

# Building a Coordinated Caribbean Position for CSW65

#ParlAmericasGEN #CSW65Caribbean

 **THEME:** CSW, women's leadership, ending gender violence

 **DATES:** February 8 and 12, 2021

 **LOCATION:** Virtual

 **PARTICIPANTS:** More than **111** parliamentarians, ministers, representatives from multilateral and civil society organizations, and national gender machinery from **14** countries and **2** territories

 **ORGANIZING PARTNERS:** The CARICOM Secretariat, UN Women Multi-Country Office for the Caribbean, Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), and the University of West Indies (UWI) Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS)



*This activity aligned with SDGs 5 and 17.*

This two-day meeting convened ministers with responsibility for Gender Affairs, parliamentarians, heads of national gender machinery, and representatives from multilateral organizations, civil society and academics from English CARICOM countries for focused dialogue and coordination around the 65th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW65), taking place at UN Headquarters from March 15 to 26, 2021.

The sessions promoted discussions that contributed to the coordination of a unified subregional voice and advocacy strategy through the development of a CARICOM statement ahead of CSW65, that focused on two components: women's full and effective participation in public leadership and ending gender-based violence. Furthermore, participants were encouraged to devise strategies that amplified Caribbean leadership and experiences while responding to the region's current preoccupations.

Throughout the meeting, there was a robust discussion on strategies to increase women's representation in decision-making and the application of gender-responsive approaches to all legislation and policy. Additionally, participants highlighted the importance of national and regional action on COVID-19 taking a gender-responsive approach that builds on, values, and recognizes the contributions of women leaders, considering inequalities have been visibilized and exacerbated by the pandemic.

Resources to access data on themes of women's leadership and gender-based violence in the Caribbean:

[Caribbean Women Count: Ending Violence against Women and Girls Data Hub](#), CDB, CARICOM, and UN Women, webpage

[Women in Political Leadership in the Caribbean](#), UN Women, 2018

[IPU Parline Database on Women in Politics](#), Inter-Parliamentary Union, webpage

## AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome remarks by:

- Dr. **Hilary Brown**, Programme Manager, Culture and Community Development, CARICOM Secretariat
- Lady **Anande Trotman-Joseph**, President of CIWiL
- Dr. **Tonya Haynes**, Interim Head and Coordinator of Graduate Programmes, IGDS Nita Barrow Unit, UWI Cave Hill
- The Honourable **Bridgid Annisette-George** (Trinidad and Tobago), Speaker of the House of Representatives and Vice-President of ParlAmericas
- Ms. **Tonni Brodber**, Representative, UN Women Multi Country Office - Caribbean

Opening address by:

- Ms. **Roberta Clarke**, Regional Director, UN Women Eastern and Southern Africa

Moderator:

- Ms. **Ann-Marie Williams**, Deputy Programme Manager, Gender and Development, CARICOM Secretariat

Expert presentation on CSW Negotiations by:

- Dr. **Rosina Wiltshire**, Gender and Development Specialist, CIWi

Panel on the Impact of Women's Leadership

Panellists:

- The Honourable **Penelope Beckles** (Trinidad and Tobago), Minister of Housing and Urban Development
- The Honourable **Vindhya Persaud** (Guyana), Minister of Human Services and Social Security

Moderator:

- Senator the Hon. **Ranard Henfield** (The Bahamas)



**The following are a few of the actions that the various stakeholders committed to:**

- Establish targets, action plans and timelines to achieve gender parity for all executive, legislative and administrative positions, as well as in public commissions, tasks forces and negotiations teams;
- Implement gender responsive budgeting (GRB), bringing together the inter-related issues of gender equality and public finance, to integrate socio-economic dimensions into the process of budget planning and financing;
- Resource specialized gender equality committees or commissions and women's caucuses, and networking forums, as well as institutional capacity-building on gender equality in parliaments, ministries and public administration;
- Increase the quality and quantity of funding available to support women in public life through the creation and financing of specific funds that prioritize direct funding to women's organizations and feminist movements;
- Facilitate the entry of women into the political pipeline through capacity-building and training and awareness raising, and provide targeted support to women facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination to participate in public life and politics;
- Increase young women's representation and participation in public life through community outreach, mentoring, capacity development programmes and early exposure to legislative and policymaking spaces.

## PARTICIPATING PARLIAMENTS



Antigua and Barbuda



Grenada



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Barbados



Guyana



Suriname



Belize



Jamaica



The Bahamas



Canada



Saint Kitts and Nevis



Trinidad and Tobago



Dominica



Saint Lucia

## ORGANIZING PARTNERS



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### 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)

