

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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 <b>OAS Pillar</b>	 <b>Name of Activity</b>	 <b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	 <b>Donor</b>
Human Rights	Human Rights of Women living with HIV	Public officials, civil society, women living with	Spain, Mexico
		 <b>Date</b>	<b>1/9/2008</b> to <b>Completion</b>
 <b>Additional Information</b>	<a href="http://www.oas.org/en/cim/hiv-rights.asp">http://www.oas.org/en/cim/hiv-rights.asp</a> or <a href="http://www.vih-violencia.org/">http://www.vih-violencia.org/</a>		

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

For both social and biological reasons, HIV has become a disease of young and poor women, many of them in monogamous relationships. Available information indicates that HIV is expanding alarmingly due to unprotected sex, with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama being some of the most affected countries. One of the factors associated with the accelerated process of feminization of HIV is violence against women, which is also a problem of epidemic proportions in the region.

In follow-up to the San Salvador Declaration on Gender, Violence and HIV, adopted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) in 2007, the CIM initiated a program to examine and address the intersections between HIV and violence against women. Among other findings, the program identified a number of important gaps in guaranteeing and protecting the rights of women living with HIV and / or gender-based violence in the region. In response, on the one hand, to the demands of the community of women living with HIV and on the other hand to resolution 2802 (2013) of the OAS General Assembly on "Promotion and protection of the human rights of persons vulnerable to HIV / AIDS, living with and affected by HIV / AIDS in the Americas," and in order to help close those gaps, the CIM has worked to analyze and strengthen both the legal framework and public policies on HIV and violence against women from a human rights perspective.

## OBJECTIVES

From a human rights perspective, this program seeks to contribute to efforts to reduce the prevalence of HIV / AIDS and gender-based violence among women in the region and their negative consequences on the health and human development of women, their families and their communities. Likewise, it seeks to strengthen the legal framework and public policy around the rights of women living with HIV in the region, and improve the state response to the multiple violations of these rights.

## RESULTS

The program has produced situation analyses and mapping of key actors in 4 Central American countries (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama) and 3 English-speaking Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Dominica). A "[Comparative analysis of the legal framework from the human rights approach: HIV and violence against women in Central America](#)" was carried out and a guide was developed on "[Ethical considerations for an integrated response to human rights, HIV and violence against women](#)." Based on these advances, national models of integrated policies and programs for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV and violence against women in Guatemala and Panama were developed. A Regional Community of Practice on HIV and violence against women has been established which serves as a focal point for the exchange of information, successful experiences and technical cooperation. From the same Network, an identification of promising practices for the integrated management of HIV and violence against women was carried out, which can serve as models for adaptation and replication in other contexts. In follow-up to resolution 2802 of the OAS General Assembly and the collaboration agreement signed with UNAIDS, the report "[Human rights of women living with HIV in the Americas](#)" was prepared, as well as a training guide. Strengthen the exercise of the human rights of women living with HIV in Latin America, "which has been used in virtual training on the Community of Practice platform.

 <b>OAS Pillar</b>	 <b>Name of Activity</b>	 <b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	 <b>Donor</b>
<b>Human Rights</b>	Women, drug policy and incarceration	Public officials, civil society, incarcerated	Open Society Foundations, Mexico
 <b>Additional Information</b>	<i>Link to web page</i>	 <b>Date</b>	<b>Commencement</b> to <b>Completion</b>

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

Media reports, coupled with the limited data available, indicate that in recent years women's participation in the international drug problem has increased significantly. However, although this participation is visible in the news, it has been absent from research and other activities carried out by most of the governmental and intergovernmental agencies in the Americas. Similarly, the gender perspective has been absent from the work of the OAS itself on "the world drug problem."

In this context, the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) requested specific information and concrete recommendations on the involvement of women in the commercialization of illicit drugs. This work of collecting information produced alarming results, in the sense that, while women are a minority of people working in the world of drugs, women incarcerated for drug offenses account for between 60 and 80 % of the total female prison population. From there emerged the need to identify concrete recommendations for legislative reform and public policies, particularly in relation to the criminal treatment and social attitude around the participation of women in these activities. In this way, the CIM initiated, in collaboration with the Office in Washington on Latin American Affairs (WOLA) and other partners, sensitization and training activities in this matter.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the program is to strengthen the institutional capacity of relevant authorities (ministries of the interior and justice, national drug offices, national women's machineries, parliamentarians) and civil society to collect data and information on the participation of women in the commercialization of illicit drugs and to formulate and implement public health, human rights-based, and gender-sensitive legislative and public policy reforms in the areas of: more inclusive drug policies, drug policies, alternatives to imprisonment, cultivation or drug processing, social inclusion programs, pregnant or dependent persons.

## RESULTS

During the 43rd OAS General Assembly (June 2013, Guatemala), the CIM organized a round table discussion entitled "Women and Drugs in the Americas: A Working Assessment," to raise awareness of the growing number of women involved in the complex subject of drugs. Following the round table, the CIM prepared the study "[Women and drugs in the Americas: A Policy Working Paper](#)."

This initial study highlighted the need for greater political agreement on the integration of the gender approach in tackling drugs, and this was incorporated into the Declaration AG / DEC. 73 (XLIII-O / 13) corr. 1 "Declaration of Antigua Guatemala for a comprehensive policy on the world drug problem in the Americas."

In follow-up to this Declaration and in collaboration with WOLA and other partners, the CIM developed "[Women, Drug Policy and Imprisonment: A Guide for Policy Reform in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)" and collaborated in the production of a series of Photographic essays on the situation of women incarcerated for drug offenses in Argentina, Colombia and Costa Rica. Based on the Guide, more than 200 people have been trained in different countries in the region.

 <b>OAS Pillar</b>	 <b>Name of Activity</b>	 <b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	 <b>Donor</b>
<b>Human Rights</b>	Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará	<i>Public sector officials, civil society, women</i>	Canada, China, Mexico, Suriname, Trinidad
		 <b>Date</b>	<b>Commencement</b> to <b>Completion</b>
 <b>Additional Information</b>	<a href="http://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi/default.asp">http://www.oas.org/en/mese cvi/default.asp</a> or <a href="http://www.BelemdoPara.org">http://www.BelemdoPara.org</a>		

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Inter-American Convention to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Violence against Women was adopted in Belém do Pará, Brazil in 1994, and defines violence against women as a violation of their human rights. The Convention of Belém do Pará establishes for the first time the development of mechanisms for the protection and defense of women's rights in the struggle to eliminate violence against their physical, sexual and psychological integrity in both the public and private spheres.

The effective implementation of the Convention requires a continuous and independent evaluation and support process, for which the Follow-Up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI) was created in 2004. It is a systematic and permanent multilateral evaluation methodology, based on a forum for exchange and technical cooperation between the States Parties to the Convention and a Committee of Experts. The MESECVI analyzes progress in the implementation of the Convention by its States Parties as well as the persistent challenges in State responses to violence against women and issues concrete reports and recommendations with a view to strengthening those responses. It operates through evaluation and follow-up rounds which include: (i) Evaluation of reports by States Parties to the Convention on measures taken to address violence against women; And (ii) Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations made by the Experts.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the MESECVI is to measure and evaluate the efforts of States to guarantee the right of women to live free from violence and to make recommendations and provide technical assistance to strengthen the State response to all manifestations of violence against women. In this context, it seeks to collect comprehensive information on the nature and extent of violence, to analyze the extent and effectiveness of the State response and to identify good practices that have had a positive impact as well as persistent challenges that require a greater or specialized effort. In addition, the MESECVI identifies areas of special concern to attract attention and issue recommendations adapted to these realities.

## RESULTS

The Convention has been ratified by 32 States in the region. Of these, 30 States participate in the evaluation rounds of the MESECVI, providing information to the Committee of Experts on the State response to violence against women. With this information, MESECVI has produced 100 national reports, 75 shadow reports from civil society organizations, three hemispheric reports, two follow-up reports to the Experts' recommendations and a thematic report on child pregnancy. The Committee of Experts has issued a total of 151 recommendations to various State actors and others. In 2013, the Mechanism published the first System of Progress Indicators to measure implementation of the Convention from a human rights perspective. States Party and the Committee of Experts have adopted Declarations on political violence, femicide, prevention of violence and sexual and reproductive rights. Awareness-raising and training tools have been developed, including guides on the implementation of the Convention and the use of the System of Indicators, and over 500 people from different sectors of the region have been trained. The MESECVI also has a "Specialization and International Course on Public Policies and Gender Justice." A wide range of communication tools has been developed, including a virtual data visualization platform, a compendium of best practices, infographics, press releases, social media campaigns and events on specific topics with a view to raising awareness and identifying concrete actions.

 <b>OAS Pillar</b>	 <b>Name of Activity</b>	 <b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	 <b>Donor</b>
<b>Human Rights</b>	Data on violence against women in OECS countries	Government officials and others responsible for	Chile, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
 <b>Additional Information</b>	<a href="#">Link to web page</a>	 <b>Date</b>	<b>5/1/2013</b> to <b>12/31/2017</b>

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

The six member states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS – Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) are similar in size, development and capacity and each is facing challenges in effectively addressing violence against women (VAW), despite the fact that in the Caribbean, the levels of VAW seem to be consistent with, and in some cases higher, than those of other geographic areas. They were strategically selected for this program to allow policymakers the opportunity to develop evidence-based sub-regional strategies to address VAW. Unlike the larger and more developed CARICOM States, there is a lack of available and reliable data on the prevalence of VAW in the OECS. This is a result of varied methodological approaches that have been used for data collection on VAW, which does not allow for comparisons to be made and common solutions to be developed. This program has mapped the main strategies of the six OECS countries as part of a comparative study of the sub-region to analyze violence against women. This sub-regional analysis should enable OECS policymakers to better identify and address gaps in their response to VAW at both the national and sub-regional levels, in accordance with their acquired commitments under the Belém do Pará Convention. This strategic resource to address VAW highlights the need for more and better data and for proper standardized tools for data collection across the sub-region.

## OBJECTIVES

Through this program, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) seeks to contribute to evidence-based approaches to policy-making to strengthen national and sub-regional responses to VAW in the achievement of gender equality and promoting women's human rights in the Americas. Specifically, OECS policy makers and national gender machinery will have access to current empirical research on violence against women for creating effective evidence-based strategies for the OECS states.

## RESULTS

To-date, the programme has produced a compilation of data for each country of the OECS, two focus groups for domestic violence service users (Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), a validation workshop (Saint Lucia, September 23-24, 2014) held jointly with the Second OECS Round Table on Violence against Women, at which the findings of the program's research phase were reviewed. At this meeting, in observance of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Belém do Pará Convention, attendees heard presentations from OECS and CIM experts and deliberated on the achievements and challenges of implementing the Convention in the Caribbean. A round table discussion was also held about the role of men as perpetrators and victims of gender violence – a topic of great interest to the Caribbean region. The results of the project will be published in 2017 as 6 national prevalence studies on the characteristics, prevalence and incidence of domestic violence and sexual violence against women in the OECS States; and a consolidated sub-regional study that evaluates the main national initiatives in states for the period 2000-2012 and identifies gaps in the implementation of policies, plans, programs on VAW in the OECS.

 <b>OAS Pillar</b>	 <b>Name of Activity</b>	 <b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	 <b>Donor</b>
Human Rights	Participatory Gender Assessments:	Staff of National Machineries for Women	Liechtenstein
 <b>Additional Information</b>	<a href="http://www.oas.org/en/cim/gender.asp">http://www.oas.org/en/cim/gender.asp</a>	 <b>Date</b>	<b>1/1/2013</b> to <b>Completion</b>

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

While the governments of the region have recognized gender mainstreaming as an analytical and planning tool to incorporate this approach into the policies of ministries in different sectors, its implementation has encountered barriers. In general, there is no effective audit and few advances in investment and training of specialists to implement gender policies in a coordinated manner. Sectoral advocacy strategies linked to specific projects or programs still predominate.

Aware of the challenge that this task represents for the National Machineries for Women (NMW), the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) has developed a methodology and training program for the implementation of "Participatory Gender Assessments" (PGA), which will allow the NMWs to carry out interventions in different public institutions with a view to strengthening the mainstreaming of the gender approach in these institutions. Based on the review of available documentation and the use of qualitative and participatory methodologies, the PGA allows reporting on organizational processes regarding the extent to which the gender perspective is incorporated into all policies, at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in the adoption of such policy measures, to finally develop a plan of action. The Action Plan then translates into a planning document that defines in detail how gender mainstreaming will be carried out over a given period of time.

## OBJECTIVES

Through this project, the CIM seeks to make available to the NMWs of the States a training program on PGAs for methodological transfer to these Machineries, enabling them to carry out these interventions in public institutions with a view to strengthening their capacities to achieve effective gender mainstreaming in their policies, strategies, programs and their institutional culture. Specifically, the program strengthens the capacities of NMW professionals to perform Participatory Gender Assessments in other sectoral ministries / departments and state agencies.

## RESULTS

Based on the use of the Participatory Gender Assessment methodology in the Ministries of Social Development of Barbados, El Salvador and Peru, the program has adapted the methodology to the needs of the National Machineries for Women. To date, the process of methodological transfer has been carried out with the Ministry of Women of Paraguay (2015), and with the Presidential Secretariat for Women (SEPREM) of Guatemala (2017). Based on these experiences, a "[Manual of Methodological Transfer to the National Machineries for the Advancement of Women: Participatory Gender Assessments](#)" has been developed, which is made available to the States as a general resource.

 <b>OAS Pillar</b>	 <b>Name of Activity</b>	 <b>Target Beneficiaries</b>	 <b>Donor</b>
Human Rights	Violence against women in politics	Public sector officials, civil society, women	Mexico
 <b>Additional Information</b>	<a href="http://www.oas.org/en/cim/politicalviolence.asp">http://www.oas.org/en/cim/politicalviolence.asp</a>		 <b>Date</b> <b>Commencement</b> to <b>Completion</b>

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

In the region, a growing concern about violence against women in the field of politics has been identified, as well as the need for a strong and evidence-based effective response. Although this problem is not new, its entry into the regional and international agenda is a recent phenomenon, and instruments have not yet been developed to support countries in responding effectively to this type of violence. To the extent that women occupy more space in the various sectors of the political sphere - from presidencies, parliaments, courts and public corporations, to municipalities - there has been an increase in the many manifestations of discrimination and violence that seek to silence and limit their political protagonism and the fundamental change they represent for the distribution and exercise of power. The Electoral Observation Missions carried out by the OAS have also highlighted this problem.

In recognition of this new reality and the need to adapt our definitions, legal instruments, protocols and other mechanisms to respond more effectively, the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) has highlighted the importance of legislation to combat violence against women and impunity. Two key actors for the protection of the political rights of women in democracy - political parties and electoral institutions - have yet to implement measures to address this issue.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the program is to strengthen the institutional capacity of the political authorities (parliaments and political parties) and electoral bodies of the OAS member states to mitigate violence and political harassment against women within the framework of the Belém do Pará Convention.

Specifically, this objective will be achieved through the development of concrete tools for research and adaptation of the legal and public policy framework, as well as face-to-face and virtual materials and events for dialogue, awareness-raising and training.

## RESULTS

In 2015, the Conference of States Party to the Belém do Pará Convention adopted the "Declaration on Political Harassment and Violence against Women." Following that Declaration, the CIM organized two Meetings of Experts on the topic of political harassment and violence against women (25 February 2015, Washington DC and 30-31 May 2016, La Paz) with a view to raising awareness of the problem and identifying legislative and political reforms as well as concrete actions to promote prevention, punishment and attention to these crimes. From these meetings and the advisory work of the Committee of Experts of the Follow-up Mechanism to the Belém do Pará Convention (MESECVI), the "Inter-American Model Law on Political Violence against Women," was developed as a document that aims to support reform processes and adaptation of the national legal framework. In January 2016 in Saint Lucia, the CIM, in coordination with ParlAmericas, organized "Gender-based political harassment: Building awareness in parliaments," an inter-parliamentary meeting for the English-speaking Caribbean, with a view to gathering information and inputs for addressing the problem in this region. In November 2016, the CIM and the National Electoral Institute of Mexico (INE) held the Regional Dialogue "The role of electoral institutions in the face of political violence against women," with a view to examining the actions of electoral administrative institutions and the challenges of addressing political violence against women within the framework of their competencies.