



Drug Policy Reform

Parliamentary Seminar

Perspectives from Latin America, West Africa & Europe

Dear Parliamentary Colleagues,

PARLIAMENTARY SEMINAR ON DRUG POLICY REFORM
Inter-regional perspectives from Latin America, West Africa and Europe
28 to 30 October 2013, Attlee Suite, House of Commons

The British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union is organising an inter-regional seminar for parliamentarians from Latin America, West Africa and Europe on the issue of drug policy reform. As Honorary President and Chairman of the British Group we invite your Parliament to take part in this event which will take place in the Palace of Westminster from 28 to 30 October.

The BGIPU seminar aims to encourage an open and honest debate on global drugs policy reform among parliamentarians from countries that are especially affected by this issue from the drugs supply and demand side, to consolidate the role of parliamentarians, as legislators and opinion leaders with regards to this issue.

The seminar programme will encourage active and lively debate around the key issues, rather than lengthy speeches from the podium. We hope to hear from parliamentarians about the specific issues affecting their countries, and what collective action can be taken to combat these issues. Themes for discussion will include addiction and the health-based approach to drug policy, money-laundering and trafficking of illicit drugs, drugs in prisons and the risk of disproportionality of drug trafficking laws, decriminalisation versus legalisation, current drug laws on curbing transnational organised crime and the effect of illicit use of natural resources as a source of violent conflict.

Your parliament is invited to nominate two delegates (including an adviser and/or secretary if required), preferably with experience and an interest in the issue. You will find attached to this letter a provisional programme, registration form and information on hotels. We invite you to return all necessary registration forms to the BGIPU **no later than the 5th of September**. Lastly, we would like to point out that participants should handle all matters relating to their visas, hotel accommodation and transportation.

We look forward to the participation of your Parliament in this seminar.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon John Bercow MP
The Speaker of the House of Commons

Mr Robert Walter MP
The Chairman of the BGIPU