



UN Commission on the Status of Women 57 High Level Panel

Universal Periodic Review and Violence against Women and Girls

Side Event Co-sponsored by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Women's UN Report Network, The International Federation of Women Lawyers, and The Centre for Women's Global Leadership

March 5, 2013 - 3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.
United Nations Headquarters, North Lawn Building, Conference Room B

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN Member States. Since it was established in 2006, the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States have been reviewed. The issue of violence against women and girls (VAWG) has been addressed in nearly every review in the context of sexual violence, rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, and human trafficking. The fact that VAWG is almost invariably a prominent feature in the reviews highlights both the urgency of addressing this issue in all regions of the world and the importance of civil society awareness and involvement in this one-of-a-kind mechanism. Follow-up by civil society is a crucial aspect to holding States accountable for their shortcomings and to their commitments in the reviews.

Objective

This event is an excellent opportunity for civil society organizations and UN entities to learn more about the UPR process and its relevance in addressing VAWG. The discussions will focus on the recommendations emanating from the UPR relating to VAWG and will reflect on the ways to facilitate implementation of these recommendations, as well as enhance the quality of recommendations and increase the participation of stakeholders from civil society in this process.

Speakers:

- ◆ Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights – Ms. **Laila Bourhil**
- ◆ Center for Women's Global Leadership – Ms. **Margot Baruch**
- ◆ WUNRN - Women's UN Report Network – Ms. **Lois A. Herman**, Coordinator
- ◆ Moderator: Ms. **Denise Scotto**, Esq. – International Federation of Women Lawyers