







#ParlAmericasGEN

 **THEMES:** Gender equality; women's parliamentary caucuses

 **DATES:** November 2, 2023

 **LOCATION:** Gros Islet, Saint Lucia

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than 30 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and experts from 8 countries and territories in the Caribbean

 **ORGANIZING PARTNERS:** UN Women Multi Country Office- Caribbean and the Parliament of Saint Lucia



This activity aligned with SDGs 5 and 16.



Exchange among Representatives of Caribbean Women's Parliamentary Caucuses

This gathering of representatives of women's parliamentary caucuses in the Caribbean facilitated exchange on current priorities and on good practices for caucus functioning and enabled the strengthening of networks among these bodies. Discussion explored areas for ParlAmericas and UN Women Caribbean to support their ongoing work, and on the ways in which current caucuses can provide guidance and support to one another and to other parliaments interested in establishing women's caucuses across the Caribbean.



AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Opening remarks by:

- Senator the Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas

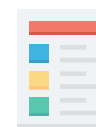
Facilitator:

- **Letitia Nicholas**, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, UN Women Caribbean

MAIN CONCLUSIONS

During the exchange among representatives of Caribbean women's parliamentary caucuses, the following key learnings on the establishment and functioning of women's caucuses were discussed:

- The structure and membership of women's parliamentary caucuses across the region varies in accordance with the goals of the caucuses' members and the national parliamentary context. International organisations such as ParlAmericas, UN Women Caribbean, and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association have supported parliaments with the establishment of the existing caucuses.
- Women's parliamentary caucuses in the Caribbean region - regardless of their structure - face common challenges in their establishment and ongoing functioning, including challenges to cross-party communication and collaboration, the need for additional institutional supports like staff assistance and materials like codes of conduct, a lack of availability of relevant data to support legislative efforts on gender equality themes, power imbalances and gender inequalities within parliaments and in society more broadly, and a need for the continued growth of men's allyship to gender equality work in parliament.
- Caucuses in the region have achieved various outcomes through their work, including the development of legislation and reviews of gaps in existing laws related to women's rights, advocacy on gender inequality issues, fostering public and parliamentary discussions on promoting women's participation in parliament, the creation of parliamentary youth programming, and the organization of training sessions.
- There is a need for further training, resources, and parliamentary exchange to overcome the challenges faced.



[AGENDA](#)



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COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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