

Violence against women



Violence against women is a form of discrimination, directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately". This violence seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy their human rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

CEDAW Committee General Recommendation (No.19 para.6.)



Did you know?



Violence against women can be physical, sexual, psychological or economic, and can occur in the family, the community, and/or be perpetuated by the state.



About 1 in 3* Caribbean women are victims of intimate partner violence



Abusers are usually men and the victims are usually women and girls



Women are more likely to be harassed, assaulted and killed



Violence against women can happen regardless of socio-economic status, religion or ethnicity.

Major Challenges



Victims of gender-based violence often face obstacles to claim their rights and seek redress



Systematic data collection and analysis on violence, that is broken down by age, sex and type of offence, remains insufficient in the Caribbean region.



Limited institutional, human and financial capacity and coordination among national mechanisms lead to inadequate responses to victims in need of protection.

Empowering Women

Improving Data

Reinforcing national capacity

Recommendations



Ratify and implement international and regional human rights standards in order to ensure that all women and girls in the Caribbean are able to exercise and enjoy the full spectrum of human rights



Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, including Government, Civil Society, Private Sector and the United Nations in the field of sexual and reproductive health



Conduct systematic and regular data collection and analysis, disaggregated by gender, age, location, disability, ethnicity, types of offences against women and girls, in compliance with international standards on data protection and the right to privacy.



Develop public-information campaigns and raise awareness with education and training programmes for national and local authorities, the police, judiciary, social services, the mass media, civil society organisations and women and girls themselves



* Source: WHO, Intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. Global Health Observatory data repository, 2016.
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