



Parliamentarians *for Global Action*
Parlamentarios para la Acción Global
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires
برلمانيون من أجل التحرك العالمي

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

PGA

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR GLOBAL ACTION



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PGA

2016 SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

Dear PGA Friends,

The year 2016 was defined by numerous achievements by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), the largest non-governmental organization of individual legislators committed to human rights and the Rule of Law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination and gender equality, with approximately 1400 members in 143 Parliaments around the world.

We are delighted to share with you our efforts towards a more equitable, just and peaceful world, with growth and progress in each of our three programmes: [Peace and Democracy](#), [International Law and Human Rights](#), and [Gender, Equality and Population](#). PGA successfully completed year one of our 2016-18 strategic plan and gained 223 new PGA member-parliamentarians representing all regions of the world.

In December, PGA convened the largest political gathering of Legislators on the fight against impunity, the [2016 PGA Annual Forum and 9th Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court & the Rule of Law \(CAP-ICC\)](#) in Dakar, Senegal.

The meeting occurred at an opportune time as the ICC is facing new threats as some African countries are moving to withdraw from the Court and provided a platform for the ICC Prosecutor and President and Parliamentarians from Africa and other regions of the world to address concerns and reaffirm political support for the Rome Statute system. The Consultative Assembly ended with the consideration and adoption of the *Dakar Plan of Action on the prevention of Mass Atrocities, Strengthening the Rule of Law and Support for the International Criminal Court* ([English](#) | [Français](#) | [Español](#) | [Arabic](#)), which contains a blueprint of strategies and initiatives that Legislators committed to take to generate support for, and compliance with, the ICC in order to seek justice for victims and fight impunity for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and the crime of aggression.

Thank you to all of our PGA friends for your continued encouragement and support of the PGA mission **to contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world**. With your help, we achieved good results across all of our campaigns to end injustice and oppression around the world. I invite you now to continue learning about our significant achievements in the following 2016 Annual Report.

On behalf of PGA, I am grateful to our invaluable network of parliamentarians and our steadfast partners and look forward to continued success in 2017.

Sincerely,



David Donat Cattin (Ph.D., Law)
Secretary-General, Parliamentarians for Global Action



ABOUT PGA

OUR MISSION

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA), a non-profit, non-partisan international network of committed legislators, informs and mobilizes parliamentarians in all regions of the world to advocate for human rights and the rule of law, democracy, human security, non-discrimination, and gender equality.

OUR VISION

To contribute to the creation of a rules-based international order for a more equitable, safe and democratic world.

INTERNATIONAL LAW &
HUMAN RIGHTS

PEACE & DEMOCRACY

GENDER, EQUALITY &
POPULATION

PGA'S HISTORY

PGA was established in 1978 in Washington DC, U.S.A., by concerned parliamentarians from around the world, to take joint action on global problems, which could not be solved by any one government or parliament.

PGA is a leading international Non-Governmental Organization, in general consultative status with the United Nations, with a track-record in generating consensus among lawmakers on international treaties and standards and their domestic implementation. PGA promoted the negotiation, adoption and ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).



OVERVIEW OF PGA MEMBERSHIP

2016

OVERVIEW OF PGA MEMBERSHIP

(AS OF DEC. 2016)

PGA membership is available to sitting members of Parliament committed to the vision and values of PGA.

Members are invited to take action to advance our Campaigns, participate in regional and international events and have access to the skills and technical experience of Secretariat staff.

The Secretariat provides Members with informational tools and resources on PGA's campaigns, which fall into three programme areas:

- [International Law and Human Rights;](#)
- [Peace and Democracy;](#)
- and [Gender, Equality and Population.](#)

In order for a group or individual to qualify for PGA membership, the country's Parliament must adhere to all of the following criteria:

- the members must be from a freely elected parliament
- the election should be open to more than one party, or to those who have no party
- the Parliament must evidence an actual ability to engage in free debate

NUMBER OF MEMBERS:

1,394

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTS:

143

NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS:

130

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS:

5

OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS:

8



PGA GAINED 223 NEW MEMBERS IN 2016.

THE FIVE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE:
ECOWAS PARLIAMENT, EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, PARLACEN, PARLATINO,
PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

THE EIGHT OBSERVER STATUS PARLIAMENTS ARE:
ARUBA, CONGO BRAZZAVILLE, COOK ISLANDS, CURACAO, NIUE, PALESTINE,
SUDAN, QATAR

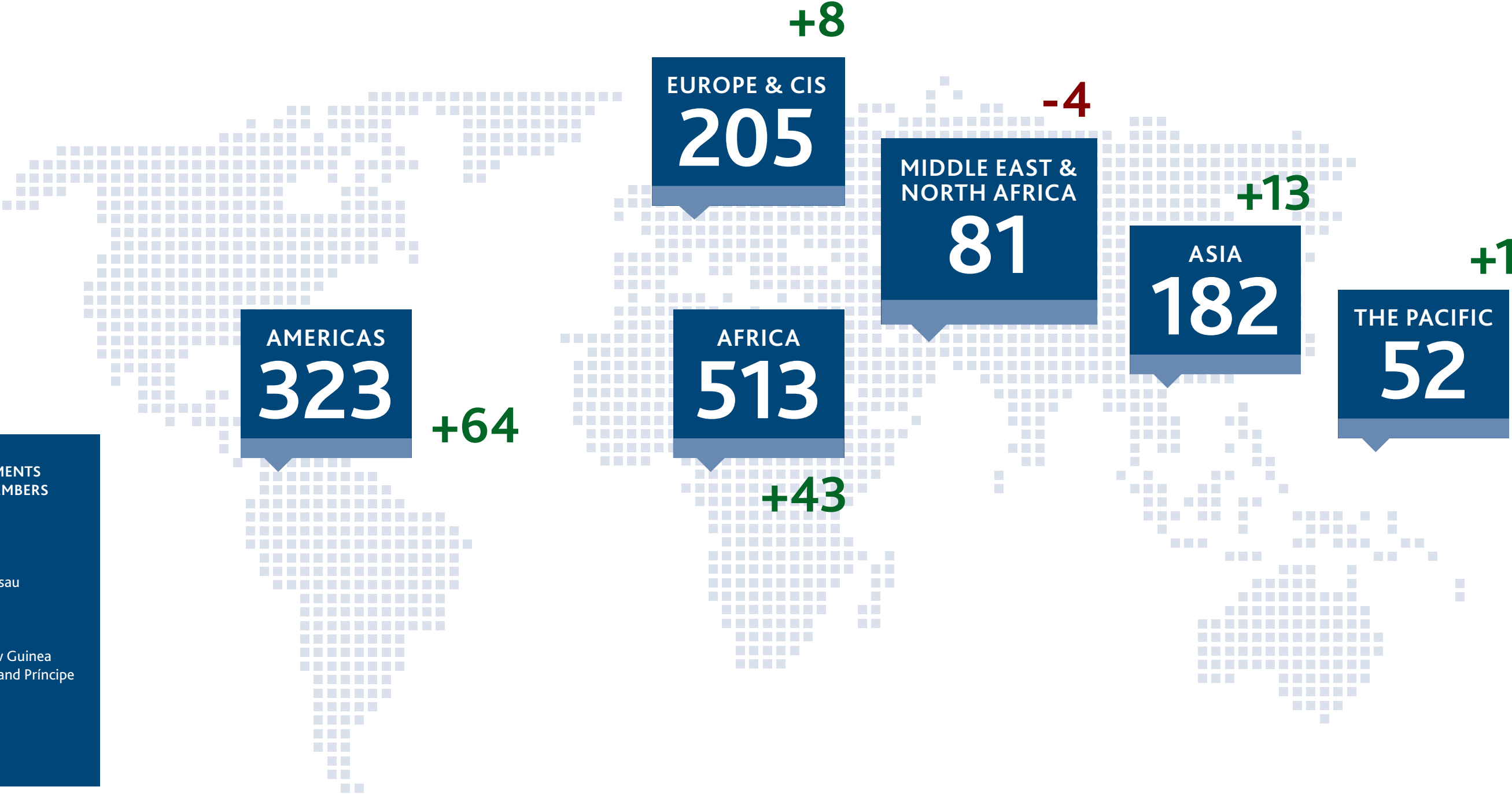
MALE
949

FEMALE
445

REGIONAL BREAKDOWN OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

+6
REGIONAL
PARLIAMENTS
22

+5
OBSERVER
COUNTRIES
17



- » NEW PARLIAMENTS
WITH PGA MEMBERS
2016
1. Bahrain
 2. Fiji
 3. Guinea Bissau
 4. Guyana
 5. Malawi
 6. Mexico
 7. Papua New Guinea
 8. São Tomé and Príncipe
 9. Samoa
 10. Serbia
 11. Venezuela

PGA PRESENCE WORLDWIDE (AS OF JANUARY 2017)

AFRICA (513)					
1.	Angola	2	26.	Niger	3
2.	Benin	3	27.	Nigeria	32
3.	Botswana	2	28.	São Tomé and Príncipe	2
4.	Burkina Faso	15	29.	Senegal	27
5.	Cameroon	4	30.	Sierra Leone	45
6.	Cape Verde	24	31.	South Africa	6
7.	Central African Republic	10	32.	South Sudan	3
8.	Chad	8	33.	Swaziland	1
9.	Comoros	3	34.	Tanzania	14
10	Cote d'Ivoire	19	35.	Togo	8
11.	DR Congo	76	36.	Uganda	33
12.	Gabon	3	37.	Zambia	1
13.	Ghana	42	38.	Zimbabwe	27
14.	Guinea	3			
15.	Guinea Bissau	3			
16.	Guyana	2			
17.	Kenya	18			
18.	Liberia	8			
19.	Madagascar	2			
20.	Malawi	5			
21.	Mali	7			
22.	Mauritania*	17			
23.	Mauritius	1			
24.	Mozambique	28			
25.	Namibia	6			

AMERICAS (323)					
1.	Argentina	37	26.	United States	11
2.	Antigua & Barbuda	1	27.	Uruguay*	22
3.	Barbados	2	28.	Venezuela	3
4.	Belize	12			
5.	Bolivia	8			
6.	Brazil*	12			
7.	Canada	10			
8.	Chile	15			
9.	Colombia*	10			
10	Costa Rica*	9			
11.	Dominican Republic*	49			
12.	Ecuador	6			
13.	El Salvador*	39			
14.	Guatemala	4			
15.	Guyana	2			
16.	Haiti	5			
17.	Honduras	9			
18.	Jamaica	2			
19.	Mexico	1			
20.	Nicaragua	1			
21.	Panama	4			
22.	Paraguay	14			
23.	Peru	6			
24.	Suriname*	12			
25.	Trinidad & Tobago	17			

CIS (36)		EUROPE (169)	
1.	Armenia	2	14
2.	Azerbaijan	2	4
3.	Kyrgyzstan	2	5
4.	Ukraine	30	1
			12
			4
			3
			2
			3
			2
			2
			1
			12
			14
			1
			5
			12
			7
			2
			5
			4
			1
			2
			1
			22
			3
			25

MEMED (80)		THE PACIFIC (52)	
1.	Algeria	2	9
2.	Iraq	20	18
3.	Jordan	7	1
4.	Lebanon	1	1
5.	Morocco*	32	11
6.	Oman	5	1
7.	Tunisia	5	2
8.	Turkey	2	1
9.	Yemen	6	4
			2
			2

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dip. Margarita Stolbizer
Argentina
President of PGA



Ms. Petra Bayr, MP
Austria
Treasurer



Sen. Alain Destexhe
Belgium
Chair, International Council



Ms. Ursula Owusu-Ekuful, MP
Ghana



Mr. Kula Segaran, MP
Malaysia



Mr. Su'a William Sio, MP
New Zealand



Dip. Ronny Monge Salas
Costa Rica



Dip. Victor Orlando Bisonó
Dominican Republic



Ms. Barbara Lochbihler, MEP
Germany
European Parliament



Mr. Syed Naveed Qamar, MP
Pakistan



Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, MP
Sweden



Dip. Bertha Sanseverino
Uruguay

PGA SECRETARIAT

PGA HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK

Dr. David Donat Cattin
Secretary-General
Donat@PGAAction.org

Ms. Jennifer McCarthy
Deputy Secretary-General
Jennifer.McCarthy@PGAAction.org

Mr. Peter Barcroft
Director, Peace and Democracy Programme
Peter.Barcroft@PGAAction.org

Mr. Michael Agbeko
Director of Administration
Agbeko@PGAAction.org

Ms. Mónica Adame
Director, Gender Equality and Population Programme
Monica.Adame@PGAAction.org

Ms. Leyla Nikjou
Specialist on Rule of Law and UN Strengthening
Senior Programme Officer
International Law and Human Rights
Leyla.Nikjou@PGAAction.org

Mr. Brian Kett
Communications and Membership Officer
Brian.Kett@PGAAction.org

Ms. Holly Sarkissian
Senior Development Officer
Holly.Sarkissian@PGAAction.org

Mr. Thiago Carvalho
Executive Officer & Programme Associate
Thiago@PGAAction.org

Ms. Melissa Verpile
Programme Associate
International Law and Human Rights Programme
Melissa.Verpile@PGAAction.org

Mr. Alex Roche
Program Officer, SOGI Campaign
Alejandro.Roche@PGAAction.org

PGA OFFICE IN THE HAGUE

Ms. Romina Morello
Legal Advisor
Officer-in-Charge, The Hague
International Law and Human Rights Programme
Romina.Morello@PGAAction.org

Ms. Marion Chahuneau
Programme Officer
International Law and Human Rights Programme
Marion.Chahuneau@PGAAction.org

Ms. Frederika Schweighoferova
Programme Associate
International Law and Human Rights Programme
Schweighoferova@PGAAction.org

CONSULTANT IN AFRICA

Mr. Eloi Urwodhi
Consultant (Kinshasa)
International Law and Human Rights Programme
Eloi.Urwodhi@PGAAction.org



UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE

CHAIR

H.E. Mr. Christian Wenaweser
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Liechtenstein

UNITED NATIONS AMBASSADORS / GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

H.E. Mr. Jan Kickert
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Austria

H.E. Ms. Bénédicte Frankinet
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Belgium

H.E. Mr. Ib Petersen
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Denmark

H.E. Ms. Minna-Liina Lind
Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Estonia

H.E. Ms. Martha Ama Akyaa Pobee
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ghana

H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Italy

H.E. Mr. Cho Tae-yul
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea

H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Sweden

H.E. Mr. Jurg Lauber
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Switzerland

H.E. Mr. Volodymyr Yelchenko
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Ukraine

UN SECRETARIAT AND AGENCIES

Mr. Adama Dieng
UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for the
Prevention of Genocide



INTERNATIONAL LAW AND HUMAN RIGHTS



2016

A) PLATFORM FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

PGA's Global Parliamentary Platform for the Abolition of the Death Penalty addresses the discriminatory application of the death penalty against poor and marginalized groups and works for the ratification of international legal norms prohibiting the death penalty.

The Platform works with MPs to increase political will to abolish or restrict the use of the death penalty through modification of national legal systems (including constitutions) and new ratifications of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (OP2 ICCPR). PGA also encourages MPs to take action to support the UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2016, PGA members championed initiatives to abolish or restrict the use of the death penalty in many countries across the world including:

- (1) Guinea, where PGA Members voted for the enactment of the new Penal Code which abolished the death penalty;
- (2) Malaysia, where the Minister of Law (PGA Member) committed to abolish the mandatory death penalty for drugs-related offenses;
- (3) Uganda where a bill to abolish the death penalty was introduced by two PGA Members;
- (4) Pakistan, where a PGA member initiated action to modify the punishment in an anti-rape bill from mandatory to discretionary death penalty;
- (5) Indonesia, where PGA held [Consultations on the Death Penalty](#) in February 2016 during the process of revision of the Indonesian criminal code. This visit brought together MPs and national authorities on how to include safeguards to limit the application of the death penalty.

During a [Round-Table on Death Penalty Abolition](#) hosted by the Parliament of Ghana, in Accra on March 4, where parliamentarians from Ghana,

Tanzania and Zimbabwe participated, Hon. Agnus Kofi Amoatey (Ghana), Chair of the Committee on Constitutional, Legal, and Parliamentary Affairs emerged as a powerful supporter of presenting a Private Members' Bill with bipartisan support that could trigger the Government in submitting a similar legislative proposal to Parliament.

Hon. Jasson Samson Rweikiza (Tanzania) agreed to introduce a bill in his country abolishing capital punishment through relevant amendments to the criminal code.

On World Day against Death Penalty, 10 October, PGA launched a [Parliamentary Factsheet on the Death Penalty and Terrorism-Related Offences](#) at an event at UN Headquarters hosted by the Permanent Missions of Australia, Norway, and Palau with speakers including Dr. Agnes Callamard, the UN Special Rapporteur on Summary Executions and moderated by Mr. David Marshall of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

HON KASTHURI PATTO (MALAYSIA)

PGA MEMBER, SPEAKING
ON BEHALF OF
PARLIAMENTARIANS AT THE
6TH WORLD CONGRESS
AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

"As Parliamentarians, we can play a strong role towards the abolition of the death penalty and PGA helps facilitate our efforts towards abolition. Through PGA, we support each other in raising awareness about the negative effects of the death penalty and persuading an often hostile public opinion towards abolition, using arguments that are tailored to each specific context."



B) CAMPAIGN FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS AND UNIVERSALITY OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC CAMPAIGN)

Since 1989, PGA has worked for the establishment and effective operation of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to fight impunity and seek justice for victims of the most serious international crimes.

As a result of the mobilization of our members, the PGA ICC Campaign has contributed to 77 out of 124 ratifications of the Rome Statute. Due to the success of this campaign, PGA is widely recognized as the parliamentary network working on international justice and the ICC.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

In 2016, El Salvador completed the ratification process of the Rome Statute of the ICC, which was a direct result of PGA Parliamentarians' previous 8 years of relentless campaigning.

Significant progress has been achieved towards Malaysia's and Ukraine's accession to/ratification of the Rome Statute.

Seven domestic implementation processes (Chile, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Mali and Peru) were achieved by PGA Members, while 3 new implementing legislations of the Rome Statute have been adopted and promulgated into law in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea, and Paraguay.

PGA Members also advanced the Rome Statute domestic implementation processes in several countries, including Argentina, Chile, Dominican Republic (cooperation legislation), Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mali. In Costa Rica and Honduras the implementation bills have been approved by the relevant parliamentary Committees while in Paraguay and Dominican Republic the bills await final adoption by the Senate. Most notably, during 2016, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Guinea have adopted and promulgated into law new implementing legislations, originally tabled and amended by PGA Parliamentarians.

While the ICC has operational jurisdiction over genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes since the Rome Statutes entry into force on 1 July 2002, the activation of the jurisdiction over the crime of aggression put forth in the Kampala Amendments is subject to two steps.

First, a threshold of 30 ratifications of the Kampala Amendments is required, followed by the second step, the activation by the Assembly of States Parties (ASP).

Given that the required ratification threshold was met in 2016--with Chile and The Netherlands bringing the total number of ratifications to 32--only the second step remains in order to activate the jurisdiction of the ICC over crime of aggression, and it is expected to take place in 2017 through a qualified-majority decision of the ASP.

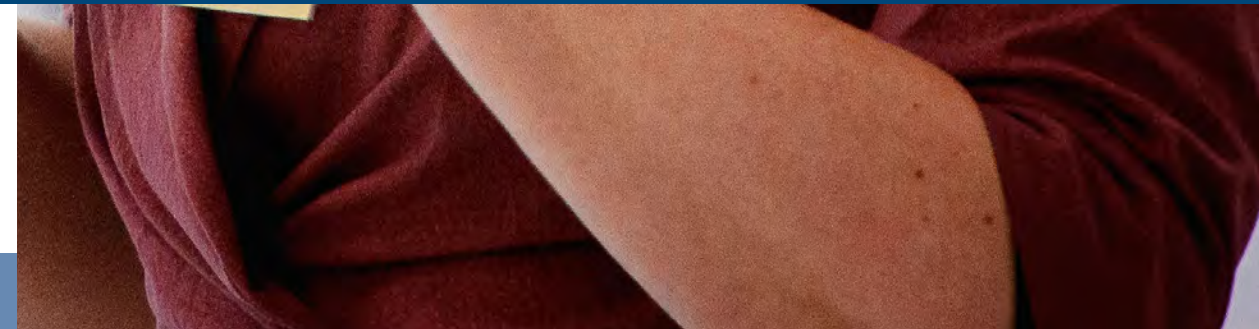
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stephan-roehl.de



**MS. BARBARA
LOCHBIHLER, MEP**

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
(GERMANY),
PGA EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE MEMBER

"Congratulations are in order for this important step in the fight against impunity: the ratifications of the Kampala Amendments by Chile and The Netherlands. I call upon all the State Parties to the Rome Statute to complete the process of activating the jurisdiction of the Court over the crime of aggression, during the 2017 Assembly of State Parties, reaffirming the pledge of "never again" contained in the Nuremberg judgement after World War II."



B CONTD.) CAMPAIGN FOR THE EFFECTIVENESS AND UNIVERSALITY OF THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT (ICC CAMPAIGN)

In 2016, PGA also mobilized Parliamentarians to protect the integrity of the Rome Statute against proposals of a few States to introduce immunities of Heads of States and other senior officials for mass atrocity crimes, especially within the frameworks of the African Union, the ICC Assembly of States Parties and the United Nations' Security Council.

As the efforts of these States to revert International Law back to a pre-World War II status proved unsuccessful, three of them decided to withdraw unilaterally from the Rome Statute in October 2016.

PGA Members from Africa and other regions of the world reacted to their move with renewed commitment to the fight against impunity and the imperative for Heads of States to abide to the principle of equality of all before the law.

PGA Members in the Pan African Parliament successfully blocked a draft resolution aimed at inviting African States Parties to the Rome Statute to withdraw.

The Dakar session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the ICC & the Rule of Law emboldened and strengthened the position of a group of African States, including Senegal, to block the adoption of a resolution inviting African States to massively withdraw from the Rome Statute.

Overall, PGA members have contributed to the ratification of 77 out of 124 States Parties to the Rome Statute, and to the enactment of 35 legislative packages on domestic implementation.



Parliamentarians from Francophone African Countries have sent a strong message confirming their commitment to the Rule of Law and Justice by adopting the 2016 Lomé Action Plan.

**DIP. DANIEL RADIO
(URUGUAY), PGA MEMBER**

DURING CONSULTATIONS
ON THE ROME STATUTE'S
DOMESTICATION HELD BY
PGA IN THE PARLIAMENT OF
PARAGUAY

“As parliamentarians, we have the responsibility to implement laws that will protect vulnerable civilian populations as well as the integrity of our territories. In the 21st century, the international community cannot tolerate impunity for mass atrocities. On behalf of the victims of such crimes, we must support the Rome Statute system by implementing within our national legal frameworks, its principles, the crimes under its jurisdiction, as well as its mechanisms for cooperation with the ICC. The Court cannot fight alone, it needs the support of all countries, from all continents.”



DAKAR, SENEGAL: PARLIAMENTARIANS OF THE WORLD UNITE THEIR VOICE IN SUPPORT OF THE ICC

LEGISLATORS OPPOSE WITHDRAWALS FROM ROME STATUTE OF THE ICC AND ANNOUNCE NEW RATIFICATION PROCESSES AT THE [2016 PGA ANNUAL FORUM AND 9TH CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE ICC & THE RULE OF LAW \(CAP-ICC\)](#)

At a time when [three African States have formally started the process of withdrawal from the Rome Statute](#) and several other States have been considering this policy option, PGA convened 100 Parliamentarians from 50 countries of all regions of the world in Dakar, Senegal, who affirmed strong support for the Rome Statute system against impunity.

Parliamentarians met on the occasion of the 38th Annual Forum of Parliamentarians for Global Action, which was hosted by the National Assembly of Senegal.

The Annual Forum coincided with the 9th session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians on ICC & the Rule of Law, the only global gathering of Legislators that focuses its attention since 2002 – year of entry into force of the Rome Statute – on the new permanent system of international criminal justice and its fundamental mandate to fight impunity for the most serious crimes of international concern.

All Members of PGA were invited to this event and Speakers of Parliament were invited to send official delegations, which included the Speakers of Parliament from Guinea, Mali and Niger, and the Deputy Speakers of Benin and Gabon.

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal, Hon. Moustapha Niasse, opened the event, alongside the Minister of Justice, Mr. Sidiki Kaba, in his capacity as President of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the ICC, and in presence of some of the highest authorities of the State, starting with the President of the Supreme Court.

The Prime Minister of Senegal, Mr. Mohammed Dionne, closed the Consultative Assembly on behalf of the President of the Republic, hence restating Senegal's leadership on international criminal justice, acquired by becoming the first State to ratify the Rome Statute and the historic judgement delivered against former Chadian President Habre in May 2016 by the Extraordinary African Chambers.

The President of the ICC, Judge Silvia Fernandez de Gurmendi, delivered the [key-note speech that highlighted all the major developments and objectives of the judicial organs of the Rome Statute system](#), while the ICC Prosecutor, Ms. Fatou Bensouda, addressed a vibrant plenary session in which MPs posed questions on the most pressing challenges for the ICC.

In particular, Legislators from countries affected by mass-atrocities (CAR, Cote d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea, Iraq, Mali and Ukraine, as well as Tunisia in respect of neighboring Libya) questioned the Prosecutor on cases and situations under preliminary examinations, and situations and potential cases where the ICC cannot exercise its complementary jurisdiction due to the lack of universal ratification and acceptance of the Rome Statute.

Leading Legislators from several Non States Parties pledged to launch a ground-breaking national campaign for accession to the Rome Statute in Guinea Bissau and to reinforce the PGA action for ICC ratification in Togo, Morocco, Iraq, Ukraine and Malaysia.

The leading PGA Member from Namibia expressed support for the ICC and urged all States to address existing criticisms and concerns on the ICC's functioning and to remain within the Court's system, hence rejecting the idea of withdrawal from the treaty. The statement of this prominent MP was of particular significance as it followed Namibia's Cabinet decision to remit the consideration of whether or not to withdraw from the Rome Statute to Parliament.

Legislators from many States Parties and a Non State Party, Zimbabwe, pledged to launch or intensify efforts to domesticate the Rome Statute norms and standards into their national laws, so to ensure effective compliance with the duty to cooperate with the Court and to give effect to the principle of complementarity.

In this respect, Parliamentarians from DRC reported on the historic adoption of comprehensive legislation to implement the Rome Statute, while MPs from Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guinea, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mali, Morocco, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Ukraine illustrated legislative initiatives or political efforts to advance domestic implementation of the Rome Statute and the Kampala Amendments as well as to promote ad hoc (voluntary) agreements on cooperation with the Court in their countries.

All participating Parliamentarians welcomed the statement of the newly elected President of the Gambia to "withdraw the withdrawal" and remain in the Rome Statute system, while they expressed profound concern – through passing a resolution proposed by the Speaker of the National Assembly of Senegal on 10 December 2016 – for the rejection of the result of the democratic process by the incumbent President.

The Consultative Assembly ended with the consideration and adoption of the "Dakar Plan of Action on the Prevention of Mass Atrocities, Strengthening the Rule of Law and Support for the International Criminal Court", which contains a blueprint of strategies and initiatives that PGA Members and other concerned Legislators can undertake, in accordance to the needs of their own country or region, to make a difference in support of the effectiveness and universality of the Rome Statute system against impunity.



**PEACE AND
DEMOCRACY**



2016

A) CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSALITY AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT CAMPAIGN)

This year, PGA continued to work towards making the world a more secure place by contributing to the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a multilateral, legally-binding agreement that establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons and seeks to reduce the illicit arms trade.

To date, worldwide, PGA Members have made important contributions in 38 of the 91 UN Member States that have ratified this vital international convention since it was opened for signature in June 2013.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

The Peace and Democracy Programme produced significant results concerning the ratification campaign of the ATT, starting with the ratification of Peru in February 2016, followed by Guatemala in July 2016 and Cape Verde in September 2016.

These particular results are a concrete outcome from the [Plan of Action](#) adopted at PGA's 37th Annual Forum on the Role of Parliamentarians in Promoting Peace and Security, held in San Salvador on 30 November-1 December 2015, and relevant follow up action by PGA Members in 2016.

PGA Members in a number of other [Lusophone States](#), including Angola, Brazil, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique are also actively promoting ratification of the ATT by their respective Governments.

From 8-11 November, 2016, a [PGA Delegation met in Dili, Timor Leste](#) with the Prime Minister of Timor Leste, Minister of Defense, Minister of Interior, Asia Director of Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in absence of Foreign Minister) and Chairman of Foreign Relations, Security and Defence Committee of the Parliament of Timor Leste, to promote ratification and Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

From 5-6 December, 2016, the P&D Programme convened a Regional Middle East/North Africa

Parliamentary Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the ATT, in Amman, Jordan.

This event served to galvanize the political leadership of Parliamentarians from Iraq, Jordan, Somalia and Tunisia towards launching national processes for the ratification and implementation of the ATT, while it allowed former Parliamentarians and PGA Members from Yemen to share their dramatic experience in the civil war.



HON. DEP. JOSÉ SANCHES

PGA MEMBER AND CHAIR OF
NATIONAL GROUP OF CAPE
VERDE

"I am absolutely delighted that the Government of Cabo Verde has deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty at the United Nations in New York on 23rd November, 2016. As a small multi-island State, Cabo Verde is very vulnerable to the illicit trade in arms. Together with other members of the PGA National Group in the Parliament of Cabo Verde, and in our interactions with the Government, we have been very pleased to actively promote Cabo Verde joining this crucial international treaty. The recent PGA Lusophone States Workshop here in the National Assembly in Praia was a significant catalyst in moving forward this 'final step' a process which had been delayed for 16 months."

B) CAMPAIGN FOR UNIVERSALITY AND NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND TOXIN WEAPONS CONVENTION (BWC CAMPAIGN)

In the wake of the evolution of more sophisticated and complex terrorism and conflict-related threats, a renewed interest in ensuring greater global participation in and implementation of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) has rapidly emerged.

PGA is promoting the universality and implementation of the BWC in order to prevent the development, manufacture and stockpiling of Biological Weapons, which, together with other Weapons of Mass Destruction, threaten the very existence of our planet and its people.

PGA works with relevant partners and institutions to promote the full compliance of States with the BWC and relevant legally binding instruments, including UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) as reinforced by the unanimously adopted UNSC Resolution 2325 (2016), which expressly recognizes the pivotal role of Parliamentarians.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

This year, as a result, in part, of the efforts of PGA Members, Angola became the 175th States Party of the BWC in July 2016.

The BWC was also ratified by Liberia and Nepal in November 2016, becoming the 176th and 177th States Parties, in which PGA Members played a crucial and central role.

PGA contributed to the ratification of BWC by Guinea, as well as providing important input and advocacy outreach, leading to Instruments of Succession to the BWC being deposited by Vanuatu and Dominica.

PGA managed to achieve these results within one year from the launch of the new BWC Campaign on 1 December 2015 in San Salvador: the PGA contribution to the universality of the convention was recognized by a group of States led by Canada

in the opening session of the 8th Review Conference to the BWC on 7 November 2016.

PGA was notified by Minister Lemalu Lemi Taefu, MP (Samoa, Executive Member of PGA) that the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) [has been transmitted to the Office of the Attorney General of Samoa](#) for clearance."

PGA congratulates, and pays tribute to, its Members in Nepal, Hon. Foreign Minister Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat and Hon. Minister Ramesh Lekhak for their essential contributions during the past 12 months, together with others, culminating in the ratification by Nepal of the Biological Weapons Convention on 4th November 2016, as signed by Nepal on 10th April 1972.



GENDER, EQUALITY AND POPULATION



2016

A) CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD, EARLY AND FORCED MARRIAGE (CEFM CAMPAIGN)

Child, early and forced marriage is a violation of human rights and a development challenge that prevents approximately 15 million girls every year, and their countries, from achieving their potential.

The practice perpetuates cycles of poverty, undermines efforts to reduce the numbers of women and children dying in childbirth and infancy, and holds back girls from attending school and contributing to their countries' economic development and prosperity.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

PGA's [Global Parliamentary Declaration to End Child, Early and Forced Marriage](#) has been signed by 774 legislators in 80 countries.

PGA held a successful [Capacity Building Seminar for African Parliamentarians on Addressing Child, Early and Forced Marriage](#) hosted by the Parliament of Ghana, in Accra on March 2-3, where parliamentarians from Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania and Zimbabwe participated. PGA's work in Ghana since 2014 prompted the creation of a Child Marriage Unit within the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, and encouraged the country to develop a National Strategic Framework to End Child Marriage.

As a result of her participation in PGA advocacy activities, Ms. Jessie Majome, MP, (pictured), Chair of PGA's National Group in Zimbabwe, drafted and presented a bill to harmonize all other Acts in respect to the Constitution, which bans child marriage and establishes 18 as the minimum legal age for boys and girls to get married.

On October 18, 2016, [she presented the Draft Amendments to Laws Addressing Child Marriages to Mr. Emmerson Mnangagwa, Vice President and Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs of Zimbabwe](#). Ms. Majome's activism to end child marriage, and that of PGA's National Group members in Zimbabwe, encouraged 70 male MPs in Zimbabwe to personally disavow child marriage to

mark this year's International Women's Day.

Dip. Ronny Monge, GEP Programme Deputy-Convenor and PGA Board Member, worked with his colleagues in the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica to approve Law 19.337 prohibiting child marriage and increasing sanctions to those who break the law (October 2016).

Hon. Jessie Majome, MP
(Zimbabwe)



HON. KHADIJA YAMLAHI, MP, MOROCCO

PGA MEMBER WORKING ON IMPLEMENTING THE FAMILY CODE (MOUDAWANA) - THE LAW DEALING WITH CHILD MARRIAGE - STIPULATES THE LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE AS 18 FOR GIRLS AND BOYS (ARTICLE 19).

"We, Members of Parliament, need to utilize the media as an advocacy tool to reach the most remote areas and organize, in partnership with civil society, gender-sensitive capacity-building initiatives in schools. Education is paramount. I believe that if our constituents are made aware of their human rights thanks to the work of civil society and the media, the government will have to treat CEFM as a priority."

In collaboration with the NGO coalition Girls Not Brides, PGA prepared case studies of PGA members in Bangladesh, Morocco and Zimbabwe addressing child marriage in their countries and contributed to a revised version of GNB's toolkit for parliamentarians on this topic.

Their [inspiring stories](#), along with the [revised toolkit](#), can be found on our website.

Hon. Khadija Yamlahi, MP,
(Morocco)



B) CAMPAIGN AGAINST DISCRIMINATION BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION AND GENDER IDENTITY (SOGI CAMPAIGN)

As the only global Parliamentary network bold enough to take on this issue, PGA has continued to blaze new trails in its SOGI Campaign, which aims to sensitize parliamentarians on human rights protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (LGBTI) persons on the basis of the principles of equality and non-discrimination and to undertake education and technical assistance designed to increase political will in support of the effective application of human rights norms and standards in accordance with international obligations.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

PGA published a landmark resource, "Advancing the Human Rights and Inclusion of LGBTI People: A Handbook for Parliamentarians," in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). This publication was launched at a [Seminar for Latin American and Caribbean Parliamentarians in Montevideo, Uruguay](#) on the sidelines of the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference, hosted by Uruguay and the Netherlands.

Legislators and other stakeholders, including LGBTI activists, welcomed the publication. Member-Parliamentarians have taken actions to promote equality of LGBTI persons in Aruba, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Nepal, Republic of the Seychelles, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Uruguay, and have committed to sharing the Handbook with their colleagues in national parliaments.

In 2016, the Parliament of The Seychelles adopted a revised Penal Code through which it decriminalized homosexuality and aligned with the principle of non-discrimination.

In the past 3 years of the SOGI Campaign, PGA has sensitized over 200 parliamentarians from 32 countries around the world.

Some of the actions in 2016 include:

- Promoting PGA's human rights agenda with an emphasis on equality of all individuals during two Parliamentary Delegations to Trinidad and Tobago (June 21-24, 2016) and to Belize (November 9-12, 2016), respectively. Find more information on our website on [Trinidad and Tobago](#) where a new PGA National Group was established. The [mission to Belize](#) was the first PGA visit to this country. The Speaker of Parliament, members of the opposition and government, and the First Lady of the country warmly welcomed the Delegation. Eleven MPs joined PGA and expressed their interest in establishing a National Group to encourage cross-party collaboration on human rights.

- Raising the visibility of a project of General Law on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Dominican Republic. As a result of PGA's Seminar on SOGI that took place in the Chamber of Deputies of Dominican Republic in October 2013, the National Council on HIV and AIDS, in consultation with relevant national stakeholders and PGA, has prepared this project of General Law, which the Legal Advisor to the President is currently reviewing. PGA's [Field Mission to Santo Domingo](#) on November 9-11, 2016 raised the visibility of this project of Law

among legislators in the Committees on Human Rights and Gender Equality and the public at large.

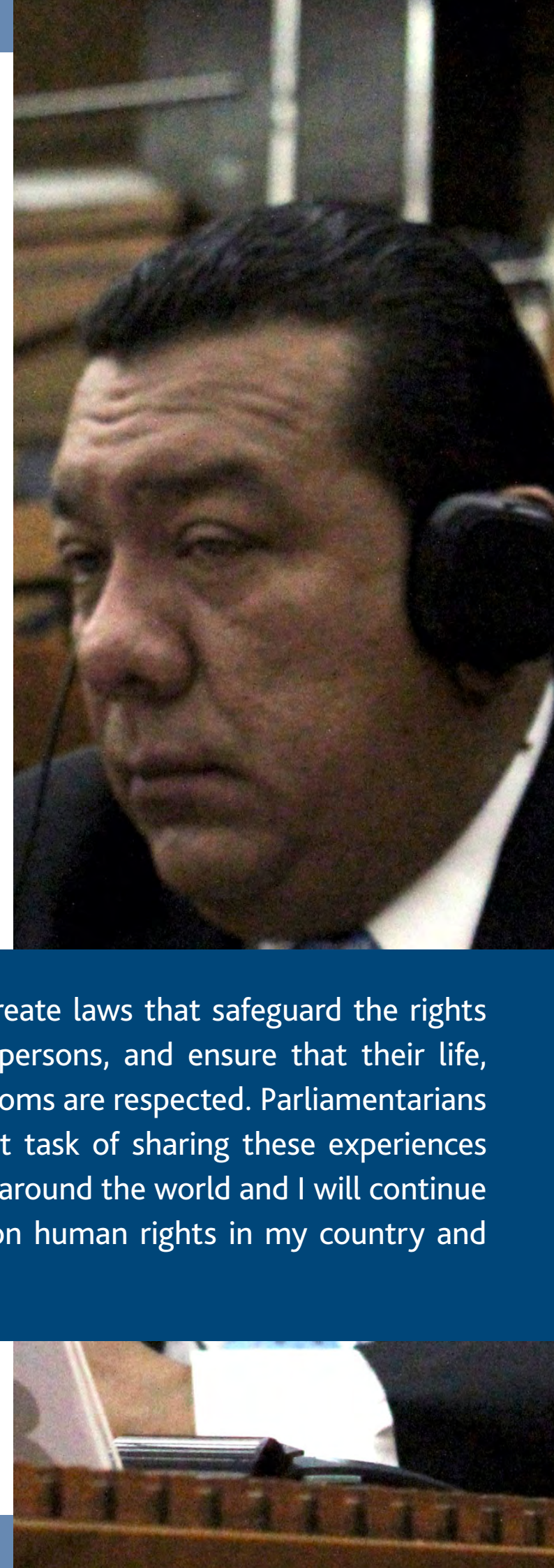
- Supporting international efforts and LGBTI activism. Senator Valerie Woods from Belize raised visibility of PGA's SOGI Campaign among international civil society partners in a presentation entitled "Engaging Parliamentarians as Allies" at ILGA's World Conference in Bangkok, Thailand on November 30th.

This biennial global conference gathers 450-500 human rights practitioners, NGOs, LGBTI activists from all over the world as well as UN agencies and the donor community. [Watch Senator Woods' Rainbow Talk.](#)

DIP. MARIO TENORIO

CHAIR OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
LEGISLATION AND
CONSTITUTIONAL
AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY OF EL
SALVADOR, PGA MEMBER

"As Parliamentarians we need to create laws that safeguard the rights of all individuals, including LGBTI persons, and ensure that their life, physical integrity, morals, and freedoms are respected. Parliamentarians for Global Action has an important task of sharing these experiences and lessons with other Parliaments around the world and I will continue actively supporting this key work on human rights in my country and abroad."



2016 IN REVIEW

February 03-05: Ad Hoc Mission to Kiev as part of the efforts towards Universal Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute, Kiev, Ukraine

February 10: (I) PGA's participation in the Working Session of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the ICC; (II) Congressional Briefing on "Justice for ISIS Atrocities? How US Policy on the International Criminal Court Can Help Promote Accountability in Iraq and Syria" [co-organized with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission [<http://tlhrc.house.gov/>], ABA, American Univ. and Washington ICC WG] and (III) Meeting between PGA's President Dip. Minou Tavárez Mirabal from Dominican Republic and Members of the US Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus, Washington, DC

February 24-25: PGA Consultations on the Death Penalty in Indonesia, Jakarta, Indonesia

February 27: Regional Asia Parliamentary Round Table Meeting Addressing The Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and Mitigation of Armed Violence, Kathmandu, Nepal

March 02-03: Capacity Building Seminar for African Parliamentarians on Addressing Child, Early and Forced Marriage (CEFM), Parliament of Ghana, Accra

March 04: Round-Table and consultations on the Abolition of the Death Penalty with Ghanaian ,Tanzanian and Zimbabwean Parliamentarians, Parliament of Ghana, Accra

April 02-03: Regional African Parliamentary Workshop to Address the Illicit Trade in SALW and Mitigate Armed Violence, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

April 11: PGA Mission to El Salvador to address a hearing of the Foreign Affairs Committee on cooperation with the ICC, Parliament of El Salvador, San Salvador

April 18-22: Visit of a high-level Delegation of Ugandan MPs to the ICC, the Board of Directors of the Trust Fund for Victims and other Hague-based institutions, The Hague, The Netherlands

May 17-18: PGA's testimony in the experts' hearing on Cooperation with the International Criminal Court: towards a concrete and expanded commitment", Legal and Political Affairs Committee of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), Parliament of Italy, Rome

May 26: PGA Parliamentary Seminar on Promoting Gender Justice and the Rule of Law through National Mechanisms, Parliament of Indonesia, Jakarta

June 21: PGA Side Event to the 6th World Congress against the Death Penalty: The Role of Parliamentarians in the Battle against the Death Penalty, The Norwegian Parliament (Storting), Oslo, Norway

June 21-24: Parliamentary Delegation on Equality and Non-Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI), Parliament of Trinidad & Tobago, Port of Spain

July 07: Consultations on the implementation of the Rome Statute and support to the International Criminal Court, Chamber of Deputies Paraguay, Asuncion

July 11: Regional Seminar on Equality and Non-Discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) for Caribbean Parliamentarians & Launch of PGA's Parliamentary Handbook on Human Rights and SOGI, Parliament of Uruguay, Montevideo

July 12-14: PGA Mission to Kyiv and Parliamentary Roundtable on Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute of the ICC, Kiev, Ukraine

July 18-19: PGA Lusophone Workshop on the Ratification and Implementation of The Arms Trade Treaty, National Assembly of Cape Verde, Praia

September 27-28: Sub-regional Workshop on the full implementation of the Rome Statute in the Latin American Region, Senate of Uruguay, Montevideo

October 20: Launch of the Parliamentary Factsheet on Death Penalty & Terrorism-related Offences, United Nations, United States

November 09-11: PGA Field Mission to Timor-Leste, supported by UNSCAR, to Promote Ratification of Arms Trade Treaty, Dili, Timor-Leste

November 09-11: Field Mission to follow up on Project of General Law on Equality and Non-Discrimination, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

November 09-12: Parliamentary Delegation on Human Rights, Equality and Non-Discrimination, Belize City, Belize

November 10-11: 2nd Session of PGA's Working Group on the Fight against Impunity in Francophone African Countries, Parliament of Togo, Lome

November 16: PGA side-event on "Challenges for the Universality and threats for the integrity of the Rome Statute system: The Role of Parliamentarians" on the occasion of the 15th Session of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC, The Hague, The Netherlands

December 03-09: Study visit on equality and non-discrimination for Central American and African MPs to the United Nations and other New York-based entities, in collaboration with Outright Action International, New York

December 05-06: PGA Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Workshop to Promote Ratification and Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) supported by UNSCAR, Amman, Jordan

December 08: 7th Session of the PGA Middle East North Africa (MENA) Working Group on the ICC, Dakar, Senegal

December 09-10: 39th PGA Annual Forum and 9th Session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentary for the International Criminal Court and the Rule of Law, Dakar, Senegal

December 12: PGA's participation in Roundtable on "LGBTI Youth in the Americas: Advancing a Commitment to Address Victims of Trafficking in Persons", organized by the LGBTI Core Group of the Organization of American State, Washington DC, United States

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PGA HEADQUARTERS - UN OFFICE, NEW YORK

132 Nassau Street, Suite 1419
New York, NY 10038, USA

Tel: +1-212-687-7755
Fax: +1-212-687-8409

PGA FOUNDATION - THE HAGUE

Bertha von Suttner Building
Laan van Meerdervoort 70
2517 AN, The Hague, Netherlands

Tel: +31.70.360.44.33
Fax: +31.70.364.22.55

Email: info@pgaction.org

Web: www.pgaction.org