



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Parliamentary solidarity: Supporting MPs under threat

Online panel discussion

Tuesday, 26 September 2023
15:00 – 16:30 CEST (Geneva time)

Concept note

Background and objectives

Every year, many MPs around the world face abuse, mistreatment or even death. The IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians (CHRP) seeks to protect and defend them. The only international mechanism with such a remit, it has an outstanding track record of helping MPs under attack.

The principle of parliamentary solidarity underpins the Committee's work. This approach is based on the belief that parliaments and their members can do much to help their colleagues at risk, wherever they are. The Committee therefore seeks to enlist the assistance of the global parliamentary community in helping to promote satisfactory settlements in the cases before it and to give prominence to parliamentary action to promote such solutions. Other parliamentary institutions and stakeholders also engage in critical efforts and initiatives to provide support and accompany parliamentarians facing human rights violations.

This online panel discussion aims to bring together diverse parliamentary institutions and parliamentarians from all regions of the world in order to share examples of good practice in the field of parliamentary solidarity. It is hoped that these initiatives will inspire others.

The event will give participants a better understanding of what parliamentary solidarity entails and how to put this concept into practice. Attendees will learn about concrete steps taken by the parliamentary community to help MPs at risk and discover how to give visibility to these efforts, including by reporting back to the IPU. Following the presentations, participants will be able to interact with the panelists, share examples of initiatives taken at the national level and identify challenges in this area. Participants may also wish to make recommendations on how the IPU and the global parliamentary community can improve existing practices and better contribute to satisfactory solutions to human rights cases submitted to the CHRP and to the protection of MPs in danger in general.

Participation

The online panel discussion will be open to MPs and parliamentary staff from IPU Member Parliaments and to representatives from Associate Members and permanent observers.

Platform and languages

The online event will take place on Zoom. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.