issue a top political priority.

This year, the IPU is calling on parliaments to mobilize under the theme: *Building partnerships to combat violence against women*. To be effective, action to curb violence against women must be built on close collaboration between the various stakeholders involved in preventing and responding to the problem. We, men and women parliamentarians, need to build a united front to work effectively for this cause.

Last year, 33 parliaments organized around 50 activities to mark the Day, and thus heightened the visibility of the problem at the national level. The activities took many forms and yielded tangible results. Resolutions were passed and special debates and speeches were held in parliament. Members of parliament participated in workshops, held discussions with women's and civil rights organizations and signed petitions to show their support for the issue. We are counting on you to take many and if possible even more initiatives this year.

We enclose a note providing examples of activities that could be undertaken on 25 November and beyond, together with IPU booklet on what parliaments can do to end violence against women. All parliamentary events to mark the International Day will be posted on the IPU website at: www.ipu.org/vaw. They will also be included in a report to the IPU Governing Council and listed as parliamentary contributions to the United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign UNiTE to End Violence against Women on the www.saynotoviolence.org website.

We look forward to hearing about your parliament's contribution to the campaign to end violence against women.

Best regards,

Syada Greiss
President of the Coordinating Committee
of Women Parliamentarians

Theo-Ben Gurirab
President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union