

Inter-Parliamentary Union adopts resolution on the role of parliamentarians and the Responsibility to Protect *On 27 March 2013, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) adopted a [Resolution](#) entitled “Enforcing the responsibility to protect: the role of parliament in safeguarding civilians’ lives”. IPU is an international organization that facilitates dialogue between parliamentarians around the world. There are currently 162 parliaments that are members of the IPU as well as 10 parliaments that are associate members. IPU recognizes the important role that parliaments have in influencing their government and strives for “peace and co-operation among peoples”. The Resolution was adopted during the 128th Assembly of the IPU, which convened in Quito, Ecuador, and called on parliamentarians to take a series of actions to prevent and respond to mass atrocities. “Convinced that parliaments around the world should consider ways and means to apply and implement the responsibility to protect in a timely, consistent and effective manner in order to avoid a situation where the international community is deadlocked over whether and how to act to prevent or to stop the massacre of civilians”, the IPU urged parliaments to, “ensure that their governments protect populations, whether or not the nationals of their countries, from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity” and “assist and build the capacity of States to prevent the commission of [the four RtoP crimes]”. Learn more from excerpts below, taken from IPU’s press release on the session.*

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) has called for a set of actions enforcing the responsibility to protect civilian lives during conflict on the closing day of its 128th Assembly in the Ecuadoran capital, Quito.

Adopting resolutions on the Syrian refugee crisis and on the role of parliaments in safeguarding civilian lives, the IPU Assembly urged parliaments to ensure governments protected their people from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity through legislation, the ratification of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and by overseeing government action to combat terrorism.

If national authorities fail to safeguard their population, then collective action should be applied in a timely and decisive manner through the Security Council on a case-by- case basis.

Particular focus was put on the need for laws and measures to protect women and children, prevent and criminalize sexual violence and to provide redress for survivors in conflict.

Parliaments should also ensure they support governments in peace-building efforts through the allocation of necessary funds. (...)

Read

[full press release](#)
and the
[Resolution](#)

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See the Canadian Centre for the Responsibility to Protect's statement on the resolution
[here](#)

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