



#ParlAmericasGEN

**THEMES:** Gender equality, political participation and representation of women, gender-based violence, care policies, open parliament, co-creation

**DATES:** October 31 and November 1, 2023

**LOCATION:** Gros Islet, Saint Lucia

**PARTICIPANTS:** More than 80 parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, specialists and representatives of national gender machineries and civil society organizations from over 17 countries and territories in the Caribbean

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



This activity aligned with SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17



## Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development

This multi-stakeholder dialogue provided a space for exchange on gender equality as a catalyst for achieving sustainable development, noting all forms of gender inequality -- especially violence against women and girls (VAWG) and specifically family violence -- as threats to Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) achieving sustainable development.

The discussions focused on innovative initiatives and good practices to build partnerships to end VAWG and advance gender equality and sustainable development within and through parliament, taking into consideration a gender and intersectional perspective. Specialists, civil society organisations, national gender machineries and the private sector made contributions that enriched the methodology of the different sessions of the meeting.



## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

### Opening Remarks:

- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas
- The Honourable **Claudius Francis** (Saint Lucia), Speaker of the House of Assembly, Member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors
- Senator the Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate

### Keynote Panel:

- The Honourable Dr. **Virginia Albert-Poyotte** (Saint Lucia), M.P., Minister for the Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs
- **Roberta Clarke**, Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

### Panellists:

- The Honourable Justice **Peter Jamadar**, Caribbean Court of Justice
- The Honourable **Dessima Williams** (Grenada), President of the Senate
- **Isiwa Iyahan**, Deputy Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Phylcia Alexander**, Executive Director, RedRoot SVG
- **Nadine Heywood**, Vice President of Credit Solutions and Programme Lead for Women's Initiatives, Scotiabank
- **Dominique Noralez**, Caribbean Representative, Commonwealth Youth Council
- **Janey Joseph**, Director of Gender Affairs, Department of Gender Affairs of Saint Lucia
- **Dr. Rosina Wiltshire**, gender and development specialist
- **Asha Challenger**, First Secretary of the Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN and Focal Point for the SIDS Conference Gender Equality Forum
- **Dwight Sibblies** (Jamaica), M.P.
- The Honourable **Alincia Williams Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate
- The Honourable **Emma Hippolyte** (Saint Lucia), M.P., Minister of Commerce, Manufacturing, Business Development, Cooperatives and Consumer Affairs
- **Terry Ince**, Convenor of the CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago and Chair of the Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative Civil Society Reference Group
- **Catherine Sealys**, President, Raise Your Voice Saint Lucia
- **Sasha Sahadeo**, Gender Officer, Caribbean Women in Leadership
- **Nadella Oya**, Interim Chair, Caribbean Gender Alliance

### Dialogues moderated by:

- The Honourable **Valerie Woods** (Belize), Speaker of the House of Representatives
- **Erin Brown**, Erin Brown Connects
- Senator **Lisa Jawahir** (Saint Lucia), Vice-President of the ParlAmericas Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality
- **Letitia Nicholas**, Monitoring and Reporting Analyst, UN Women Caribbean
- **Chantal La Roche**, Director, Legal Services, Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago
- **Phillip Carlisle**, CariMAN

### Closing remarks:

- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean
- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas
- Senator the Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate



[AGENDA](#)



[PRESS RELEASE](#)



[PODCAST EPISODE](#)



## JOINT STATEMENT

During the multi-stakeholder dialogue, participants issued a [joint statement](#) that considers the ways in which we can collaboratively advance the intrinsically interconnected objectives of inclusive and sustainable development, gender equality, and an end to violence against women and girls. The joint statement includes the following commitments:

- Promoting the collection of data disaggregated by sex, race, ethnicity, disability, age, socioeconomic status, and geographic zone (rural-urban) on the various forms of gender-based violence, especially violence against women and girls, and gender analysis, dissemination, and use, to address the data gaps on this phenomenon and other related developmental issues, in order to guide the development of programs and interventions that are appropriately tailored to meet the needs of communities and countries.
- Designing and implementing effective and inclusive actions in our own realms, as well as in partnership with other actors, to address sustainable development issues, gender inequality, and violence against women and girls that draw on our knowledge of existing good, innovative, and evidence-based responses in place in the region and around the world, including Health and Family Life Education (HFLE).
- Utilizing our various platforms, networks, positions, and communication channels to strengthen public knowledge and raise consciousness on gender equality and violence against women and girls and amplify the calls for collaboration, unity, participation, and investment to address inequalities and promote sustainable development.
- Advocating for and contributing our expertise and voices to the development of inclusive national positions, as well as amplifying Indigenous voices and the voices of other vulnerable and marginalized groups, at the 4th SIDS Conference and other international fora on sustainable development issues in order to accomplish the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (S.A.M.O.A.) Pathway, highlighting in particular how gender equality and women's empowerment can be a catalyst to deliver on commitments related to: debt; access to sustainable finance; oceans and the blue economy; gender-responsive climate action, including comprehensive responses to economic and non-economic losses and damage, and just transitions; citizen security; and gender data and statistics.
- Calling for adequate allocations of resources, gender responsive budgeting, and increased accessibility of financing to ensure the effective implementation of commitments and actions related to gender equality, ending violence against women and girls, and sustainable development.





**Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean

*"If we take the countries that we have prevalence data for – it's only 5 in the Caribbean: Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Grenada, Guyana and Jamaica – 46% of women who have ever been in a relationship have experienced some form of violence from their partner. That means at least 1 in 2 women have been dealing with this in their life. That's why the Spotlight Initiative in the Caribbean has been focused specifically in a way to measure success."*



The Honourable **Claudius Francis** (Saint Lucia), Speaker of the House of Assembly, Member of the ParlAmericas Board of Directors

*"Gender equality is not just a moral imperative. It is a social and economic necessity. Empowering women and ensuring full participation in all aspects of society is fundamental to achieve sustainable development. When we speak of sustainable development we mean a future where economic growth, social well-being and environmental protection are all in balance. Gender equality is one of the cornerstones of this vision."*



Senator the Honourable **Alvina Reynolds** (Saint Lucia), President of the Senate

*"We know about the great costs of gender inequality and violence against women and girls to every aspect of society and our populations, and we also know of the difficult challenge we face in eradicating the deep roots of these issues. For this reason, it is imperative that we keep these issues at the fore in all spaces, actively drawing attention to inequalities and all of the ways they manifest - even where it may not be immediately evident. These are no sustainable development issues that are not also gender equality issues."*



**Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas

*"This meeting is really about sustainable development and gender equality and how deeply interconnected these issues are. One will not be achieved without the other... We have to redouble our efforts to achieve transformative change in our societies and make these ideals a reality in the Caribbean and around the world."*



The Honourable Dr. **Virginia Albert-Poyotte** (Saint Lucia), M.P., Minister for the Public Service, Home Affairs, Labour and Gender Affairs

*"We will not attain sustainable development if we do not include gender in the discussion. If we do not have men and women equally contributing to national development, we will not achieve sustainable development and sustainable development basically means we have to sustain what is good for the country, what is good for the planet, what is good for men, women, and children."*



**Roberta Clarke**, Commissioner, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights

*"Violence against women is a weapon of power and control used in times of peace as well as in times of conflict, and we hear in the news every day about that: it is both a cause of sex and gender discrimination, and a tool with which such discrimination is perpetuated, reinforced and strengthened. Of course we keep resisting, and meetings like this are part of the resistance, and I would say, quite as."*



## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED



Antigua and Barbuda



Guyana



Saint Kitts and Nevis



Suriname



Barbados



Haiti



Saint Lucia



The Bahamas



Belize



Jamaica



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Trinidad and Tobago



Dominica



Montserrat



Sint Marteen



Turks and Caicos



Grenada

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This activity was made possible with the partnership and support of the UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean and the Parliament of Saint Lucia, as well as the support of the Government of Canada through Global Affairs Canada and the European Union through the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative.



In partnership with  
**Canada**



**Spotlight Initiative**  
To eliminate violence against women and girls

An initiative of the United Nations funded by the European Union



Subscribe to the ParlAmericas Podcast on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), or [Spotify](#), where you can listen to sessions from ParlAmericas activities.



ParlAmericas is the institution that promotes **PARLIAMENTARY DIPLOMACY** in the **INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM**



ParlAmericas mainstreams **GENDER EQUALITY** by advocating for women's political empowerment and the application of a gender lens in legislative work



ParlAmericas works towards strengthening democracy and governance by accompanying **ELECTORAL PROCESSES**



ParlAmericas is composed of the **35 NATIONAL LEGISLATURES** of the countries of North, Central and South America and the Caribbean



ParlAmericas fosters **OPEN PARLIAMENTS** by advancing the principles of transparency, accountability, citizen participation, ethics and probity



ParlAmericas organizes consultations and builds **MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS** with young leaders and civil society organizations



ParlAmericas facilitates the exchange of parliamentary **GOOD PRACTICES** and promotes **COOPERATIVE POLITICAL DIALOGUE** in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals



ParlAmericas promotes policies and legislative measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of **CLIMATE CHANGE**



ParlAmericas is headquartered in **OTTAWA, CANADA**

### International Secretariat of ParlAmericas

703-155 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6L1 Canada

Telephone: +1 (613) 947-8999

Email: [info@parlamericas.org](mailto:info@parlamericas.org)

