



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM
CONVENTION OF BELÉM DO PARÁ (MESECVI)
Fourteenth Meeting of the Committee of Experts (CEVI)
November 27-28, 2017
Panamá City, Panamá

OEA/Ser.L/II.7.10
MESECVI/CEVI/doc.253/17
November 21, 2017
Original: English

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
COUNTRY REPORT
THIRD ROUND**

I. Introduction

1. This report has the objective of evaluating the progress of Antigua and Barbuda in the implementation of the Belém do Pará Convention in the 2014-2016 period, obstacles identified, present observations and recommendations. This report has been elaborated taking into account the responses given by Antigua and Barbuda to the indicator system of MESECVI, in the framework of the third round of multilateral evaluation, in 2016. The second round report and its recommendations, as well as legislation and official government information, were also consulted.
2. Antigua and Barbuda responded to a set of indicators provided by the CEVI, providing a wide and relevant amount of information, even when there was a large amount of indicators left with no response. The CEVI appreciates the availability of the government of Antigua and Barbuda in complying with its commitments to the Belém do Pará Convention and its follow-up mechanism.
3. This report is divided in the following sections: Legislation, National Plans, Access to Justice, Information and Statistics and Diversity. In each section, the reception of the right, financial context and budgetary commitments and state capacities will be analyzed in order to follow-up on the rights contained in the Belém do Pará Convention.

II. Analysis of the progress made in the realization of women’s right to live a life free of violence

LEGISLATION Articles 1, 2, 3, 7c, e & g

4. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda ratified the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women in November 1998. The present analysis reveals that since the Second Evaluation Round, Antigua and Barbuda has made significant advances in the areas of legislative reform, development of policy and plans, training and the provision of services.
5. Key reforms have been introduced in the areas of domestic violence and trafficking. A new dedicated domestic violence statute, which repealed and replaced the Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act of 1999, came into force in 2015. The new statute, the Domestic Violence Act, 2015, retains the two- tiered approach of the 1999 Act by providing a civil remedy - a Protection Order - in the first instance and a criminal remedy upon breach of the Protection Order. However, it significantly widens the ambit of both the civil and criminal remedies in important ways, including the following:
 - Protection is extended to, *inter alia*, “controlling and abusive behaviour”, “repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness, or

jealousy which is such as to constitute serious invasion of the applicant's privacy, liberty, integrity or security" and "economic abuse" which typically are manifestations of coercive control of women and girls in intimate partner relationships.

- Applicants can access any Court of competent jurisdiction for a Protection Order as opposed to being limited to the Magistrates' Courts as obtained previously.
 - Criminal penalties for breach of a Protection Order are increased.
 - The Act sets out a framework for improving access to criminal justice by restating existing police powers, mandating the police to respond to every complaint of domestic violence and establishing a National Domestic Violence Register to be maintained by the Commissioner of Police .
6. Although not reflected in the questionnaire responses, note is taken of the above-mentioned provisions of the Domestic Violence Act, 2015.
 7. The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Amendment Act, 2015 amended the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2010 to "remedy certain gaps".
 8. The Directorate of Gender Affairs, which is part of the Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development, issued the Antigua and Barbuda CEDAW Report 2017 preliminary release. In it, the State mentioned that the CEDAW Committee had expressed its concerns regarding the illegality of abortion in the country¹.

NATIONAL PLANS Article 1, 2, 8(c), 8 (d) & 8 (f)

9. A National Strategic Action Plan (2013-2017) which outlines a cross-cutting and multi-sectoral strategy for the prevention, response and eradication of violence against women and girls was approved by the Cabinet in 2013. The Plan recognizes the important intersections between violence against women and girls and their access to education, employment and health; poverty eradication; gender equality; HIV/AIDS and public security and articulates strategies to address these issues. The Plan has been promoted through direct engagement with key stakeholders and through a range of advocacy and communication strategies. Antigua and Barbuda ensured the participation of civil society in the development of the Action Plan.
10. GBV training has also been a significant area of focus over the period under review. Intensive training geared towards building the technical competencies of the justice and security sectors and the non-governmental sector has been conducted. To this end, the Directorate of Gender Affairs has trained over 300 police officers on, *inter alia*, the 2015 Domestic Violence legislation, gender-based violence, victim-centred

¹ Directorate of Gender Affairs, Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development, available at <https://genderaffairs.gov.ag/uploads/1494248893ANTIGUA%20&%20BARBUDA%20CEDAW%20REPORT.compressed.pdf>

approaches, an effective and coordinated response, gender-based violence indicators and collection of statistics. Social services personnel, health professionals and other law enforcement officers were also trained.

11. Specialist training has been provided by the Directorate of Gender Affairs to police officers comprising part of a Sexual Assault Referral Team. Interim Protection orders are obtained in a day and the final order, according to the State, might take ten or more days on average.
12. A Crisis Centre has been established for provision of all services at one location. A Sexual Assault Response Centre is being constructed and extensive training has been provided for a range of persons who will comprise the response team.
13. Antigua and Barbuda has made progress in the areas outlined above. However, challenges remain with respect to collection of data, both qualitative and quantitative, and the monitoring and evaluation of plans, programmes and projects. This has affected the State's ability to respond adequately to the indicators and makes it difficult to determine the extent of the impact of its several initiatives on violence against women.
14. As noted for the second evaluation round, the Convention of the Belem do Para is not incorporated into domestic legislation. It has nevertheless been given effect by the enactment of domestic legislation that speaks directly or indirectly to violence against women. During the four year period under review, the legislative framework for giving effect to the Convention has been strengthened through the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 and the Trafficking in Persons (Amendment) Act, 2015. In the text that follows, note is taken of provisions of the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 although these are not referenced in the questionnaire responses.
15. The Domestic Violence Act of 2015 repealed and replaced the Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act of 1999 but this is not clarified in the response. Further, Antigua and Barbuda again notes that "The Inter-American Convention on the Punishment, Prevention, and Eradication of Violence Against Women became domestic law in 1995 by virtue of S.I. 27 of 1995". This needs to be clarified or omitted altogether and an explanation provided since it is so recorded in the response for the second evaluation round.
16. The chapeau of the response speaks to the laws that have been implemented to give effect to the Convention of Belem Do Para. However, the list includes the "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)".
17. The Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2010 and the 2015 amendments to that Act are not included in the list of statutes that seek to give effect to the Convention.

18. Certain other statutes also appear to be omitted such as the statute that criminalizes physical violence. An explanation should be provided if these are subsequently included to clarify that the record is being corrected and the dates of entry into force should be clearly stated especially if these predate the second evaluation round.
19. The response for this round does not state specifically that “violence against women” is not defined in the laws of Antigua and Barbuda but this assumption may be made. Antigua and Barbuda notes, however, that the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 outlines a range of partnerships in which violence may occur which includes marriage, common law relationships, individuals that share the same household or any other relationship that includes but is not limited to those that are romantic, intimate or sexual. The conclusion, while not stated, appears to be that women in the two intimate partner relationships identified (married and common-law) are protected under the 2015 Act and notwithstanding that they are not identified as a separate category under the Act, a conclusion that would need to be supported by statistics showing the number of applications made by women in married or common-law relationships as compared to men in such relationships. Antigua and Barbuda did not provide a response to this question for the second evaluation round and no information is provided for this round regarding a similar application of the Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, 1999 (repealed and replaced by the Domestic Violence Act, 2015) to married and common law relationships. Further, while not mentioned in the response, note is hereby taken that protection under the 2015 Act extends to, inter *alia*, “controlling and abusive behaviour”, “repeated exhibition of obsessive possessiveness, or jealousy which is such as to constitute serious invasion of the applicant’s privacy, liberty, integrity or security” and “economic abuse”, such conduct typically being manifestations of coercive control of women and girls in intimate partner relationships.
20. Having regard to whether the civil and criminal legislation and administrative procedures of Antigua and Barbuda prevent, punish and eradicate physical , psychological, sexual , patrimonial or economic violence or other types of violence, Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 broadly defines domestic violence to cover most forms of violence including physical, sexual, psychological economic or patrimonial abuse and that the definition extends to intimidation, threats, harassment, stalking , damage to or destruction of property and the non-consensual trespassing onto the premises of an individual. “Economic abuse”, “harassment”, “emotional, verbal or psychological abuse”, and “stalking” are further defined. It is not stated that these are new and more comprehensive definitions as compared to the repealed 1999 Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, 1999 in order to clearly indicate that progress has been made.
21. No information is provided on the date of entry into force of the Domestic Violence Act, 2015 and whether it was in force at the time of the date of the response. The information available on the official online website that holds the laws of Antigua and Barbuda reveals that the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 came into force on 17 March 2016.

22. Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Sexual Offences Act, 1995 deals with all sexual offences against women including rape, sexual assault within marriage, sexual encounters with minors, indecent assault and abduction. However, no reference is made to the limited protection of married women against rape by their husbands although this information is provided in the overall response. The information on the Sexual Offences Act, 1995 is essentially the same as that provided for the second round meaning that the existing law in this regard remains unchanged. It may be noted that the response for that round did not provide the date of entry into force of the Sexual Offences Act, 1995 and the text of the relevant provisions including the definition of rape was also not provided.
23. Civil remedies have not been distinguished from the purely criminal remedies under the Sexual Offences Act, 1995 as envisaged by the question. This has implications for access to justice. Information on the criminal legislation that deals with physical assault or other forms of physical violence is not provided and was not previously provided. It is important to note that if this is subsequently included, the date of the entry into force of the statute(s) must be provided for the purposes of the previous record. Further, no information is provided on whether there is any form of reparation for victims.
24. The response for the second evaluation alluded to a Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) [Act], 2010 (sic) (meaning Bill) 2010 had been passed in the House of Representatives, thus becoming an Act. It was further noted that [the Bill] was debated in the Senate which proposed amendments that needed to be considered by the House of Representatives. According to the official website that holds the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2010 came into force on 11th November 2010. However, the text of the response for this evaluation essentially repeats the position outlined in the second evaluation round although this had been superseded by the enactment and entry into force of the 2010. The provisions of the Act are consistent with the Palermo Protocol.
25. Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2010, was amended in 2015 to “remedy some existing gaps” but provides no information on the amendments and the progress made. It is therefore not possible to analyze the 2015 amendments. Further, the title of the amending legislation is not cited and no information is provided as to whether the amending legislation had entered into force at the time of the report. According to the official website that holds the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, the amending legislation entered into force on 1 October 2015.
26. Forced prostitution is expressly criminalized as an element of “sexual exploitation” under the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act, 2010. The statute defines “sexual exploitation” as compelling the participation of a person in prostitution (and certain other forms of conduct) as a result of being subjected to threat, coercion, abduction, the effect of drugs, force, abuse of authority or fraud. Information was not provided for the second evaluation round concerning the introduction of such a provision which was contingent on the passage of the 2010 Bill and its entry into force.

27. As noted for the second evaluation, sexual harassment is not specifically defined in the laws of Antigua and Barbuda. Reference is again made to the duty of employers to provide safe and healthy conditions at work under the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Code. However, the operation of this provision for the purposes of prohibiting sexual harassment in the workplace or whether it has been used to deal with such cases has not been clarified. The present response further notes that the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 protects against “harassment”, which defines it as “a pattern of conduct that induces the fear of harm”. It may be noted, however, that this is limited to a “domestic relationship” as defined under that Act.
28. Antigua and Barbuda notes that rape in marriage has not been criminalized [by virtue of the definition of rape under the Sexual Offences Act, 1995]. The position remains that non-consensual intercourse with a wife constitutes an offence of sexual assault under the Sexual Offences Act, 1995 only where there exists a decree nisi of divorce, a decree of judicial separation, a separation agreement, a non-molestation order against the husband or an order not to have sexual intercourse with his wife. A wife is therefore not protected against sexual assault by a husband where these circumstances do not exist. A husband is liable on conviction of sexual assault to imprisonment for 15 years. Rape is criminalized within common-law unions.
29. As noted in the previous round, there is no provision in the laws of Antigua and Barbuda that explicitly bans the use of conciliation, mediation, or any other method that seeks an extrajudicial settlement of violence against women, girls and female adolescents. The response for the current evaluation round adds that Antigua and Barbuda is guided by the “Practice Direction Court Connected Mediation” in accordance with the Practice Direction of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules, 2000. However, the operation of the Practice Direction is not clarified which precludes an analysis.
30. There is no provision which criminalizes femicide. The general criminal law applies to all unlawful killings. However, the statute that criminalises the unlawful killing of a person is not cited.
31. No information or explanation is provided on sexual violence in armed conflict, as torture, war crimes and crimes against humanity. Information is also not provided on whether there are specific provisions pertaining to violence against women committed in hospitals, educational establishments, prisons and other State institutions. The assumption may be made that the general criminal law is applicable.
32. No information is provided on the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of women generally or specifically with reference to the criminalization of obstetric violence, the punishment of public functionaries who prevent women, girls and female adolescents from taking proper care of their sexual and reproductive health, the decriminalisation of abortion as a result of rape, the decriminalization of therapeutic abortion, the punishment of forced sterilization, the punishment of

artificial sterilization without consent, guaranteeing the free access of women to emergency contraceptives, guaranteeing emergency prophylactic care and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in cases of sexual violence. Antigua and Barbuda's law on abortion and its application is not referenced. There is also no information on how Antigua and Barbuda guarantees the exercise of these rights. Similarly, no information or explanations were provided for the last evaluation round.

33. Awareness campaigns for the dissemination of information on women's rights and specifically the Convention on Belem Do Para centre around special events and the 16 days of Activism campaign. The International Day for the Eradication of all Forms of Violence against Women is recognised and commemorated and is used to promote national awareness campaigns. In addition, the 16 Days of Activism campaign is promoted annually and violence against women and the protection and promotion of women's human rights are particularly highlighted. The Belem Do Para Convention and other human rights conventions are also promoted. Based on the similarity of the response for the second evaluation round it may be concluded that these campaigns are ongoing.

NATIONAL PLANS Article 1, 2, 8(c), 8 (d) & 8 (f)

34. A National Strategic Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women (2013 to 2017) which was being developed during the previous reporting period was approved by the Cabinet in 2013. The Action Plan outlines a cross-cutting and multi-sectoral strategy for the prevention, response and eradication of violence against women and girls over the stated five-year period. It recognizes the importance of the intersections between violence against women and girls and their access to education, employment and health. It also addresses linkages between violence against women and poverty, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and public security. Strategies to address these various issues are articulated in the Action Plan. The objectives are not outlined.
35. In the drawing up of the Action Plan, the Government utilized a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach with "various agencies, partners and groups" and the full engagement of government leaders and the local community as well as interdisciplinary and inter-organizational cooperation, collaboration and coordination.
36. Having regard to the dissemination and promotion of the Action Plan, the response notes that various strategies have been used to "increase public awareness and knowledge" including working with men, youth, faith-based groups, civil society and community organizations and that a range of advocacy and communication strategies including social media, public media, education and communication materials, public and town hall meetings, workshops and policy briefings have been adopted. Based on the text of the response, it is not clear whether these strategies are strictly related to dissemination and promotion or whether they are also related to implementation. The language speaks to "working with" various groups and sectors.

37. Much greater clarity and information is needed with respect to the execution/implementation of the Action Plan. It is stated that implementation involved participatory processes that engaged all stakeholders and that MOUs have been established to ensure that the various agencies understand and agree to their roles in the implementation process. Antigua and Barbuda further acknowledges that lack of compliance can be a major gap and therefore in reviewing the Action Plan with implementing partners, it was agreed that a revised Plan would be tied to a National Gender Policy. However, no information is provided on any lack of compliance and challenges to implementation are not identified. No information is provided on monitoring and evaluation which comprises an element of the Action Plan. The extent, therefore, to which the Action Plan has been executed is not known and precludes an analysis. The United Nations Trust Fund has supported the Government of Antigua and Barbuda through a grant to implement the Action Plan over a three-year period (2014-2016) but information on this is not provided.
38. Antigua and Barbuda notes that to ensure sustainability of the Action Plan, there are efforts to develop gender-responsive budgeting at the national level but no further information as regards this initiative is provided.
39. The National Strategic Action Plan includes strategies on education, employment, poverty eradication, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and public security. Strategies such as developing trained personnel within schools to prevent and address gender-based violence in all its forms and partnerships with key stakeholders to empower women and families economically through skills training are outlined. Additionally, health is mainstreamed throughout the Action Plan and gender equality forms part of the overall framework upon which the Action Plan was developed. It proposes a health protocol which is designed to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence receive comprehensive care and support which includes PEP. Prevention strategies such as educating and mobilizing communities on prevention mechanisms and partnering with youth groups, men, faith groups and other civil society organizations are articulated. However, information on implementation and monitoring and evaluation is lacking.
40. There is no indication as to whether training is derived from the National Strategic Action Plan although this appears to be the case to some extent given the objectives of the Strengthening State Accountability Project outlined for the previous evaluation round. The State Accountability Project led to the development of the National Strategic Action Plan but this is not clarified. No information is provided on whether educators have been trained although one of the strategies outlined in the Action Plan relates to the training of educators. There is also no information on whether the training is conducted on a sustained basis as opposed to isolated or sporadic training sessions and there is also no information as to how the Action Plan deals with training on a sustained basis.
41. The response of Antigua and Barbuda also highlights the intended establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (as noted in the response for the second evaluation

- round) and the steps that have been taken in this regard, which has been pending since 2009-2010 The Directorate of Gender Affairs is working with key stakeholders on the establishment of the Centre. Training workshops were facilitated to build the capacity of law enforcement officers and advocates to effectively respond to gender-based violence. Registered Nurses were trained as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners who will be placed on an on-call roster to provide care for persons at the Centre. Nineteen employees of the Directorate have also been trainees as frontline workers to serve as the first point of contact at the Centre. No information on when the training was conducted is provided.
42. It appears that the Referral Centre is the same as the Sexual Assault Response Centre or the Gender –Based Sexual Assault Response Centre (e.g., Q.25). There is need for consistency since this can lead to some confusion. No information is provided as to a proposed commencement date of the operations of the Centre. .
 43. The Directorate of Gender Affairs, in collaboration with UN Women, has also trained and certified male advocates to build their capacity to advocate for gender equality and to raise awareness about GBV in a programme titled “Men as Partners”.
 44. Antigua and Barbuda also notes also a number of training sessions have also been conducted with early childhood educators, other government agencies, community groups, women’s groups and civil society organizations. However, no information on when the training occurred or whether such training is related to implementation of the National Strategic Action Plan is provided.
 45. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has ensured that civil society was involved in the design of the National Strategic Action Plan. It notes that during the period 2008 to 2010, a number of consultations were held with stakeholders, community groups, women’s groups and civil society organizations to support the development of the Action Plan. Meetings were also held with survivors, service providers, other experts, the justice sector and health professionals. Meetings were also held with key experts, and groups of all ages to discuss prevention strategies and education and awareness frameworks. Overall the process was very consultative and diverse opinions and participation influenced the development of the Action Plan.
 46. No information is provided on whether the monitoring and evaluation component of the Action Plan involves the participation of civil society and no information is also provided on whether projects or activities are executed jointly with civil society.
 47. There are no formal cooperation agreements with the media and publicity agencies to promote women’s rights and disseminate the contents of the Convention of Belem Do Para, as noted for the second evaluation. Antigua and Barbuda notes, however, that the media has cooperated to disseminate PSAs on gender equality and gender-based violence during the annual 16 Days of Activism campaign and the media also plays a pivotal role in increasing awareness of gender issues.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE Article 7 (d), (f), 8 (c) & (d)

48. As also noted for the second evaluation, there has been no increase in the number of entities in charge of receiving complaints of violence against women. However, the present response has listed these entities as the Royal Police Force, the Directorate of Gender Affairs, the Legal Aid Clinic, Family and Social Services Division, Magistrates' Courts, security services, the national emergency telephone service, Mount Saint John's Medical Centre and NGOs such as Women Against Rape and church groups. However, no distinction is made between agencies in charge of receiving complaints and those that receive complaints voluntarily or administratively. Further, no information is provided on how the administrative or voluntary entities such as NGOs and church groups facilitate access to justice upon receiving complaints.
49. Having regard to administrative provision for easing/improving access to justice for women, Antigua and Barbuda notes that 30 law enforcement officers were trained by the Directorate of Gender Affairs, as part of a Sexual Assault Referral Team (SART). Information on when the training occurred is not provided. Moreover, no information is provided on the proposed commencement of operations of the Sexual Assault Referral Team / Sexual Assault Referral Centre.
50. A Crisis Centre has been established to provide a one-stop approach where all of the services are offered in one location but no information is provided on the date of its establishment and the services it provides.
51. No reference is made to the "specialized unit within the police force" established during the previous evaluation period and it is therefore assumed that its operations have continued over the period under review.
52. Antigua and Barbuda noted in its report for the second evaluation round that free legal services are provided to persons who qualify for these services. Further information is provided for this evaluation to the effect that "domestic violence" accounts for some of the legal aid cases that are processed. However, no information is provided on the number of female victims accessing legal aid since generally legal aid may be accessed by both victims and defendants. However, victims will usually only access legal aid for civil cases since the State prosecutes criminal cases.
53. No information is provided on private spaces for victims in the justice system nor is information provided on confidentiality and data protection with respect to the victim, her family and/or witnesses.
54. Having regard to access to justice for rural, indigenous and Afro-descendant women, Antigua and Barbuda notes that its population is predominantly of African descent and low-income persons from rural constituencies or otherwise are entitled to assistance from the Legal Aid Clinic.

55. With regard to mechanisms for ensuring the effectiveness of measures to protect women, their relatives, and/or witnesses in cases of violence, Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda conducts house calls to “separate” victims from their abusers for the safety of the victims and provides transportation for victims and witnesses. In addition, the Directorate of Gender Affairs is charged with “identifying secure and compatible locations for relocating women”. No information is provided on witness protection, change of identity or clearance for leaving the country. The report notes that steps are being taken to use teleconferencing in the courts.
56. The response for the second evaluation noted that there were no specific mechanisms in respect of funds for transportation, mechanisms for rescuing women, change of identity, witness protection, clearance for leaving the country, secure networks and other such mechanisms. Antigua and Barbuda has not clarified whether the mechanisms outlined for this evaluation were in existence during the prior four-year review period or whether they were introduced in the period under review.
57. Antigua and Barbuda notes that “an interim protection order is usually granted on the same day that the application is made” and a final protection order “could take ten or more days on average”. No information was provided for the second evaluation round to enable a comparative analysis. However, the information now provided indicates that there are no inordinate delays associated with the granting of a protection order.
58. No statistics have been provided on how many protection orders were granted during the requested time period to women victims as compared with the total number of protection orders requested. These statistics were also not provided for the last evaluation round. It may be noted that statistics disaggregated by sex and relationship to the aggressor/perpetrator will be necessary in order to distinguish between orders granted to women in married or common-law relationships as opposed to women/girls in other “domestic relationships” - as defined under the Domestic Violence Act, 2015. The Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings Act) 1999 would have been the relevant Act for the prior evaluation round.
59. The Directorate of Gender Affairs, in collaboration with stakeholders and the Sexual Assault Response Team, has developed draft protocols for the care and treatment of victims of gender-based violence and these are to be finalized for the launch of the Sexual Assault Response Centre. There is no information as to whether there are protocols for Prosecutors’ Offices. Protocols for the police and health care personnel were developed during the last evaluation period.
60. No assessments or studies have been carried out to determine whether judges and prosecutors have used the Convention and international human rights treaties in their judgment and rulings and this is also not known.
61. No studies or assessments have been carried out to determine whether stereotypes, prejudices, myths and customs in the prosecution of cases of violence against women

- affect the trial and/or sentencing. The Sexual Offences Act of 1995 does not permit a person's sexual history to be admitted as evidence except where the Court determines pursuant to an application. .
62. The number of government support centres/shelters for women victims of violence and their children has not increased over the period under review. Antigua and Barbuda notes, however, that the Directorate of Gender Affairs, with the support of the United Nations Trust Fund, is in the process of constructing the country's first 24-hour Gender-Based and Sexual Assault Response Centre located in the capital, St John's. Whether the Centre is an output of the National Strategic Action Plan has not been clarified. No information is provided as to the proposed commencement of the Centre's operations. It may be noted that there is a lack of consistency with respect to the name of the Centre.
 63. The Legal Aid Clinic provides free legal services for victims of violence based on their disposable income. A free 24-hour hotline is also operated by the Directorate of Gender Affairs. These services (legal aid and the 24 -hour hotline) were not referenced in the response for the second evaluation round and it has not been clarified whether these commenced during the current evaluation period or whether they existed during the prior four—year review period. The response for the previous evaluation referenced only free sexual health services and counselling and support for victims of violence.
 64. Antigua and Barbuda notes also that “individuals can access services at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre free of charge”. Based on the overall response, the assumption is made that these services would be provided when the centre becomes operational.
 65. A number of information campaigns for the promotion of the available services are conducted.
 66. Except for an evaluation of the health care response conducted in 2009 and noted in the response for the previous evaluation, no evaluations of the existing services have been conducted. However, Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Sexual Assault Response Centre will ensure that the quality of services provided will be assessed using exit surveys and these assessments will be used to improve the services provided by the centre. No information is provided on when the centre will commence its operations.

BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS

67. No specific information is provided on what percentage of the national budget in the last four years has been allocated to programmes to combat violence against women. No information was also provided in the previous questionnaire response.

68. No information is provided on the percentage of the annual national budget [in the last four years] allocated to women's police stations, prosecutors or other entities that receive complaints, training of functionaries, specialized services (women's shelters, free hotlines, free legal advisory services, free legal counsel and free psychological counselling), campaigns to prevent violence against women and health services for women affected by violence. The information provided for the second evaluation round was to the effect that the national budget was not allocated specifically to the areas mentioned. The assumption is, therefore, that this still applies.

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS Article 8(h)

69. In the four year period under review in this Round, a review of existing legislation and policies in Antigua and Barbuda on gender-based violence was conducted. No information is provided on the main findings, conclusions and recommendations of that review or on any type of follow-up.

70. No information is provided on activities during the four year period under review to promote and support research on violence against women, in coordination with civil society organizations and with academic institutions in the country.

71. No information is provided on whether surveys had been conducted during the four year period under review on violence against women, women's understanding of their rights or of their familiarity the public services available.

72. Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has records of the number and characteristics of reports of violence against women but these are not publicly accessible. There is no information on whether the police statistics can be accessed by policy makers. Further, no information is provided on whether the police statistics are disaggregated by age, geographical location, ethnicity, marital status, educational level, occupation and relationship to the aggressor.

73. Antigua and Barbuda notes further that the Directorate of Gender Affairs has coordinated the collection of administrative data across agencies through the establishment of an electronic database on gender-based violence. This allows for the analysis of information entered which can be retrieved by the various agencies. No information is provided on the commencement date of the database or the participants. Information is also not provided on the characteristics of the administrative data that are being stored.

74. No information is provided on records of cases kept by the courts and prosecutors' offices or the health care services.

75. With respect to the four year review period, no information was provided on the number of women victims of violence each year by age, marital status, type of

violence and geographic location, the number of cases prosecuted as compared to the total number of complaints , the number of convictions as compared to the total number of complaints,

76. Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Directorate of Gender Affairs is presently leading the process to collect disaggregated data on gender-based violence through its newly established electronic database. No information is provided on the participating agencies and whether this includes the police and the courts. The date of establishment of the database is not provided.
77. Antigua and Barbuda notes that the Directorate is the agency that is leading coordination for “this mechanism” in collaboration with other agencies. No information is provided on whether there is any mechanism or body for coordination between the Directorate of Gender Affairs and the public entities that draws up and compiles statistics (such as national statistical offices) to improve the compilation of data on violence against women.

III. Recommendations

78. The CEVI is grateful for the answers provided by Antigua and Barbuda in its report. Additionally, it congratulates the State for the progress made during the period of the Third Follow-up Round, particularly for the creation of the National Strategic Action Plan (2013-2017) and its efforts to provide a large number of police officers with GBV training.
79. Some of the recommendations of the Second Round have been implemented while the life of certain other recommendations came to an end. However, key recommendations to enable a proper analysis of the progress made by Antigua and Barbuda either have not been implemented or only partially implemented. The following recommendations of the Second Evaluation Round have not been implemented or only partially implemented:
 - Provision of annexes on all cited national plans, protocols, conclusions and recommendations from studies/analyses conducted and reports.
 - Evaluation of the specialized services.
 - Provision of time frames and commencement dates of all project and initiatives cited.
 - Provision of statistics and demographics and clarification of the process of collection of statistics.
 - Initiation of surveys and research on violence against women.
 - Provision of budget figures and percentages in accordance with Questions 29 and 30 and the guidelines of the specific recommendation.
- Improving the questionnaire responses by answering all questions and/or providing explanations where necessary.

- Introducing or initiating legislative reforms to address forced prostitution, sexual harassment, rape within marriage, femicide, violence against women perpetrated by the State and sexual and reproductive rights and , in particular, amendments to extend the definition of rape to include marital rape and to address sexual harassment.
- An assessment of the implementation of legislation for addressing violence against women and monitoring its implementation.
- Clearly identify only the advances made during a particular reporting period.
- Establishment by the Government of a shelter for victims of violence against women.
- Specifically promote the Convention of Belem Do Para and the work of the MESCEVI and make strategic linkages with other human rights instruments pertaining to violence against women. Avoid duplication of information in the country responses for evaluation by the CEVI.
- Prioritize the standardization, centralization and periodic updating of data relevant to VAW and facilitate easy accessibility to key institutions that collaborate on efforts to address VAW.
- Strengthen the responses to budgeting.

80. Antigua and Barbuda has made significant advances since the Second Evaluation Round in the areas of legislative reform, GBV training, data analysis (via the establishment of an electronic GBV database), national plans and services. Services include the establishment of a one-stop crisis centre and the construction of a Sexual Assault Response Centre.

81. However, sufficiently comprehensive information has not been provided to enable a proper analysis of the progress made over the four year period under review. Significant gaps exist with respect to the availability of statistics, qualitative data, budgetary allocations, evaluation of specialized services and the monitoring and evaluation of the several VAW initiatives being implemented.

82. Commencement dates, time frames, annexes and text of legislative provisions referenced have generally not been provided, all questions have not been answered and/or explanations provided and omissions and/or modifications of responses provided for the second evaluation round are not clearly identified.

83. Evaluation of the implementation of legislation, national plans, projects, programmes, services and other initiatives for addressing violence against women is generally lacking.

84. Several of the recommendations of the Second Evaluation Round have not been implemented making it difficult to evaluate progress over the period under review.

85. In accordance with the information presented and the recommendations already contained in this report, the CEVI recommends the State to:

86. Enact legislation that explicitly bans the use of methods such as conciliation, mediation, probation, suspended sentences, application of the opportunity, commutation of punishment and others intended to resolve cases of violence extra-judicially.
87. Guarantee access to justice for all women, without discrimination for their sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic origins, race, disabilities, migration status, through effective mechanisms that allow them to have quality services in the entirety of the institutional route of attention, investigation and prosecution.
88. Guarantee that all women and girls who have been victims of violence have access to specialized services.
89. Adopt all the necessary measures to avoid pregnancies in girls and ensure that the pregnancies of girls under 14 years of age are considered as pregnancies of high risk and legal interruption of pregnancy is allowed. Additionally, strengthen the mechanisms of interaction between the health and judicial sectors in cases of sexual violence against girls.
90. Ensure that public institutions and policies have enough resources to fulfil their objectives.
91. Legalize the interruption of pregnancies for therapeutic reasons, and those produced by rape and sexual violence, as well as guarantee access to this service for all women and girls that require it.
92. Provide time frames and commencement dates of all programmes, projects, protocols, MOUs, research studies, policy and legislative reviews and other initiatives and state whether these are ongoing from the last review period to enable proper analysis of progress made.
93. Provide annexes on all cited laws, national plans, protocols and conclusions and recommendations of reviews and research studies conducted and other relevant initiatives for a more comprehensive analysis to be undertaken.
94. Improve the questionnaire responses by answering all questions to enable an overall view of the implementation of the Convention of Belem Do Para.
95. Clearly identify only the advances made during a particular reporting period. Provide an explanation where the response for the previous evaluation round has been modified due to an omission, correction or otherwise and provide an explanation where the response is identical to that provided for the previous round.

96. Compile disaggregated court and police statistics and conduct surveys and research studies to obtain quantitative and qualitative data on violence against women to enable an informed analysis of progress made in the implementation of the Convention of Belem Do Para.
97. Monitor and evaluate all initiatives being implemented to address violence against women.
98. Clarify and amend the list of statutes that give effect to the Belem Do Para (see the response to Q.1.).
99. Cite the short title of all statutes (including amending statutes) and the dates of entry into force.
100. Use consistent language in the overall response for identifying initiatives being undertaken.
101. Specify the important advances made by new or amending legislation which was either enacted or which came into force during the review period and quote the actual text of the provisions cited.
102. Distinguish between civil and criminal remedies for violence against women.
103. Introduce reforms to protect against rape within marriage and de facto unions, sexual harassment in the workplace, health and sexual and reproductive rights, obstetric violence and sexual violence in armed conflict.
104. Harmonize the domestic laws to the Convention, including enacting laws that constitute femicide as a criminal offence.
105. Provide information on the objectives of the National Strategic Action Plan, the extent to which it has been monitored and evaluated and whether it has been effectively implemented, including challenges to implementation.
106. Clearly identify all activities which are connected to or which flow from the National Strategic Action Plan.
107. Devise systems to enable information on budgeting for VAW initiatives to be collated.
108. Promote on a sustained basis the Convention of Belem Do Para and other international conventions related to violence against women.