



Concept Note and Agenda

“Breaking the Cycle of Violence against Girls and Boys: The Role of Parliamentarians”

A high-level side event on the margins of the 61st session of the
Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

Date: Thursday, March 16, 2017, 3.00 – 4.30 pm

Venue: Danny Kaye, UNICEF House, 3 UN Plaza (entrance from 44th Street
between 1st and 2nd Ave)

Co-sponsors: UNICEF; Permanent Mission of Bulgaria; Permanent Mission of
Panama; Inter-Parliamentary Union

INTRODUCTION:

Every five minutes a child dies as a result of violence. Worldwide, almost one billion children aged 2-14 years are subjected to physical punishment by their caregivers on a regular basis, and an estimated 120 million girls under the age of 20 have experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forced sexual acts. As part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, governments have set ambitious goals to end violence in order to deliver the vision of a world where all children – girls and boys alike – grow up free from violence, exploitation and abuse.

UNICEF launched the #ENDviolence campaign in 2013. The initiative builds on growing public consensus that violence against children can no longer be tolerated – and that it can only be stopped by the collective efforts of ordinary citizens, policymakers, governments, civil society and international stakeholders.

A systemic approach is fundamental to ending violence against children. Without a supportive policy and legislative environment, programmes addressing violence can never entirely succeed. Legislation prohibiting various forms of violence against children sends a strong social message that violence is unacceptable.

The objective of the event is to engage law-makers, governments and other stakeholders in an informal discussion about the role of parliamentarians in eliminating violence against girls and boys and the important contribution of civil society in raising

awareness to end the cycle of violence. The event will also highlight the specific challenges posed by gender-based violence.

Ending violence against boys and girls demands action from everyone. The leadership and critical role of parliamentarians have shown a significant difference in the lives of all boys and girls – we need to continue this progress together and do more. For every child, safety and protection.

DRAFT AGENDA:

3.00 – 3.15 pm Welcoming remarks

- Paloma Escudero, Director of Communications, UNICEF
- H.E. Georgi Panayotov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the United Nations
- IPU Representative

3.15 – 3.35 pm Presentations on violence against children

- Moderator: Manus de Barra, Child Protection Specialist, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (tbc)
- Theresa Kilbane, Senior Adviser for Child Protection, Programme Division, UNICEF
- Guenoveva Ticheva, Managing Director, Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation

3.30 – 4.15 pm Interactive discussion

- Members of Parliament, representatives of Member States, civil society, UN agencies

4.15 – 4.30 pm Closing remarks