



FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM
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**SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES
COUNTRY REPORT
THIRD ROUND**

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The purpose of this report is to assess the progress made by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in implementing the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) for the period 2014-2017, to submit observations and recommendations and identify obstacles.

2. The CEDAW recommendations 19¹ and 35² on gender-based violence against women, the Answer to the CEVI Indicators under the Third Round Assessment³, the Final Report on Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the Second Round⁴, the Guide for the Application of the Convention of Belém do Pará of the MESECVI⁵ and the Joint Submission of the United Nations Sub-regional Team for Barbados and the OECS⁶, as well as the legislation and official information of the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, as well as official documents of international institutions were used in the preparation of this report.

3. The sections in which this Report is divided are related to the structure predefined by the CEVI: Legislation, National Plans, Access to Justice, Information and Statistics and Diversity. Each section will analyze the formal component, the financial and budgetary context and the state capabilities built to follow up on the rights emanating from the Convention of Belém do Pará.

II. PROGRESS IN THE RECOMMENDATIONS

LEGISLATION - Articles 1, 2, 3 and 7, item c), e) and g) of the Convention of Belém do Pará

¹ Available at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/INT_CEDAW_GEC_37_31_E.pdf

² Available at: http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CEDAW/Shared%20Documents/1_Global/CEDAW_C_GC_35_826_7_E.pdf

³ Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/Questionnaire3-St.KittsNevisResponse.pdf>

⁴ Available at: <http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/FinalReport2012-St.Lucia.doc>

⁵ Available at: http://www.oas.org/es/mesecvi/docs/Guia_Indicadores_BDP_ESP.pdf

⁶ Available at: <https://uprdoc.ohchr.org/uprweb/downloadfile.aspx?filename=2723&file=EnglishTranslation>

i) Formal element

4. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in reply to the questionnaire of indicators under the third-round assessment phase, reported that the Convention of Belém do Pará did not undergo Parliament's ratification process. Although the country's constitution determines that sex discrimination is prohibited⁷, there is no specific legislation addressed to discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or social status. The Convention of Belém do Pará is from 1995 and, although ratified by the country in 1996, has not yet been internalized. The CEVI regrets that the Convention of Belém do Pará has not yet been internalized by the country. Although several other instruments are present in national legislation, it is very important that this is present in the national legislation, as the Convention has specific protections that will guarantee better living conditions for women in the exercise of their rights and in fighting against gender-based violence in the country.

5. The country also reports that it keeps working on the implementation of laws and public policies intended to reduce violence against women, in order to promote a culture of respect, peace and security in the country. In addition, the "Domestic Violence (DV) Act" of 2015⁸ replaced the Domestic Violence Act of 1995, bringing improvements in legislation by integrating the principles of the Convention into this act. In force since November 16th, 2016⁹, this law defines “domestic relationship”, “domestic violence”¹⁰,

⁷ Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines 13. (1) Subject to the provisions of subsections (4), (5) and (7) of this section, no law shall make any provision that is discriminatory either of itself or in its effect. (3) In this section, the expression "discriminatory" means affording different treatment to different persons attributable wholly or mainly to their respective descriptions by sex, race, place of origin, political opinions, color or creed whereby persons of one such description is subjected to disabilities or restrictions to which persons of another such descriptions are not made subject or are recorded privileges or advantages which are not accorded to persons of another such description. (5) Nothing contained in any law shall be held to be inconsistent with or in contravention of subsection (1) of this section to the extent that it makes provision with respect to standards or qualifications (not being standards or qualifications specifically relating to sex, race, place or origin, political opinions, color or creed) to be required of any person who is appointed to or to act in any office or employment. Available at: http://www.gov.vc/images/visitors/1979_constitution.pdf

⁸ Available at: http://www2.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20caribbean/attachments/pages/svg%20domestic%20violence%20act_-_07072015082955.pdf?la=en&vs=1606

⁹ http://www.gov.vc/images/NewsImages/domestic_v.jpg

¹⁰ PART I, Section 2: “domestic violence” means any controlling or abusive behaviour that harms the health, safety or well-being of a person or any child and includes but it’s not limited to the following: a) physical abuse or threats of physical abuse; b) sexual abuse or threats of sexual abuse; c) emotional, verbal or psychological abuse; d) economic abuse; e) intimidation; f) harassment; g) stalking; h)

“economic abuse” and other kinds of gender violence (Part I - Section 2). However, it only penalizes violence against women in the private or intrafamilial sphere, without explicitly contemplating the violence that occurs in other spheres, such as the public one.

6. The concept of gender based on violence does not appear in the laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. It is important to note that, according to CEDAW Recommendation 35¹¹ of July 2017, this is a general obligation on States Parties to adopt in their legislation prohibitions on all forms of gender violence against women and children, harmonizing domestic laws with the UN Convention (on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women¹²), recommending the duty to ensure that all forms of gender-based violence in all spheres that are equivalent to psychological, physical, sexual or psychological integrity violations are criminalized¹³.

7. In the context of the third round, St. Vincent replied that the Criminal Code criminalizes sexual violence against women, as well as other laws under approval and revision to ensure the consistency of the Convention of Belém do Pará. The laws that deal with violence in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are generic, therefore, they do not differentiate between the kinds of violence that arise from geographical location, ethnic groups, sexual orientations, immigrants, refugees, etc. According to information provided by the country, there are only provisions regarding crimes against children and adolescents.

8. The "Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act" of 2011¹⁴ provides protection for all people in the country, including girls and women. On this, the "Trafficking in Persons Act" has a specific section on this subject (PART III - ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION OF TRAFFICKING VICTIMS). It stipulates that there will be protection and assistance to victims and their identities. As for witnesses (section 21), they may be eligible for applicable relocation and protection programs for victims if it is

damage to and destruction of property; i) entry into the applicant's residence without consent, where the parties do not share the same residence.

¹¹ CEDAW, 2017, op. cit., p. 8.

¹² Available at: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw.htm>

¹³ CEDAW, 2017, op. cit., p. 10.

¹⁴ Available at:

<https://www.oas.org/dsp/documents/trata/Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines/Public%20Policies%20and%20National%20Programs/National%20Program/Prevention%20of%20trafficking%20in%20Persons%20Act%202011.pdf>

determined that an offense involving a crime of violence directed at the victim is likely to be committed (subsection 1), including relocation, new identity, new residence, work permits or protection of confidentiality of identity and location (subsection 2). The CEVI recognizes the progress and the various forms of legislative protection regarding trafficking in persons.

9. However, the "Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act" does not specify what is forced prostitution. Like the "Domestic Violence Act", neutral terms such as "person" and "child" are used, neglecting categories of age, ethnicity, sexual orientation or intended to immigrants.

10. As ratified by the country in the Palermo Protocol¹⁵ in 2010, the American Convention (Article 6) and the Convention of Belém do Pará (Article 2), trafficking in persons is a form of gender-based violence and affects women throughout their life cycle. Therefore, protection should also include the girls. This violence assumes multiple forms, including acts or omissions intended or likely to cause or result in physical, sexual, psychological, or economic suffering or death for women, threats of such acts, harassment, coercion, and arbitrary deprivation of liberty¹⁶. Therefore, CEVI reaffirms the need to specify gender-based violence, especially in trafficking in persons.

11. It is also noted the following absences from specific criminal legislation: a) femicide; b) sexual harassment; c) the law does not explicitly prohibit marital rape; d) the Marriage Act provides for minimum legal age for marriage 15 years for girls and 16 years for boys; and e) employment legislation prohibits a woman over the age of eighteen from being employed at night in any "industrial undertaking"; f) no legislation deals with alimony for indigenous people or rural children; g) there are no norms banning the use of methods such as conciliation, mediation and other means to resolve cases of domestic violence through an extrajudicial means.

12. According to the Second Round National Report,

“the laws of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines make some provision for the protection of the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls. The report indicates that although there has never been a case of obstetric violence, there are programs that encourage the care of women’s sexual and reproductive health. The Criminal Code allows for therapeutic abortion and

¹⁵ Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtocolTraffickingInPersons.aspx>

¹⁶ CEDAW, 2017, op. cit., p. 5

abortion because of rape or incest once the procedure takes place at a hospital or other approved establishment. It is noted that sterilization must be requested but there is nothing about provisions for punishment if it is forced. Artificial insemination is not performed in Saint Vincent. There is no response to sub-section (g). How these rights are guaranteed is not noted in report”.

13. In the third round no changes were noticed in this context, including responses to the CEVI indicators.

14. In general, it is noted that the country has not significantly altered the legislative scenario since the National Report of Assessment of CEVI Indicators in the Second Round. The country is progressively reforming its legislation on the protection of gender-based violence, especially with recent issues surrounding domestic violence and trafficking in persons. However, the Constitution of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines only provides protection against discrimination based on sex. There was also no internationalization of the Convention of Belém do Pará. Except for the Domestic Violence Act of 2015, there are no other specific protections regarding women's rights and fighting gender violence and both this law and the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act "Do not specify protections for women and girls because of gender, but only in an abstract way. Thus, the CEVI, despite recognizing the effort and the progress with the change of the "Domestic Violence Act" of 2015, urges the country to continue to fight violence against women through legislative implementation, especially through specific legislation.

ii) Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

15. There are no specific laws authorizing the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to develop budget plans and direct them to the public sector for the implementation of laws, programs or plans related to violence prevention.

ii. State capabilities

16. The Gender Affairs Division is the public institution responsible for supervising the compliance with legislation on fighting violence against women. Besides, this Division may submit or request any information from the Public Administration areas of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

NATIONAL PLANS - Articles 1, 2, 7 and 8, items c) and d) of the Belém do Pará Convention

i. Formal component

17. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has a Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities, and Youth¹⁷. In their social development, there is a Gender Affairs Department¹⁸ whose mission is to ensure that all citizens of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have equal access to opportunities that will shape their social, cultural, spiritual, educational, economic, and political development.

18. The Gender Affairs Division (GAD) is a national department specialized in matters related to violence against women. This division works together with the Family Court, the Division of Family Affairs and the Police of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The GAD is composed of 8 people, 2 men and 6 women.

19. The coordination of the GAD has a woman as coordinator. Besides exercising administrative functions, it also promotes counseling and contacts with other agencies in support of the prevention of violence against women.

20. However, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines has no national plans that consider actions and strategies aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women in the country. Nor is there a state policy focused at eliminating gender stereotypes in the education of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

¹⁷ <http://www.mobilization.gov.vc/mobilization/>

¹⁸ <http://mobilization.gov.vc/mobilization/index.php/gender-affairs>

21. According to information provided by the country, the Government adopted the National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence ("GBV Action Plan"). However, there has been no update on the status of your adoption in the United Nations website¹⁹. The GBV Action Plan is a multi-sectoral, time bound framework to be adopted by various stakeholders of the GOVSVG and civil society. It was commissioned in 2014 by the Government of SVG and funded by UN WOMEN. The Plan: a) Advocates strategic long-term programs of activities to address causes of GBV and strengthen response to it; b) fosters better coordination and management of resources; c) contributes to the understanding of GBV and its impact d) provides for the enhancement of knowledge and awareness of GBV.

22. Concerning education, there is no provision in The Education Act²⁰ to assure citizens the right to be educated in an environment free from violence and discrimination. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not have a systematized educational curriculum to promote the protection and rights of women in the country. There is also no government entity responsible for assessing educational content on gender equality, gender stereotypes, and violence prevention in school contents.

23. However, the Gender Affairs Division (GAD) has an educational program for the general population:

- Through a weekly radio program that promotes and clarifies issues related to gender issues.
- With the collaboration of other government agencies, it hosts workshops for the local population with topics such as parenting, health problems, teenage pregnancy and reproductive health.
- In 2015, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines report submitted to CEDAW was used as the basis for national discussions on the new Domestic Violence Act (2015).
- It holds a month of activities to promote the International Day for Ending Violence against Women.
- It holds Commemorative Awareness annually during International Women's Day in March.

¹⁹ <http://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/caribbean-gender-portal/st-vincent-and-grenadines>

²⁰ Available: <http://education.gov.vc/education/images/stories/PDF/education%20act%20cap202-1.pdf>

24. Unfortunately, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not offer specialized courses in violence at elementary, middle, or high school level. However, through the University of the West Indies²¹, the population can obtain training in Gender Studies. However, there is no information or data of the people trained in this program.

25. The existing social programs in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines aim to assist all women seeking help. These programs are:

- a) Counseling offered by the Division of Gender Affairs, Division of Family Affairs²², Family Court²³ and Marion House²⁴.
- b) Financial support for victims of violence.
- c) State shelters.
- d) Judicial protection for victims of violence.
- e) Free telephone lines for the care of women victims of violence.
- f) Health care for victims of violence.

26. The country has service for women survivors of violence created and operating nationwide. The Crisis Center is an exclusive facility for gender-based violence victims in SVG. This facility is in the capital city. It has fourteen (14) beds. Guadalupe Home for Girls is a home for young and teenager women with problems. This shelter is in a rural community led by the Catholic Church²⁵.

ii. Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

27. The Gender Affairs Division (GAD) is the only agency within government that has ongoing, specific programs for violence against women (VAW). Therefore, it is important to note that there are different forms of violence. The total budget allocated to the GAD in 2016 is \$ 516,874 and the approved budget for 2015 was \$ 480,854. The

²¹ Available at: <http://sta.uwi.edu/igds/>

²² Available at: <http://mobilization.gov.vc/mobilization/index.php/family-services-division>

²³ Available at: http://www.judiciary.gov.vc/judiciary/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=76

²⁴ Available at: <https://www.facebook.com/MarionHouseSVG/>

²⁵ Available at: <http://www.caribank.org/projects-approved/guadalupe-home-for-girls>

2016 budget represents 1.93% of the Ministry's annual budget and 0.06% of the country's annual budget. In 2015 the GAD received 1.27% of the Ministry's annual budget and 0.05% of the Country's annual budget.

28. The Ministry of Finance receives annual reports on the expense accounts for each department during the budget discussion²⁶. The Gender Affairs Division presents its report considering all activities related to violence against women.

29. There is no detailed budget allocated to this plan at this time. However, funding for the plan is provided from the general budget of the GAD.

30. The budget allocated to the Crisis Center is projected for 2016 is \$ 232,032.00. Guadeloupe Home for Girls is a private institution and its budget is unknown.

31. The Audit Department annually conducts the auditing of Saint Vincent and Grenadines accounts. The audits are general and not specific for the supervision of programs to ensure a life free of violence for women. However, they consider the budgets that are spent on implementing programs related to violence against women.

32. The public expenditures of the government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are indiscernible, so it is not possible to stipulate what percentage was spent to guarantee a life without violence.

33. There is no civil organization in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that is responsible for the budget and supervision of government expenditures. The country's budget planning is restricted to government officials.

iii. State Capabilities

34. There are no official government protocols to address the different types of violence against women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. However, there are informal relations between government agencies, quasi-governmental organizations and

²⁶ Available at: <http://www.finance.gov.vc/finance>

nongovernmental organizations on issues related to support and assistance to victims of domestic violence in the country.

35. In partnership with the Ministry of Education²⁷, the Gender Affairs Division (GAD) served in schools in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Annually, since 2001, the GAD conducts awareness training for teachers in Saint Vincent and Grenadines. In the year 2016, 18 schools in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines received gender awareness activities.

36. The publications of the protocols related to violence against women are made only in English. Regarding this, it should be emphasized that there are no protocols available to be disseminated by the government and there is no awareness campaign for the application of these protocols. It also reports that the discussions on sexual harassment in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are incorporated during campaigns conducted by the Gender Affairs Division (GAD).

37. The GAD prepares educational material for distribution in schools, bookstores and for the population. Among the materials produced by this body, we can highlight "Understanding the gender", "Gender based on violence" and a brochure simplifying the Convention of Belém do Pará. In addition, the GAD has a campaign against violence against women during the year:

- a) Weekly radio program
- b) Commemorative activities related to international conventions.
- c) Dissemination of informative pamphlets related to gender violence.

38. There is no state body responsible for assessing the educational content of Saint Vincent and Grenadines to be free of gender stereotypes. In addition, educational curricula are analyzed, but not specifically to eliminate gender stereotypes by subject and academic level.

²⁷ Available at: <http://www.education.gov.vc/education>

39. The Mental Health Center is the state body responsible for psychological care for the citizens of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines²⁸. In addition, Marion House is responsible for providing specific programs for teenagers.

40. According to the information provided by Saint Vincent and Grenadines, there is no permanent mechanism responsible for participating in the provision of recommendations on the design and implementation of public policies for the prevention of violence against women, and there are no trained state actors in gender and the deconstruction of stereotypes against women and adolescents. In addition, there are no programs designed to deal with women's rights and to encourage stereotyping-free education and behavioral patterns based on the concepts of inferiority and subordination. It also informs that there is no human rights program that includes the gender debate at all levels of education in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

41. It also reports that there are no shelters or houses available to victims of domestic violence and their sons and daughters, and there are no observatories, whether public or private, on discriminatory practices. Besides, there is no code of professional ethics for media and advertising professionals who commit attitudes based on gender stereotypes and against women's rights.

42. However, it reports that the Ministry of National Mobilization of Gender has a protocol to assist victims of violence in the Crisis Center. This protocol also has the assistance of the Police and Family Court.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE - Article 7, items d) and f) and article 8, items c) and d) of the Belém do Pará Convention

i. Formal Component

²⁸ Available at:
http://www.health.gov.vc/health/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=36&Itemid=17

43. From the indicators, it was possible to note some absences regarding access to justice in gender violence and women's rights.

- a. There is no legislation explicitly forbidding the use of methods of conciliation, mediation and other methods for resolving cases of violence against women extrajudicially.
- b. There are no legal provisions containing protection mechanisms for the various categories of women from the perspective of intercultural inclusion.
- c. There are no free telephone lines in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. However, there is the line operated by the Crisis Center and the Police. To access this telephone line, simply press key 3.
- d. There are no financial resources for the free legal services and legal representation of the various categories of women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

44. SVG Human Rights Association and some private lawyers offer pro bono legal services to the population of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. There is no institution that provides specific services to provide information, care, and psychological support to women before, during and after the legal process.

45. Women victims of violence can access all available health services in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. These programs are not intended for any specific group, so all citizens can access them.

ii. Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

46. There are no investment funds for each stage of the criminal process of violence against women.

ii. State Capabilities

47. As previously reported, there is no specific free program for the provision of legal services in the country. The office of Attorney General Saint Vincent and Grenadines²⁹, autonomous lawyers and SVG Human Rights provide pro-bono services to the population.

48. The police are the main agency for receiving complaints of violence, especially the Criminal Investigation Department. Regarding this, according to information provided by the country, it should be noted that there are 20 police units scattered around Saint Vincent and Grenadines. The Special Departments responsible for receiving complaints of violence cases are the Rapid Response Unit (number 4), the Special Services Unit (number 2) and the Narcotics Unit (number 1). In addition, some social entities also receive complaints: Crisis Center³⁰, FAD and GAD.

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS - Article 8, item h) of the Convention of Belém do Pará

i. Formal component

49. The Police in partnership with the Gender Division Affairs (GDA) are the institutions responsible for generating statistics on violence against women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

50. Based on the responses to the CEVI indicators, it was noted that the data indicated are not widely available and easily accessible. On the website of the Ministry³¹ or the Gender Affairs Division³² there is little information such as data, statistics, research, or publications. The Statistics Division periodically publishes the statistics of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines³³. However, this site does not have statistics on cases of violence against women in the country.

²⁹ Available at:

http://www.assembly.gov.vc/assembly/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=23&Itemid=37

³⁰ Available at: <http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/saint-vincent-and-the-grenadines/2012/crisis-center-for-victims-of-domestic-violence>

³¹ <http://www.mobilization.gov.vc/mobilization/>

³² <http://mobilization.gov.vc/mobilization/index.php/gender-affairs>

³³ Available at: <http://stats.gov.vc>

51. The country has justified the lack of research and information on gender-based violence stating that "the Census and statistics Act 24 of 1938 covers the states' obligations as to the statistical data is concerned. There is no legal provision in the conduct of studies and research to assess and monitor plans, programs, and actions relating to violence against women (VAW). As a result, there are no regulations in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines that oblige the state to conduct research related to different manifestations of violence against women. In addition, there are no regulations that guarantee free access to statistical nature information generated by the country's public institutions. There are also no legal provisions in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines regarding studies and research to assess and monitor plans, programs and actions related to violence against women. Finally, there are no regulations that provide free access to the statistical information generated by the public-sector institutions of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

52. Data on violence against different categories of women who have been victims of violence in the last 12 months are not available. In addition, the records of complaints made by users of the health system and the justice system are also not available.

53. Thus, given the absence of information and the lack of obligatory research, reporting, information, data collection and other types of analysis, the only data available were those provided by the country in response to CEVI indicators. However, it was not possible to corroborate them officially.

54. According to the statistics provided by Saint Vincent and Grenadines, 32 cases of violence against women that have left their partners, whether current or previous ones. Of these 32 cases, 20 were cases of physical violence, 1 case was verbal violence, 7 cases were sexual violence and 4 cases were violence related to private property. These 32 cases represent a total of 60 reports of abuse per 100,000 inhabitants.

55. In addition, in the 10-14 age group, 6 cases were reported, representing 127 cases of abuse per 100,000 inhabitants. In the 15-19 age group, 1 case was reported, representing 21 cases of abuse per 100,000 inhabitants. In the 20+ age group, 25 cases

were reported, representing 530 cases of abuse per 100,000 inhabitants. In addition, 112 cases of rape per 100,000 inhabitants were registered³⁴.

56. Saint Vincent and Grenadines presented a report on women's right to a non-violent life for MESECVI in 2011. In addition, it also submitted the following reports:

- 1st Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2000³⁵.
- Beijing + 20³⁶
- Reports 4-8 (1995-2010) to the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2015³⁷.

57. In addition, no NGO has submitted a shadow report to the Country Experts Committee. Meanwhile, the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Human Rights Association has submitted two ghost reports:

- (a) In 2002 for the Convention on the Rights of the Child expressing concerns about the high incidence of child sexual abuse³⁸.
- (b) In 2015 for CEDAW³⁹.

58. Police records show that one violent death of a woman per one man occurred in 2015. According to the “Femicide and / or Violent Deaths of Women (VDW)” rate, this homicide represents a rate of approximately 21 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants.

59. From 2011 to 2015, police records indicate that there were 5 deaths of women by men in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. This represents a rate of approximately 106

³⁴ Joint Report by the UN and World Bank, 2007 in Deshong, 2011 in SVG National Plan to End GBV 2015-2018.

³⁵ Available at:

<http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRiCAqhKb7yhsvuB9IAK2MntiuiBBPA10nZ8FwkRzRPcUeyAtQsogEyr5j8qEu9oI7ceA4bAtI2npJSAnVd41jY91W3WybyKQwjkumpED3hA2qEvTz918pUN>

³⁶ Available at:

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/59/national_reviews/saint_vincent_and_the_grenadines_review_beijing20.pdf

³⁷ Available at:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/cedaw%20report%20submission%20status%2031Aug2006.pdf>

³⁸ Available at:

https://www.unicef.org/lac/spbarbados/Legal/national/St.Vincent/Reporting/st.vincent_ngo_report.pdf

³⁹ Available at:

https://ciddhu.uqam.ca/fichier/document/Shadow_Report_Violence_against_women_and_girls_in_St_Vincent_and_the_Grenadines_SVGHRA_and_CIDDHU2.pdf

cases per 100,000 inhabitants. These 5 homicides were not classified as femicide, but rather as the death of women by men.

ii. Basic financial context and budgetary commitments

60. About transparency and publication of information on the budget and its implementation, the civil organizations of Saint Vincent and Grenadines are invited to meet with the Minister of Finance during the preparation of the annual budget. However, there is no mechanism for providing information on the percentage of budgets allocated to the promotion of women's rights. In addition, it should be noted that there is no civil organization that is responsible for supervising and executing the country's budget.

61. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines does not promote the dissemination and publication of final budget reports and their execution for research and scientific studies. There is no specific law on the budget allocation for the information production meeting in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

62. Specific reports on violence against women have not been published in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. In addition, there is no specific provision for the development of a database on violence against women in the country, nor is there any budget allocation for programs, plans and institutions that deal with violence against women.

iii. State capabilities

63. There are no rules of coordination between the Gender Affairs Division and the Department of Statistics⁴⁰ and other Saint Vincent and Grenadines agencies for the collection of the country's statistical data.

64. There are no legal provisions for setting up offices, departments, and other state mechanisms to produce statistics.

65. There are no studies dealing with discourses that contain stereotypes, prejudices, myths, and customs and deny justice to women victims of domestic violence. In addition, there are no government instruments that disseminate national statistics on violence against women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

66. There is no state mechanism for the dissemination of processes that encourages access to the updating of the country's public statistical information. In addition, there is no periodic research report on violence against women, as well as their knowledge of their rights and the services available to assist them.

Conclusion

67. After these analyzes and responses to the indicators, the country understands that gender-based violence against women and girls is a national problem and must be tackled. The CEVI welcomes the country's efforts in several areas to overcome this difficulty. In the field of legislation, it is possible to note the enactment of laws in the last years that punish the aggressors more firmly, as well as treating the victims with greater care, especially in protection. In addition, it was noted that the country also adhered to the GBV Action Plan and the Education Act provides for the teaching of women's rights and fighting gender violence. This is an important step forward recognized by the CEVI.

68. However, there are also other areas that require attention and need to be made to improve the situation of the country in this issue. It is important to emphasize the non-internalization of the Convention of Belém do Pará and generic laws that do not specify

⁴⁰ Available at: <http://stats.gov.vc>

protection for women and children. It is mentioned the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 and the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2011 that do not mention women and treat domestic violence, without defining gender violence, as a problem and without attending to the particularities of each gender, including reparations to the victims and reintegration of the offenders into society, so that this violence does not perpetuate in the family and there are no recurrences.

69. The CEVI understands that the legislation is new and investment in this topic is recent but instigates the country to increase its budget and expand its protection in this matter. According to the information

"The total budget allocated to the GAD in 2016 is \$ 516,874 and the approved allocation for 2015 was \$ 480,854. The 2016 budget represents 1.93% of the Ministry's annual budget and 0.06% of the country's annual budget. In 2015 the GAD received 1.27% of the Ministry's annual budget and 0.05% of the Country's annual budget. "

70. Despite understanding the diversity of problems in a country, it also notes that a 2 per cent share of the budget is extremely low in a Ministry to deal with specific issues of gender violence in a country whose rates of violence against women are very high. The CEVI therefore urges the country to increase its budget and significantly allocate a larger part of its budget to actions to protect and tackle gender-based violence.

71. Lastly, the CEVI noted that there is a lack of transparency in the dissemination of results and information by the Government. There is no easy access to information on government websites. In addition, all the country's justifications for not conducting research, reporting and research on gender violence and women's rights were answered with the absence of coercive legal provisions that would require such actions. Therefore, if there is no obligation, there would be no national plan to do so.

72. The CEVI believes that without due action, whether preventive or remedial, any legislation becomes ineffective and the country perpetuates its omission. In this way, the CEVI suggests and urges that Saint Vincent and the Grenadines adopt the following recommendations -to keep tackling gender violence and promoting women's rights in a comprehensive manner.

Specific Recommendations

Legislation

1. Integrate into the legislation the definition of violence against women independently of intra-family violence.
2. Specify the types of violence that arise from geographical location, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identities, immigrants, refugees, etc.
3. Differentiate the criminal type of trafficking in persons from forced prostitution, including its prevention independently in legislation.
4. Specify how measures to protect people who are victims of domestic violence are being used to ensure this protection.
5. Legislate on the creation of a norm regarding femicide.
6. Legislate on the creation of a standard on sexual harassment in the workplace.
7. Legislate on the creation of a norm that deals with sexual violence in hospitals or in educational institutions existing in the country.
8. Legislate on alimony for indigenous people or rural children.
9. Legislate on the banishment of extrajudicial means of resolving conflicts - conciliation, mediation, etc. - to resolve cases of domestic violence in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
10. Legislate on the right of citizens to be educated in an environment free from violence and discrimination.
11. Decriminalize and legalize the practice of abortion in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
12. Legislate on the creation of a norm concerning rape of women occurring during marriage or stable union.
13. Legislate on the creation of a norm concerning obstetric violence.
14. Create a government entity that is responsible for assessing educational content on gender identity, gender stereotypes, and prevention in school materials.
15. Produce specific educational content to promote gender equality in journalism universities.
16. Create an organization to regulate the sexist content that may be present in the advertisements and propagandas of the country.

17. Create an entity responsible for monitoring, supervising and implementing actions to ensure the right of women and girls to live a life free of violence.
18. Develop official government protocols to address the different types of violence against women in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
19. Create a state body responsible for assessing the educational content of Saint Vincent and Grenadines so that it is free of gender stereotypes.
20. Legislate on the creation of a norm concerning the use of sexual violence as torture, war crime or as a crime against humanity.
21. Facilitate the change of identity of victims of violence.

Regarding National Plans

1. Oppose and tackle the adoption of laws, whether federal, state or municipal, that prohibit the adoption of education policies on gender and sexual orientation.
2. Encourage a formal network for emergency care and follow-up of victims of violence against women.
3. Develop national plans that consider actions and strategies aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating violence against women in the country.
4. Encourage specific audits to monitor programs to ensure a life free of violence for women.
5. Add more beds at the Crisis Center to shelter victims of gender violence.
6. Encourage the creation of public or private bodies specializing in aiding women victims of violence.
7. Promote and implement public policies and campaigns to eradicate stereotypes, prejudices, customs, and practices, with a specific designation for the inclusion of gender equality in the school curriculum at all levels, both public and private, from kindergarten, as well as in programs with a human rights approach. The focus should be on stereotypes of gender roles and promoting values of gender equality and non-discrimination, including non-violent masculinities, as well as ensuring comprehensive, proper and scientifically accurate sex education for girls and boys.

8. Develop specialized training on the Convention of Belém do Pará for members of the Executive, Legislative and Judiciary Branch of Saint Vincent and Grenadines.
9. Create a state policy for the elimination of gender stereotypes of education in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
10. Promote specific research on violence against women, as well as strengthen the thematic clipping on gender in other research to develop the study on women's rights in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
11. Introduce permanent training on the rights of women to a life free from violence at all educational levels and institutional levels, as well as monitoring and assessment of their effects.
12. Develop training actions on the issue addressed to parliamentarians.
13. Promote the conclusion of cooperation agreements with the media and publicity agencies to disseminate the rights of women and the Convention of Belém do Pará.
14. Encourage campaigns to raise awareness of gender stereotypes in education and what they produce.
15. Develop a human rights program that includes the gender debate at all levels of education in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
16. Provide specific services to provide information, care, and psychological support to women before, during and after the legal process.
17. Promote campaigns to raise awareness of gender stereotypes in education and what they produce.

Access to Justice

1. Keep up-to-date and encourage the dissemination of data and statistics on violence against women.
2. Promote public policies for the training of judges, prosecutors, lawyers and other jurists on the issue of violence.
3. Create a toll-free hotline for victims of domestic violence.
4. Strengthen the number of care and support services for women.
5. Monitor the quality of free legal services.

6. Improve information regarding the effective application of protection measures in the justice system.
7. Provide specific measures to ensure access to justice for rural, indigenous, and black women.
8. Promote the use of the Convention of Belém do Pará in judicial decisions and judgments.
9. Draw up plans for ongoing training for judges, prosecutors, and legislators on violence against women and women's rights under the Convention of Belém do Pará.
10. Ensure free and public access to information obtained by the State on gender-based violence.

Regarding Specialized Services

1. Strengthen and ensure adequate geographical distribution of care and shelter services for women in situations of violence against women.
2. Create a state agency to supervise and monitor the trials in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
3. Create institutions that promote the debate of gender in the scope of the Judiciary.
4. Promote the generation of gender mechanisms at the municipal level.
5. Predict and strengthen mechanisms and instruments enough and adequate infrastructure to support and care for victims of violence.
6. Provide shelters and houses for the victims of domestic violence, as well as for their sons and daughters.

Budget

1. Know the percentage of public spending allocated to programs that guarantee women's right to a life free from violence and monitor their effective compliance.

2. Establish an investment fund for each stage of the criminal process of violence against women.
3. Inform the budget for campaigns to promote the right of women to a life free of violence.
4. Conduct research, programs, plans, strategies, and actions to tackle violence against women.

Regarding Investigations

1. It is appropriate to establish a system of statistics covering, among other no less important matters, how many, and what kind of protection measures have been granted to women affected by violence in the last year.
2. Strengthen and improve investigations and increase the number of completed investigations into malicious homicides, violence against women and domestic violence, to increase the number of complaints to justice and, consequently, possible convictions.
3. It is appropriate to establish a system of statistics covering, among other no less important matters, how many, and what kind of protection measures have been granted to women affected by violence in the last year.
4. Strengthen mechanisms for coordination between data obtained from research and statistics and women's mechanisms at the national, state, and municipal levels.