



#ParlAmericasGEN #CSW66Caribbean

THEMES: Women's empowerment, women's caucuses, women's leadership, political participation of women

DATES: May 30, 2022

LOCATION: Virtual

PARTICIPANTS: More than 35 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from 12 countries

ORGANIZING PARTNER: Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean



Subregional Exchange on Establishing Parliamentary Women's Caucuses

Recognizing the importance and strength of parliamentary women's caucuses in achieving gender equality, this subregional exchange was convened to provide support to the parliaments in the Caribbean region who are currently in the process of - or have an interest in - establishing a women's parliamentary caucus.

The participants learned from representatives of existing women's caucuses about processes and good practices for ensuring a caucus' successful creation and its ongoing effective and sustainable functioning.

This activity aligned with SDGs 5, 10, 16, and 17.



Agenda Highlights

Welcome remarks by:

- The Hon. **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women MCO Caribbean

Panel discussion: Experiences establishing and sustaining women's caucuses

- The Hon. **Alicia Williams Grant** (Antigua and Barbuda), President of the Senate and representative of the Antigua and Barbuda Network of Women Parliamentarians
- The Right Hon. **Maria Miller** (United Kingdom), Member of Parliament and representative of the UK Parliament's All Party Parliamentary Group on Women in Parliament
- The Hon. **Justine Mukowba** (Rwanda), Member of the Chamber of Deputies and Secretary General of the Rwanda Women Parliamentary Forum

Moderator:

- **Lisane Thirsk**, Deputy Director - Gender Equality and Communications, ParlAmericas

Responses by regional organisations and opportunities for support:

- **James Pinell**, Deputy Head of Programmes - Multilateral Engagements, CPA
- **Eilish Elliott**, Project Manager - Gender Equality, ParlAmericas
- **Isiwa Iyahen**, Deputy Representative, UN Women Caribbean

Closing remarks by:

- The Hon. **Valerie Woods** (Belize), Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Steering Committee Member for the CPA Caribbean, Americas, and Atlantic Region.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS FROM THE SESSION:

- Globally, women are disproportionately underrepresented in parliaments. Parliamentary women's caucuses serve as important forums and spaces for women in parliament to come together to address, advocate for, and advance issues related to women's rights and gender equality.
- There is no single method for developing a parliamentary women's caucus and the effectiveness of a caucus is linked to consensus amongst members on its organisational structure and objectives.
- Caucuses require networking, resources, education and training, and allyship with men parliamentary colleagues and other stakeholders to effect and advance change. Support from parliamentary staff or other actors for administrative assistance is also invaluable.
- Multipartisanship can be facilitated in parliamentary women's caucuses by pursuing objectives that members assess to be of common interest, fostering collective responsibility.



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PARTICIPATING PARLIAMENTS



Antigua and Barbuda



Belize



Jamaica



Rwanda



Saint Kitts and Nevis



Saint Lucia



Suriname



Trinidad and Tobago



United Kingdom

ORGANIZING PARTNERS



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