

# THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE BRASILIA CONSENSUS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AN ANALYSIS BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY

## CARIBBEAN SUB-REGIONAL REPORT



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## **Elaboración del Informe:**

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## PRESENTATION

We live in a world where as early as 1945 the equal rights of women and men were enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations by member states who stated they were determined “to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small”. Subsequently in 1948, in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), specifically in terms of government, the UN states declared that “everybody has the right to take part in his/her government...”. In advancing its commitment to women, the UN went on to further elucidate these rights in several conventions all signed by Caribbean countries.

The Caribbean region is comprised of a diversity of people, numbering over 6.5 million. Women make up just over 50% of the population of the 18 countries in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Culturally, it is still a region given to male domination and most households are ‘headed’ by men. As a result, the struggle to achieve gender equality is an uphill battle, especially in regards to violence against women.

While CARICOM countries have signed up to the UN Convention for the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), as well as many other international and regional agreements, progress on their full implementation has been slow, and as a result, literally painful for women who are victims of violence against women.

Progress on the Implementation or application of the Brazil Consensus Of 2010, as measured by the conglomerate of Caribbean English-speaking counties including Haiti and Suriname, take into account the consultative meetings held primarily from 2012 and 2013 included a collection of the data also was through Skype, direct phone calls and a just concluded CEDAW NGO/GOV one week session held in Jamaica.

The organizations and networks represented are largely from the English –speaking Caribbean, Haiti and Suriname. They comprise a civil society framework designed from a host of inputs and recommendations for moving forward addressing the present as well as the Post 2015 Agenda.

This evaluative report therefore reflects the regional position of civil society that may be operating from distinctively different mandates such as HIV/AIDS, SRHR (Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, migration, and or Violence Against Women, all of which have Gender Equality as a cross-cutting issue.; and ranges from participation as far north as Bermuda and the Bahamas, to as far south as Guyana and Suriname.

The report is structured in such a way to as best as possible fit into the matrix for the Brazil Consensus, however care was given not to dilute or “water down” the expressions and recommendations of this varied group of individual agencies and networks.

In this data gathering it is recognized that most countries have signed off on the numerous International Agreements that speak to women’s rights as human rights, including the Beijing PFA, the Belem do Paro, CEDAW, ICPD, and others, the reality of action vs. paper commitments remains a vast and wide gap.

While the majority of the governments region-wide, have put in place policies, programmes, and plans, in keeping with the requirements and obligations of the various treaties and protocols designed either to provide greater protection for women, eliminate discrimination, or

to accelerate the commitments made, the reality suggests that much more needs to be done in order for women to see/feel the experience of the recommendations of Brazil Consensus and the other positions that preceded it.

In order to facilitate the process for getting information for an evaluation on the Brazil Consensus the communication activities had to be fast-tracked” since the start for the region was behind , thus while efforts have been made not to replicate previous documents and fit all information into the prescribed matrix consensus

## **1. Economic autonomy and equality in the work field**

Although Caribbean governments are signatories and even advocates for laws governing labour and employment rights, the reality is that women still remain at the bottom of the labour force and in terms of employment. Both the "sticky floor" and the "glass ceiling" prevail. In many parts of the Caribbean, women and girls enrollment and attendance in education institutions from the secondary and tertiary levels are more than the males. The University of the West Indies reported in its last Annual Report that over 70% of graduates were female. Yet despite women making up 60% of the labour force with qualifications, men makeup 60% of those employed without qualifications. On average, women's unemployment is over 20% almost twice that of men. On top of that there is a persistent wage gap with some women e.g. Jamaica, experiencing a wage gap of 12.5% according to the IDB.

### **1.1 Labor regulation and participation of women**

While some countries have laws, others as Haiti don't and others as Suriname are in process of changing the law. Jamaica-PATH programme for people living in poverty, elderly, people with disabilities; National Insurance Scheme; Government pension scheme; national housing trust scheme but amounts insufficient for a decent living.

Suriname-in process of changing law

### **1.2 Participation of women and men in the labor market**

Some Caribbean countries e.g. Jamaica has a Pay Equity Law but like most of the LAC pay inequality still occurs. Unemployment of women in Haiti and other countries is much higher than men, In Jamaica, Suriname and other countries it is almost twice that of men.

As a result of activists from Jamaica, Trinidad and other parts of the region and indeed the world, the rights of Domestic Workers is now enshrined in the ILO convention 189 on Domestic Work, the landmark international treaty, adopted on 16 June 2011.

#### **1.2.1 Salary gap between women and men**

This convention is to promote the rights of Domestic Workers and to ensure that their profession is both regulated and that it has social protection Now it is important first and foremost that Governments sign off on the convention since only with ratification can it be expected that private sector will move to enforce the provisions.

In the region Guyana is the first country to ratify ILO189 as of recent months so it will be strongly advocated for the larger states such as Jamaica, Trinidad and Bahamas to follow the lead and set an example for the entire region.

It is further reported that the National Union of Domestic Employees in Trinidad and Tobago, has enhanced its participation in policy discussions and national decision-making., with assistance provided by UN Women.

#### **1.2.2 Social security coverage of women and men**

In most Caribbean countries basic maternity laws with pay exist from 6 weeks to 3 months in some countries.

Jamaica has a Pay Equity Law, Minimum Wage Bill, Maternity leave, and other benefits and entitlements.

Haiti offers 12 weeks of maternity leave, with six weeks of full pay. Suriname is changing Personnel Act so: the right to salary during maternity leave is maintained; to abolish the unfair treatment of women for reasons of their reproductive Nature;

### **1.2.3 Unemployment rate among women and men**

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### **1.2.4 Formal market and household workers**

Women continue to be the bulk of the poor with female headed households having the largest families and 17% less resources to work with, e.g. in Jamaica.

To their credit Domestic Workers in the region have formed a network and rejuvenate their national networks. In Jamaica they are a union. Given they are women who swell the ranks of the working poor, they are an inspiration to the women's movement and women in general.

## **1.5 Right to care under the shared provision**

### **1.5.1 Public and/or private social services in relation to children, the elderly, people with disabilities and people with terminal diseases**

There is little evidence to indicate that special measures have been taken with regard to the adoption of services for children, the elderly, and/or disabled; and there have been little or no significant shifts in the labour market regarding social security coverage in the Caribbean. Data is extremely scare or non-existent. Oftentimes the labour laws are archaic and not being followed or adhered to, as a result of societal norms and behaviours moving more progressively forward than the laws themselves and there is limited review of these same laws.

## **2. Strengthen women's citizenship:**

In examining the issue of women's citizenship's rights, in particular in regards to women's participation in representational or Party politics, there can be no denial that patriarchal norms still prevail and women's socialization is still oriented to 'excel' within the unpaid 'care economy'. Although we claim to have a democracy, it is "unfinished" and "uneven". Within the chambers of decision-making, a relentless drought seems to have afflicted women's political participation in decision-making in the highest seats of 'community governance' our national assemblies, Parliaments and Senates. Women still endure a feeling of being second-class citizens in their homelands. In some countries women still do not have the right of inheritance and access to land ownership

### **2.1 International commitments in relation to equality and non-discrimination**

Despite governments' commitment to full participation and respect for women's rights, at the World Conferences on Women, today up to only 20% of those elected to Lower Houses are women, in the face of 50% or more of populations in any country being women. Since 1995 this is the change from 10.9% - 'New Century, Old Disparities' is the apt title of one study speaking to gender discrimination. Women still endure being cast into stereotypical roles despite the evidence of their success in leadership in the public domain; their more equalizing presence in the public and corporate worlds and their contributions with innovative and inclusive policies and programmes.

Recalling the Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Cairo in September 1994, and the key actions for its further implementation, adopted in 1999; the Latin American and Caribbean Consensus on Population and Development, adopted in Mexico City in May 1993, and the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Plan of Action on Population and Development of 1994; the United Nations Millennium Declaration of September 2000; and the 2005 World Summit Outcome; as well as resolution 60/265 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 30 June 2006,

Recalling also the commitments of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in October 1995, and the Brasilia Consensus, adopted at the eleventh session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Brasilia in July 2010,

Taking into account the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the outcome document of the Conference entitled “**The future we want**”,

Taking into account also resolution 65/234 by virtue of which the General Assembly decided to extend the Cairo Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and in which it also requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on the review of the implementation of the Programme of Action to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session,

Bearing in mind resolution 63/225 in which the General Assembly decided to hold a High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development during its sixty-eighth session, in 2013 and resolution 615(XXXI) on international migration, adopted at the thirty-first session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in March 2006,

## **2.2 National institutionalization of gender**

### **2.2.1 Development of materials on gender and disaggregated data**

Jamaica has the most developed statistical institute in the region STATIN and is the only country to have Census every 4 years as well as quarterly reports on labour, employment and unemployment, mainly in disaggregated data. There is a move to through CARICOM assist the other countries in the community

### **2.2.3 Need of a Gender National Plan**

All Caribbean countries have national machineries in place to steer the country's strategy on gender equality. However, in most cases, the resources available to the national machinery does not reflect the fact that gender equality is a development priority They have been working to ensure that there is gender mainstreaming in their respective Ministry, some have focal points

## **2.3 Strategies of the public and private sector guaranteeing religious freedom and respect for the practice of religion**

### **2.3.1 Estate-Church relation**

Throughout the Caribbean, religious freedom is enshrined in the Charter Of Rights & Freedoms in line with CARICOM agreements and historically

## **2.4 Gender, race and ethnic equality**

The Situation varies. This is one example:

Haiti-The 1987 Constitution of Haiti guarantees equal rights of citizenship regardless of sex, however it does not specifically prohibit discrimination on the grounds of gender, although the

ratified International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ostensibly mandates such protections. In 1994, the government established a Ministry for the Status of Women, but it has suffered from Haiti's recurring political instability. Haiti is a patriarchal society that assigns different social roles for men and women, where men are seen as the head of the family with power to make economic decisions. This is especially true for women in rural areas

## **2.6 Equal access to land property and agrarian reform in relation to rural, indigenous, Afro-descendant women, and other minority groups**

Jamaica's agricultural statistics reflect that it has 144,685 farmers utilizing 259,358 hectares of land. It also indicates that, 43,808 (30%) are women between the age of 35 – 54. The average land space utilized by women is 1.4 hectares in comparison to an average of 2.6 Ha of land which has been cultivated by male farmer<sup>4</sup>. This does not include there are no legal restrictions on women's right to own and manage land. but few have the money to buy it, and that so many women live in unregistered consensual unions, meaning they have no legal right to claim ownership of property accumulated jointly while the couple were together, in the event of separation, or her partner's death. As of 2008, just over 10 per cent of women in rural areas work on their own farms. Many female agricultural workers are not paid for their labour as it is seen as 'auxiliary' labour supplementing that performed by the male head of the family.

## **2.7 Women's access to decent housing**

Women have the legal right to access to property other than land, which usually includes assets such as the family home and cattle. but generally acquire other property by combining resources with another person. It is rare for women to own secondary properties or vehicles.

## **3. Participation of women in the decisionmaking processes and power espheres** **Introduce with a general vision of the corresponding sphere**

### **3.1 Participation of women in the Estate**

The CARICOM Single Market and Economy Agreement gives the right to all Caribbean citizens to travel from country to country at stay for 6 months without a work permit, no harassment and access to services. This ruling was recently affirmed by the top Caribbean Court of Justice

### **3.2 Measeures to promote the participation of women in politic, public power and private institutions**

Despite the fact that governments in the region have been signatories to many global, regional and national agreements towards women's rights,. Although they make up the bulk of voters and Political Party workers, they do not enjoy the fruits of their labour as candidates or political representatives. In the region, women are still expected to be in charge of the 'private domain' in the home, while the men dominate the 'public domain. Further, most political parties are male dominated at all levels of their structure from candidate selection to development of the manifesto.

Women's participation is also obstructed at the level of appointments to Public Boards and Commissions where in a number of countries about 75% of the appointees are males and the majority of chairpersons 70% or more.

The voices of women snubbed in these important decision-making spaces means our countries do not benefit from our total skill sets, innovative and new solutions, the knowledge of communities and families to be considered in legislation to make them more relevant and a general reorienting of our national economy and social development plan towards the most vulnerable in our societies. The culture of the Caribbean is that males are "head" of the household. Across the Caribbean, 63.2% of households are 'headed' by men. On average 36.8% are 'headed' by women. However in some countries such as Barbados and Jamaica,

over 40% of households are headed by women, while in Belize and Guyana, less than 30% of households are headed by women.

With the exception of Jamaica, Caribbean countries do not have entities whose job it is to gather data in a timely manner to effect more relevant and evidence-based policy and programmes. In particular sex disaggregated data on populations, housing, the labour force and employment data, education, health and social services are essential for short, medium and long term planning and visioning.

By far the most egregious impact of the uneven application of women's citizenship in the Caribbean is the "Unfinished" democracies created by women's meagre participation in political representation. On the average across the region, 14.7% of female members of the Houses of Representatives are women, with Americas average being 24%. Only 2 countries have attained 30% or more female representation, Grenada and Guyana.

Most Caribbean countries have not adopted legislated quotas but political parties have done so, Guyana and Grenada both are over the 30% representation mark in their Houses of Representatives and Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica are currently the only 2 countries with female heads. Most countries are examining the use of gender neutral quotas. On average in the Caribbean only 14.9% of members of the legislatures are women

#### **4. Violence against women**

The English speaking Caribbean inherited a legal system from the United Kingdom. Most of the Common Law related to issues of Violence against women is antiquated and outmoded, including one known as "the rule of thumb".

With the process of legal reform, many of the laws that recognized women as only the property of their husbands and created the perception that women are inferior and that men are in a position of entitlement over women have been removed from the statutes, while others have been amended but Violence Against Women in the form of gender based violence continue to takes its toll on the /Caribbean nations.

"Gender-based violence and its effects on the lives of women and girls continue to represent a challenge to their ability to equally participate in national development. As noted by researcher V Salter; "When seen in this light, gender-based violence becomes apparent as a development issue. It should be noted that the health, community and economic costs of gender-based violence are significant, collectively working to undermine gender equity, representing a significant threat to national and global sustainable development."

Throughout the region with the assistance of UNWomen, each jurisdiction is being exposed to training in the recognition, treatment and documentation of GBV including femicides. In Jamaica e.g. a special agency CISOCA now collects the data, trains police force and assist victims of GBV.

There are also units dedicated to the capture and arrest of pedophiles, pornographers, stalkers using electronic means to assist in criminal acts such as GBV.

It is Governments' role to guarantee the protection and enjoyment of women's human rights( Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995, UNCEDAW). Although most Caribbean governments have enacted or updated laws to deal with violence against women, this does not appear to be a priority for them. The increasing levels of crimes and violence against women and children speak for themselves.



#### **4.1 Prevention, protection and care measures**

Most Caribbean countries now have or are putting in place comprehensive policies on GBV. In addition they have laws to punish incest, rape, other forms of sexual assaults. Women's groups are lobbying for stronger sentences, a change in the approach of the judiciary, protection for witnesses and complainants, etc.

Within a number of countries, women's organizations have started women's shelters and anti-violence counselling services on their own, while in others, governments have funded shelters and engaged women's organizations to administer them. The establishment of these centres is not throughout the whole Caribbean, and in those countries with shelters such as The Bahamas, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica, only one shelter may exist to serve the whole female population. The Bahamas has established three. In addition, training programmes on VAW for community leaders and programmes for offenders have been developed by NGOs and CBOs. SISTREN Theatre Collective and WROC are examples.

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In an assessment report by researcher Veronica Salter it was noted that "The impact of gender-based violence extends beyond its physical effect on women's bodies, affecting the psychological, emotional and spiritual health of women, and by extension, their families and wider communities. Additionally, gender-based violence also severely compromises both the sexual and reproductive health of women. Amidst socio-cultural values and practices that reinforce the objectification and subjugation (both physical and philosophical) of women's bodies, nuanced vulnerabilities emerge that directly affect the lives of women and girls.

As such, issues such as rape, incest, domestic violence, the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and fertility control are particularly gendered and disproportionately affect women.

#### **4.2 Current legislation**

##### **4.2.1 Law against violence**

Almost all jurisdictions have a GBV policy and/or separate bills to act on different forms of VAW. However the situation is getting worse it seems. In Trinidad and Tobago for example, Domestic Violence is a serious life-threatening problem and almost every day we read of incidents of domestic violence in the communities around the country. Even with the help of CSOs, it appears that the problem is growing and in some cases the ultimate result being death

##### **4.2.2 Acknowledgement of femicide**

The rate of femicides, gender based killing of women is also on the increase according to CISOCA. A true picture of femicides is difficult to access given the reluctance in some police divisions to collect sex-disaggregated and to name the killings as such. Domestic violence is used by many police divisions to name any kind of combative interaction among people living in the same house or 'Big Yard' that involves quarrels, threats, stabbings, shootings, etc. However in some jurisdictions e.g. Haiti and to some degree Jamaica, and T & Two men are the main victims of a particular type of political violence in the country. The practice of zenglendos, in Haiti which involves men breaking into a house to rape the female occupants, is frequently used to exert political pressure or intimidation – in Jamaica it is young girls who are forced. In all 3 countries rates of femicides are between 20-100/year.

#### **4.2.4 Addressing human trafficking**

According to the UN Country report data up to 70% of women experience violence in their lifetime. However in ASPIRE's research findings conducted in 2011-2012 titled: Incidence of Domestic Violence 2001-2011 in Trinidad and Tobago, for the 10 years under review over 100 women were brutally murdered. All CARICOM countries have signed the convention against trafficking in persons. Yet, Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados and Jamaica are destination and transit countries for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Legal and undocumented immigrants from the Caribbean region, notably from Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, as well as from Southeast Asia, reportedly comprise the population most vulnerable to trafficking. According to several sources, forced prostitution occurs in bars, taverns, and brothels. Incidences of forced labor have occurred in domestic service and in the retail sector.

In 2010, The Directorate of Gender Affairs Crisis Centre in Antigua and Barbuda, recorded seeing 328 clients and 364 in 2011. Within the 2010 client list, 60 were victims of domestic violence, 35 were rapes and sexual violence and 3 were human trafficking cases. In 2011, 283 of the 364 cases were victims of domestic violence, 38 sexual abuse and 10 cases of child rape. 22 were human trafficking cases. In addition assault by beating increased from 907 cases to 1,243. Between 2001 and 2011, breaches in Protection Orders increased from 26 to 157. Most females subjected to domestic violence were 25-29 years old. The Directorate has registered its concern in the increase in human trafficking over the years.

The Grenada National Organization of Women, GNOW, in their CEDAW report on VAW, noted another growing trend of sexual violence within the Caribbean, termed transactional sex. This is a growing phenomenon in the region where mainly young girls who in poverty stricken conditions are mostly forced to have sex with usually older men, many times a family friend, in exchange for food, payment of utility bills, education costs, rent, etc. No statistics exist to define how frequent this is. The Grenada National Organization of Women- (GNOW)- report that this is prevalent in economically depressed communities, and must have links to poverty and possibly female headed households. This phenomenon is believed to be a contributor to the high incidence of HIV and AIDS among young women 10-19 years old in the region.

The Bahamas is a destination, source, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Migrant workers are especially vulnerable to involuntary servitude in The Bahamas, particularly the thousands of Haitians who arrive in The Bahamas largely voluntarily to work as domestic employees, laborers, and in agriculture.

Barbados is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Evidence suggests there are foreign women forced into prostitution in Barbados. In the past, foreigners reportedly have been subjected to forced labor in Barbados, with the highest risk sectors being domestic service, agriculture, and construction. Legal and illegal immigrants from Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana appear to be vulnerable to trafficking. The prostitution of children is known to exist in Barbados, including Barbadian and immigrant children engaging in transactional sex with older men for material goods, a phenomenon documented by UNICEF throughout the Eastern Caribbean.

Belize is a source, destination, and transit country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. A common form of human trafficking in Belize is the coerced prostitution of children, often occurring through parents pushing their children to provide sexual favors to older men in exchange for school fees, money, and gifts. Child sex tourism, involving primarily U.S. citizens, has been identified as an emerging trend in Belize. Additionally, sex trafficking and forced labor of Belizean and foreign women and girls, primarily from Central

America, occurs in bars, nightclubs, and brothels throughout the country. Foreign men, women, and children, particularly from Central America, Mexico, and Asia, migrate voluntarily to Belize in search of work; some may fall victim to forced labor. Children and adults working in the agricultural and fishing sectors in Belize are vulnerable to forced labor. Forced labor has been identified in the service sector among the South Asian and Chinese communities in Belize, primarily in restaurants and shops with owners from the same country. There has been at least one case of a Belizean trafficking victim identified in previous years in the United States.

Guyana is a source and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Guyanese and foreign women and girls are subjected to forced prostitution in Guyana. Country experts express concern that exploitative child labor practices, some of which likely include human trafficking, occur within the mining industry, agriculture, and forestry sectors. Traffickers are attracted to Guyana's interior mining communities where there is limited government control. In addition, a lack of economic opportunities in more populated coastal regions of the country draws individuals, some underage, to seek employment in the interior, where they sometimes fall victim to trafficking. According to a media report in November 2012, a child was murdered while working in the mines, and reports linked his death to his attempt to collect wages due to him. Guyanese from rural, economically depressed areas are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in mining areas and urban centers. Indonesian workers were subjected to forced labor on several Guyanese-flagged fishing boats off of the coast of Trinidad and Tobago during the reporting period. There is additional concern that Venezuelan and Brazilian women in prostitution are vulnerable to trafficking in Guyana. Guyanese nationals have been subjected to human trafficking in other countries in the Caribbean region.

Haiti is a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Most of Haiti's trafficking cases consist of the estimated 150,000-500,000 children in domestic servitude in households throughout Haiti. In addition to experiencing forced labor, these children are vulnerable to beatings, sexual assaults, and other abuses by family members in the homes in which they are residing. Dismissed and runaway children from domestic servitude make up a significant proportion of the large population of street children who end up forced into prostitution, begging, or street crime by criminal gangs in Haiti. Children working in construction and agriculture are also vulnerable to forced labor. Children in some unscrupulous private and NGO-sponsored residential care centers are at a high risk of being placed in a situation of forced labor. Women and children living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps set up as a result of the 2010 earthquake were at an increased risk of sex trafficking and forced labor. Of the estimated 1.5 million Haitians that entered the camps following the earthquake, some 357,785 remain as of March 2013. There have been documented cases of Dominican women in forced prostitution in Haiti. Haitians are exploited in forced labor in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere in the Caribbean as well as the United States. The groups most at risk of trafficking were Haitians without documentation and those from the lowest income backgrounds, especially women and children

Jamaica is a source, transit, and destination country for adults and children subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. The exploitation of local children in the sex trade within Jamaica, a form of sex trafficking, remains a serious problem. Sex trafficking of children and adults likely occurs on the street, in night clubs, bars, and in private homes throughout Jamaica, including in resort towns. In addition, massage parlors in Jamaica reportedly often lure women into prostitution under the false pretense of employment as massage therapists and then withhold their wages and restrict their movement—key indicators of human trafficking. People living in Jamaica's poverty-stricken garrison communities, territories ruled by criminal "dons" effectively outside of the government's control, are especially at risk. NGOs also expressed concern that children from poor families sent to better-off families or local "dons" with the intent of a chance

at a better life are highly vulnerable to prostitution and forced labor, including domestic servitude. Other at-risk children are those working in the informal sector, such as on farms, or in street vending, markets, and shops, as well as those engaging in begging. NGOs and the government remain alarmed at the high number of missing children and are concerned that some of these children are falling prey to forced labor or sex trafficking. There is evidence that foreign nationals are subjected to forced labor in Jamaica and aboard foreign-flagged fishing vessels operating in Jamaican waters. Numerous sources report that many Jamaican citizens have been subjected to sex trafficking or forced labor abroad, including throughout the Caribbean, Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Child sex tourism reportedly occurs in Jamaica

St. Lucia is a destination country for persons subjected to forced prostitution and forced labor. Legal and illegal immigrants from Haiti, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and South Asia, especially those working in domestic service, reportedly are the groups most vulnerable to human trafficking. There are indications children under 18 are coerced to engage in commercial sex in St. Lucia. Sex trafficking victims are likely found among foreign women in prostitution. According to the police and NGOs, the most likely sex trafficking perpetrators in the country are pimps, strip club operators, and brothel owners

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is a source, transit, and destination country for some men, women, and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Officials have expressed concern about the possible existence of adults pressuring children under the age of 18 to provide sex acts to men in exchange for money or gifts, a form of sex trafficking. Officials have also raised concerns regarding foreign women engaged in prostitution in or transiting through the country. Other vulnerable groups include foreign workers and children under the age of 16 working in shops.

Suriname is a source, destination, and transit country for women, men, and children who are subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. Women and girls from Suriname, Guyana, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic are subjected to sex trafficking in the country. During the year, the Brazilian government identified Suriname as a key transit point for Brazilian trafficking victims exploited in Europe. Media reports and past convictions indicate that debt bondage and sex trafficking occur within the Chinese migrant community. NGOs and government sources continued to indicate that some women and girls are exploited in sex trafficking in Suriname's interior around mining camps, although the remote and illegal nature of these camps renders the scope of the problem unknown, and there is little government presence in these areas. Migrant workers in agriculture and on fishing boats off the coast are highly vulnerable to forced labor, as are children working in informal urban sectors and gold mines.

#### **4.3 Access to justice and legal counseling by women in situation of violence**

##### **4.3.1 Training and sensitizing justice officials**

Throughout the region with the assistance of UNWomen, each jurisdiction is being exposed to training in the recognition, treatment and documentation of GBV including femicides. In Jamaica e.g. a special agency CISOCA now collects the data, trains police force and assist victims of GBV.

There are also units dedicated to the capture and arrest of pedophiles, pornographers, stalkers using electronic means to assist in criminal acts such as GBV.

The issue of training of the police force has seen movement in the region with the support of the UN Women Caribbean. Through partnerships involving the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UN Women Caribbean (formerly UNIFEM Caribbean), governments and the Caribbean Association of Police Commissioners, police officers from the Caribbean have taken part in the *Strengthening State Accountability and Community Action to*

**End Gender Based Violence Project.** The project supports states and non-state actors' efforts in the elimination and prevention of gender based violence. UN Women – Caribbean has also developed and worked with civil society to implement programmes for survivors and offenders.

So far officers from Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have benefitted from training. Their job is now to train other officers. Some key areas of training include: management of sexual offence and domestic violence cases; sexual and intimate partner assault; legal issues; judicial response; victim support; investigative procedures; data collection.

## **5. Access of women to new technology and promotion of equal, democratic and free-of-discrimination medias**

ICT is an effective tool for the promotion and exchange of information for the defense of human rights and to foster and strengthen education and employment

## **6. Comprehensive health and sexual and reproductive rights and health of women**

### **Introduce with a general vision of the corresponding sphere**

While there is some level of family planning services available, these are limited in reach particularly due to a lack of sufficient funding and support to reach low income women in rural areas. Comprehensive access of women to sexual and reproductive rights is still considered a taboo.

### **6.2 Comprehensive Sexuality Education and family planning**

The poor reproductive health status of Haiti's communities contributes to a life expectancy of 62.8 years for women in comparison to 75.5 years in the neighbouring Dominican Republic. According to Haiti's 2005–2006 Demographic Health Survey, 37.5% of women in unions have unmet family planning needs.

In Suriname with the Maroon community, cultural standards and expectations dominate decisions with regard to reproductive health. Offspring are important for the honor and status of men and as security in old age and the continuation of the family. Offspring is even more important to rural women as helpers in their care-giving and production work. Infertile women are failures in the eyes of their community and partners. It is not uncommon for men in the interior to have multiple children because of the Maroon system of polygamy. In some villages the majority of men (74%) have children with more than 1 woman. The numbers of children men have ranges from 0 to 17, while the number of children women have ranges from 0 to 11. In Jamaica adolescents and youth continue to have limited access to sexual and reproductive health information and services. They face particular social, economic, cultural, and legal barriers when accessing these services Before the age of 20, 40 % of Jamaican women have been pregnant at least once. Among those young men who had fathered two or more children, over half reported having had children with multiple women.

In Jamaica limited social acceptance of youth diversity and thus government services, in health and education are not tailed to adequately address most-at-risk youth, such as rural youth, adolescent girls, disenfranchised and socially excluded youth, gay, lesbian and transgender (LGBT) youth and youth with disabilities.

In Jamaica, the number of female youth between 15 and 24 years newly reported with HIV was three times higher than their male counterparts. This may be linked to the high rate of forced sex (50% of women, aged 15–24, first sex was coerced), sexual intercourse with HIV-infected older men and transactional sex.

Basic knowledge about HIV and AIDS appears to be widespread. Three out of four people can

cite three main methods of avoiding HIV infection. However, only 26% of women and 42% of men who reported having sex with a non regular partner in the previous year said they used a condom in this encounter

Haiti is the country most affected by HIV and AIDS in the Americas; UNAIDS estimates that there are approximately 170,000 people living with HIV. UNAIDS estimates that prevalence among the 15-49 age group in 2008 was 2.2%. Prevalence is slightly higher in urban areas (2.3%) than in rural areas (2%).

In 2010, the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) estimated that: 9,200 women in the region die in pregnancy and childbirth for a maternal mortality ratio of 88.9 per 100,000 live births due to poor prenatal treatment

### **6.3 Maternal mortality and HIV/AIDS cases**

Despite the progress made over the past 20 years in reducing maternal mortality in the region of the Americas, the figure remain high in many countries- Plans and programs for a healthy maternity and prevention of maternal death.

### **6.4 Voluntary interruption of pregnancy**

In most Caribbean countries women's control over their sexual and reproductive health is still denied them by male dominated parliaments and churches that work together to continue to criminalize women seeking abortions and even punishment of teachers/social workers who enable access of contraception to adolescents e.g. condoms in schools in T & T, Approximately 2000 women suffer damage to their health, because they are denied access to safe abortion procedures. Almost 4,000 women are hospitalized every year because of unsafe abortions.