



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.271/17  
November 21, 2017  
Original: English

**SAINT LUCIA  
COUNTRY REPORT  
THIRD ROUND**

## **I. Introduction**

1. This report represents a synthesis of St. Lucia's responses to the Progress Indicators for Measuring the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women during the year 2015. Responses contained in St. Lucia's 2012 country report<sup>1</sup>, recommendations emanating from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Hemispheric Evaluation Round, and Recommendation 35 of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) were key documents taken into consideration upon producing this report.
2. Where provided, responses provided rich information regarding the implementation of the Convention. Indeed, the Government of St. Lucia is to be commended for the enhanced quality of information contained in this report. However, as the report is not structured in accordance with the original questionnaire template, many questions remained unanswered or are omitted from the response document submitted. The CEVI deeply appreciates the Government of St. Lucia's compliance 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**

#### ***RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT:***

##### ***Structural:***

4. No reference was made pertaining to the degree of the Convention's incorporation into domestic law. As such, it is assumed that, as stated in St Lucia's report, the Convention has been "incorporated into the country's legislation, by way of revision of the Criminal Code in 2003" which "primarily increases the penalty of existing legislation but also introduces new legislation for offences such as stalking and knowing transmission of the AIDS virus".
5. Additionally, the drafter did not find any indication of legislative changes made to expand the definition of violence against women beyond what was described in St.

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<sup>1</sup>Organization of American States – MESECVI. (2012). St. Lucia: Country Report. Retrieved from <https://www.oas.org/en/mesecvi/docs/FinalReport2012-St.Lucia.doc>

- Lucia's 2012 report. In fact, it remains the case that marital rape is not criminalized in the country except in very limited cases.<sup>2</sup>
6. Additionally, femicide, defined as *“the violent death of women based on gender, whether it occurs within the family, a domestic partnership, or any other interpersonal relationship, in the community, by any person, or when it is perpetuated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by action or omission.”* is not incorporated in the national legislation of St. Lucia as per the above definition nor did the drafter find an equivalent definition. Further, there is no legal provision that defines the term “gender-based violence”.
  7. This alternate expert is concerned that while the Criminal Code of Saint Lucia, No.9 of 2004 offers some protection for victims of sexual violence, it contains a limited definition of violence against girls by defining it as follows:
    - a. *Inducing sexual intercourse or sexual connection by force, duress, etc., sexual intercourse with a person under twelve, Sexual intercourse with a person between twelve and sixteen, gross indecency - “gross indecency” is an act other than sexual intercourse (whether natural or unnatural) by a person involving the use of the genital organs for the purpose of arousing or gratifying sexual desire, sexual intercourse with an adopted minor, etc., sexual intercourse with a minor employee, indecent assault, indecent act, buggery and unlawful detention of a person with intent to have sexual intercourse.*
  8. The above creates a concern that the Criminal Code may inadvertently allow for different types of violence against women, including sexual harassment. However, Saint Lucia is commended on its participation in the preparation of a CARICOM Draft Model Legislation on Sexual Harassment in All Public Spaces, including educational institutions and welcomes the Attorney General's intention to implement such during the year.
  9. Sexual harassment in the workplace is addressed in the St. Lucia Labour Code of 2006 No. 272 and in the Criminal Code 2004 No.10. This offence is defined as “any act against an employee committed by an employer, managerial employee or co-employee shall constitute unlawful discrimination based on the sex ... and the employee shall be entitled to compensation in accordance with the Code”. While contained in the Criminal Code, reports of sexual harassment are made at the Department of Labour as opposed to the police force.
  10. The drafter of this report is encouraged that, as indicated in the report, schools are guided by unwritten policies to create violence-free environments (i.e. “child-friendly schools”) in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It is also noteworthy that efforts in this regard extend to all entitled

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<sup>2</sup> Canada: Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada, Saint Lucia: Sexual violence against women, including legislation, state protection and support services available to victims (2009-October 2012), 15 November 2012, LCA104229.E, available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/50bf2f292.html> [accessed 12 January 2018]

to an education in St. Lucia, as per the country's Education Act which states the following:

- a. No. 29. "Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person who is eligible for admission to a public educational institution or an assisted school as a student shall be refused admission on any discriminatory grounds including race, place of origin, political opinion, colour, creed, sex, or subject to the provisions of this Act, mental or physical handicap."<sup>3</sup>

11. The Government of St. Lucia does not indicate in its report whether steps have been taken to enacted legislation to protect against obstetric violence in hospitals and other health institutions and sexual violence in armed conflicts as a form of torture, war crime and/or crime against humanity. The drafter notes that the latter is not applicable to St. Lucia's context.
12. The report did not address specific legislation that: punishes obstetric violence particularly in teenage pregnancies; allows the legal interruption of pregnancy for therapeutic reasons; allows the legal interruption of pregnancy for rape; punishes forced sterilization guarantees access to contraception, including emergency oral contraceptives; punishes non-consensual artificial insemination.
13. There was no response to specific legislation on sexual and reproductive rights.
14. The report made no mention of attention protocols to determine treatment steps and the form of attention to the users especially in the cases of sexual violence. Nor was any reference made to legislation that explicitly bans the use of such methods as conciliation, mediation, probation, suspended sentences, application of the opportunity and commutation of punishment. There exists no legislation to ban extra-judicial methods to address violence. The report states that mediation is used as an intervention in cases whereby a client's situation does not meet the criteria required to secure a Protection, Occupation, or Tenancy order<sup>4</sup>.
15. St. Lucia's Constitution<sup>5</sup> extends freedoms and protections to "every person in St. Lucia". Legislation makes use of the non-discriminatory language used in the Constitution.

***Process:***

16. The report states that The Division of Gender Relations is responsible for co-ordinating and advising all government ministries and agencies in fostering social justice for all and has adopted and ensured the reflection of those features in the various programmes and implementation of policies on the island. While violence

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<sup>3</sup> Education Act of Saint Lucia No 41 of 1999, pg. 572

<sup>4</sup> The following definitions were extracted from St. Lucia's country report. Protection Order: prohibits the respondent from doing things to harm or harass a victim; Occupation Order: prohibits a perpetrator from living in the family house; and Tenancy Order: transfers the tenancy on tenancy agreement to the name of the applicant only

<sup>5</sup> The Saint Lucia Constitution Order 1978. Retrieved from [http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws/media/pdf/stlucia/stlucia\\_constitution\\_order\\_20\\_12\\_1978\\_eng\\_orof.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/culture/natlaws/media/pdf/stlucia/stlucia_constitution_order_20_12_1978_eng_orof.pdf)

- against women is not explicitly included in its mandate, the Division's objectives are to, inter alia:
- a. Coordinate programmes at the national, regional and community levels aimed at influencing policy towards the achievement of gender equity and improving gender relations
  - b. Provide technical advisory services to government, and the private sector agencies as well as collaborate with these agencies in the implementation of programmes that address gender inequalities and women's needs
  - c. Provide technical assistance to NGOs to strengthen their capacity to address issues that would respond to the needs of women and men in their communities.
17. The Women's Support Centre (WSC), which was established by and receives funding from the Government of St. Lucia, is the primary response agency for victims of violence. According to the Government of St. Lucia's website<sup>6</sup>, services provided by the WSC include crisis intervention through a 24 hour toll-free hotline; individual and group counselling; a children's program; protection planning to assist clients to develop a safety plan for themselves and their children; the provision of information on available community resources; networking services with various agencies for the provision of legal and social assistance; practical support assistance to secure employment and alternative housing; and follow-up support and counselling to women and children who have left the shelter.
- a. The reviewer notes a positive development within the WSC. That is, the Centre's development of a students' assistance program to assist with the acquisition of school supplies, uniforms and the payment of school fees.
18. Data on violence against women in St. Lucia is recorded by six agencies: the Royal St. Lucia Police Force (Vulnerable Person's Unit, VPU), the Department of Human Services and Family Affairs, the Department of Gender Relations, The Women's Support Centre (domestic violence), and the St. Lucian Crisis Centre. Information obtained from these agencies were used extensively in the country report.
19. The report notes that the Division of Gender Relations through the Women's Support Centre (WSC), has hosted several seminars, disseminated information on domestic violence, participated in community-based outreaches, exhibitions and other empowerment initiatives (co-hosted by both governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as faith-based organizations).
20. The reports states that Police Training School Curriculum for new recruits is conducted and includes a component on gender-based violence. The reviewer further notes as a positive development that officers are also informed of the 'Protocol for Referring Women to the Women Support Centre.' A presentation on the 'Silence Scourge Embedded in St. Lucian Society,' which gives an overview of the cycle of domestic violence, reasons why women remain in abusive relationships, types of

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<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Health. (2015). Renovation work at Women's Support Centre nears completion. Retrieved from <http://www.govt.lc/news/renovation-work-at-womens-support-centre-nears-completion>

violence, profile of an abuser, barriers to ending violence, the impact of domestic violence on women and children, role of the police in curbing the incidence of domestic violence and social agencies which manage cases of domestic violence; is also made to police officers.

- The report notes that similar presentations were made to the Senior Officers of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force at the sixteen (16) police stations island wide in 2015-2016 to familiarize them with the Protocol involved in making referrals to the Women's Support Centre.

21. Officers attached to the Vulnerable Persons Team in the Royal St. Lucia Police Force undergo training in the following areas held locally and regionally. Key areas covered in the training include:

- Interviewing Techniques
- Collection/ Compilation of Evidence
- Juvenile Justice Reform Project
- Mediation Training.
- Domestic Violence Awareness Courses, which include a Train-the-Trainer component to increase capacity within the police force.

22. The report notes as a challenge that many officers who have benefitted from the training are often re-assigned to other departments within the police force. Also, there is no mention as to whether such training extends beyond recruitment or specialized units.

23. In addition to the aforementioned government-led trainings, the report indicates that several training programmes have been hosted by non-government organizations including the St. Lucia Crisis Centre (SLCC) and the Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action (CAFRA) on issues related to violence against women, but these efforts are described in the report as infrequent and insufficient.<sup>7</sup>

24. The reviewer notes that the report highlights the training of only one Family Court Social Worker in an Empowerment Approach Workshop organized by RISE (St. Lucia) Inc., in March of 2016, which focused on dealing with the victims of domestic violence.

25. Several community-based and faith-based organizations as well as ministerial departments host empowerment seminars, community outreaches, exhibitions, displays and matches against the act. Such initiatives are supported by the Division of Gender Relations and the staff of the Women's Support Centre through presentations on domestic violence. They also provide counseling services through one-to-one counseling make referrals and provide educational literature at their booth during such activities.

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<sup>7</sup> Source: St. Lucia Crisis Centre 2015

26. Some of the training activities include outreach programmes within communities island wide, health centres, schools, churches, on radio programmes and upon requests by other organizations.
27. The Women's Support Centre hosts presentations on domestic violence in schools throughout St. Lucia. Some schools have been involved in community awareness marches against violence against women. The report states that these events usually coincide with the annual observances of International Women's Day March 8 and the 16 Days of Activism against Violence against Women and girls November 25-December 10th. While all efforts to raise awareness about violence against women are to be commended, these efforts should be conducted on a more consistent basis.
28. The report notes as a positive development, the Curriculum Unit's (in the Ministry of Education) efforts to address issues of gender stereotyping in the national curriculum through its Education Sector Development Plan Priorities 2015-2020 under Priority 2: Gender Equity and Human Rights.

***Results:***

29. St. Lucia's responses to the results indicators, throughout its report, were considerable. Despite this, there were many categories for which the responses were "unknown". This may not only refer to the absence of data for existing phenomenon, but rather may refer to its current inapplicability in St. Lucia's context.
30. The rate of cases, reported by women to social agencies, of partner and ex-partner violence, was 419 per 100,000 in 2015. The rate of violence against girls in 2015, based on Division of Human Services and Family Affairs data, was 1,268 per 100,000 girls.
31. While femicide is not defined in national law, the rate of homicides of females is listed as 378.8 per 100,000 while the homicide rate is 0. The mortality rate, based on data from the Royal St. Lucia Police Force (2015), for women by suicide, homicide, and accidents were 0, 5, and 2, respectively.
32. Information was provided regarding the number of cases lodged on account of violence against women. There were 602 cases lodged (i.e. 1.21% of all cases).
33. The State notes that several civil society organizations are involved in which are involved in the efforts to promote the end of violence against women. Among these organizations are United and Strong, Raise Your Voice, the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association, the National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities and the National Youth Council.
34. The reviewer is confused by St. Lucia's 2015 stated pregnancy rate or maternity rate in young and adolescent girls (10-19 years old) which was listed as 126 per 100. 13%

of all term births were to young adolescent girls. There was an 11% abortion rate among adolescent girls in 2015. The mortality rate among this group was 0.

35. The ratio between the increased of VDW (violent death of women) and the increase of VDM (Violent death of men) for 2015 was 24 for males and 5 for females.

## **BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS**

### ***Structural:***

36. St. Lucia reports that the underlying financial context and budgetary commitment are unknown.
37. The percentage of budget allocated to programs, plans and agencies related to different forms of violence against women was reported as unknown or otherwise not indicated in the 2015/16 Government Budget Estimates for St. Lucia.

### ***Structural, Process and Results:***

38. No reference was made to any specific number of CSOs involved in budget oversight initiatives and budget execution. This indicator appeared to be omitted from the submitted report.

## **STATE CAPACITIES**

### ***Structural:***

39. The State provide clear examples of protocols which are used by the police force as well as the Women's Support Centre. It further provides a list of existing protocols which include National HIV/AIDS and STIs Protocols, National Child and Adolescent Health Policy (Draft), National Child Abuse Prevention Policy, National Persons with Disability Policy, Health and Family Life Education Policy, St. Lucia National Policy for Older Persons (Draft), Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1982), Beijing Platform for Action (1995), and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women. While the preceding represent a commitment to inclusiveness with addressing a variety of issue, most do not adequately address the presence of protocols.

40. St. Lucia reported that referrals were made to three healthcare facilities in the country: Turning Pont, National Wellness Centre, and Victoria Hospital.

### ***Process:***

41. The report provides no information on the development or dissemination of attention protocols.

### ***Results:***



42. There was no reference in this report to training processes for journalists, communication professionals, and media representatives on the right of women and girls to be free from all forms of discrimination and stereotyped patterns of behaviour and social and cultural practices based on inferiority and subordination concepts. However, non-profit organization such as Raise Your Voice was highlighted as an entity which used the media for awareness raising purposes.
43. The report states that one (1) report, the Annual Performance Programme, is presented annually and used to monitor the budget for measures against violence. Involved in this process are members of the Division of Gender Relations, Women's Support Centre, Division of Human Services and Family Affairs, Accounts Department of the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Human Services and Gender Relations, Permanent Secretary of the aforementioned Ministry and the Chief Planner. While this is a promising practice, no evidence in the report highlights how the results of the review are applied.
44. The report further states that an annual government audit is carried out within the relevant department to determine the extent to which a life free of violence is maintained. However, the State would need to clarify exactly how this is determined.

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

***RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT:***

***Structural:***

45. St. Lucia does not have a national plan to address gender-based violence nor does it have a gender equality policy.
46. However, the respondent states that a National Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (Draft), National Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy (Draft) and Integrated Strategic Framework for the Reduction of Adolescent Pregnancy exist. These policies are incorporated into: policies used by the St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association; the Child Abuse Policy used by the Division of Human Services and Family Affairs; and the Health and Family Life Education Policy which guides the actions of the Ministry of Education.
47. The Saint Lucia Reproductive Health Policy 2013, (Final Draft), has been developed to address this issue more explicitly including by streamlining training and providing reproductive health services. The respondent noted that this policy is a reformative, targeted, coordinated, and results-based framework which aims to make reproductive health programmes and services accessible and affordable. Priority interventions addressed are:
- Maternal and Child Health
  - Family Planning
  - Prevention and Treatment of Genital Infections (STIs and HIV Infection)

- Adolescent and Youth Reproductive Health
- Gender and Reproductive Health
- Cancers of the Reproductive Organs
- Management of Infertility
- Management of Menopause and Andropause
- Reproductive Health Care of Persons with Disabilities
- Reproductive Health Counselling
- Education and Awareness
- Reproductive Health Care in Disaster and Emergency Situations

48. The Government of St. Lucia has developed a National Child and Adolescent Health Policy and Multi-Sectoral Workplan 2015 (Draft) with a view to informing the creation of “comprehensive child and adolescent-friendly promotive, preventive, curative and rehabilitative health care in a coordinated and coherent manner.” The policy is expected to be streamlined across sectors and among social institutions – including government agencies, faith-based organizations, and others. Policy Priorities include

- Organization of Services
- Child and Adolescent Health and Well-Being: Promotion, Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation
- Health Monitoring and Supervision
- Healthy Eating, Nutrition and Physical Activity
- Oral Health
- Injury and Illness Prevention
- Sexual and Reproductive Health
- Mental Health (including Substance Abuse)
- Prevention of Crime and Violence
- Parental Roles and Responsibilities
- Legislation and Human Rights
- Inter-Sectoral Collaboration
- Training
- Human Resource Development and Training
- Advocacy
- Quality Improvement
- Surveillance, Monitoring and Evaluation
- Research

49. There is no national, state, or municipal policy to eliminate gender stereotypes in education. However, as indicated earlier in this review, the State is seeking to do this in its national education strategy.

***Process:***

50. There was no indication of the stakeholders involved in drafting the plans and policies outlined above.

51. On the issue of training actions and plans on the rights of women, violence against women, and the Convention of Belém do Pará for pertinent decision-makers and authorities included technical staff at ministries, lawmakers, justice operators, health practitioners, security and police forces, and personnel at centres providing specialized attention for violence against women, among others. The respondent stated that training, with law enforcement and social workers, was held on protocols to address violence against women.
52. The number of forensic physicians, forensic psychologists, criminologists was listed as unknown.

***Results:***

53. The response did not offer an explanation on how monitoring and impact assessment on policies, national plans, actions, strategies, in terms of their different components, at the national, provincial, state, and local levels is carried out

***QUALITATIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS:***

***Structural:***

54. One (1) CSO works specifically with communities identified:
- United and Strong Inc (U&S) formed in 2001, is St. Lucia's first and only LGBTI rights organization and works to promote, among many other things, and end to violence against women and AIDs

***BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS:***

***Structural:***

55. While data is provided about the general allocation of funds to various government Ministries during the 2015/16 fiscal year, information on the percentage of public spending allocated to the different plans, strategies, and programs on violence against women in the last fiscal period was not provided.

***Process and Results:***

56. The report does not include the indicators in the budgetary estimates for 2017/2018. However, despite a decline in funding for the Division of Gender Relations, indicators show that implementation of VAW-related programmes is proving to be relatively successful<sup>8</sup>.

***STATE CAPACITIES:***

***Structural:***

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<sup>8</sup> Estimates 2017/2018 – 52: Department of Education, Innovation, and Gender Relations. Retrieved from file:///C:/Users/anees/Downloads/Draft-Estimates-2017-18.pdf

57. St. Lucia has one (1) shelter on the island which caters to victims of violence – i.e. the Women’s Support Centre. While it provides a host of response services, free legal support is provided by the Legal Aid Authority, a unit within the Ministry of Affairs.
58. The report states that there are three (3) toll free telephone lines in Saint Lucia.
- 202 is a 24-Hour hotline for victims of domestic violence. The report notes that such calls are assisted by the residential support staff at the Women’s Support Centre.
  - 203 is a new 24-Hour helpline set up to assist persons with wellness-related issues. It is stated that this line is attached to the National Wellness Centre but given its location is not fully utilized by citizens. The State should provide information on measures to make the line more Centre more accessible.
  - 411 is a General Line which directs the caller to the relevant government agency.
59. Psychological and counselling services are provided by: The National Mental Wellness Facility, Employees Assistance Programme (which provides psychological assistance for public service officials). Other service providers include privately owned/religiously affiliated/nonprofit facilities such as St. Lucia Institute of Counseling and Psychotherapy. ETA Psychotherapy & Counselling Services, Insight Therapy, The St. Lucia Crisis Centre Cooperation (SLCC), and Beacon of Hope Ministries Inc.
60. The St. Lucia Planned Parenthood Association offers free psychological care service to its clients. “5259 females, 244 males and 2 unspecified” were screened to determine the incidence of gender-based violence in 2015. According to the report, a total of 5505 clients were screened with 16 receiving counseling for GBV. Persons of all backgrounds and ages, without regard to differences, are able to access the services provided by the Association.

***Process:***

61. St. Lucia’s report, while stating that the Government is seeking to incorporate gender equality and human rights education in its curriculum, does not provide information on ongoing national campaigns to this effect – or as it relates to ending violence against women and girls.

***Results:***

62. The report made no mention of codes of conduct for media personnel as it related to the prevention of violence against women.

***QUALITATIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS:***

***Structural:***

63. Though sporadic campaigns are held, programming on the right to a life without violence is limited. Youth A.R.T (Active Response Team), an initiative undertaken by the Division of Gender Relations to promote the concept of healthy relationships; what they are and what they are not. The programme targets secondary school students (ages 11-17) and is intended to serve as a means to combat dating violence. It is not clear from the report how successful the program has been to date.

***Process:***

64. No reference to user-satisfaction studies on the accessibility, availability, and quality of the different attention services for victims of violence was made in the report. However, the reports states that Youth A.R.T. conducted an Introductory Survey at nineteen (19) secondary schools – in which three hundred and ten (310) students participated with two hundred and thirty-two (232) female students indicated that they knew their rights.

65. The Domestic Violence Act (2004) and Criminal Code continue to be the framework within which women victims of violence and their children are protected.

66. The report indicates that the Family Court has implemented a child witness programme to provide children with better access to justice. However, there is no reference in the report to judicial protective measures which protect victims of violence and their children/child witnesses.

67. The Government of St. Lucia does provide emergency shelter through the Women’s Support Centre.

68. No reference was made to the availability of procedural guarantees in judicial proceedings involving violence.

69. The report highlighted training of police officers and social workers but indicated that the number of the judiciary, human resources, and other public officials were trained. In fact, it is not clear if these groups received training in the past. St. Lucia would need to provide clarification in this regard.

***Results:***

70. The Legal Aid Authority is a unit of the Ministry of Affairs which was established to provide the services of an attorney to people alongside private attorneys who have signed up to represent applicants through the Legal Aid Service. However, there is an EC\$5.00 application form fee.

***BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS:***

***Structural:***

71. The Government of St. Lucia funds the Women’s Support Centre, the Legal Aid Authority, and provides grants to organizations serving persons with disabilities. The

Women Support Centre's budget for 2015 was EC\$ 469,191.00. With the total Government Estimates of 2015- EC\$1,464,236,000, this funding amounted to a mere 0.032% of the overall budget.

***Process:***

72. The report states that the following indicators are unknown: the number and characteristics of civil society organizations involved in budget oversight initiatives and budget allocation; specific numbers of locally registered organizations whose mission includes the promotion of a life free from violence by women by specific area of work and geographic location and which participate in budget oversight initiatives and budget execution; and the processes that encourage participation by civil society and other actors in access to public information.

***Results:***

73. Although, the response to this issue is not consistently addressed in this document, efforts have been made to report on the sum allocated to relevant government agencies.

***QUALITATIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS:***

***Structural:***

74. The report notes that complaints of sexual offence can be made at the Department of Labour. With proof of them being reported, cases are then taken before the Labour Tribunal (established in 2014), in keeping with the Labour Code of 2006.

75. The State further notes that the Police Complaints Unit in the Royal St. Lucia Police was formed as part of, an Act of Parliament entitled "Police Complaints Act" of 2003, and provides for the receipt, investigation and determination of complaints and other related matters by the public against the police. The Act also provided for a Police Complaints Commission.

***Process:***

76. The procedures from submission to resolution of complaints regarding the Police Complaints Unit and the Office of the Parliamentary Commissioner are outlined in detail in the State report.

***Results:***

77. The State reports that in January 2004, the Complaints Unit c, members of the public made one hundred and forty-five (145) complaints against police officers. The Complaints Unit completed a total of one hundred and seven (107) complaints of the one hundred and forty-five complaints that were filed. that interpreters do not have

knowledge of the rights of women. It is unclear to the reviewer if complaints were contained to 2004 or if complaints o

78. The number of civil servants and public officials, beyond police officers and a social worker, who have awareness and access to training on the issue of violence against women is unknown.

### **INFORMATION AND STATISTICS Article 8(h)**

#### ***RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT:***

##### ***Structural:***

79. Regulations covering St. Lucia's obligation to conduct regular research, surveys and studies are listed as unknown.
80. The Administration of Justice (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, Act 8 of 1999 Cap.2.11 of the Laws of St. Lucia addresses issues of the use of photographs as evidence and the use of samples as evidence which are essential tools when investigating cases of violence against the target group.
81. The Evidence Act Chapter 4.15 of Act 5 of 2002 of the Laws of St. Lucia of 2005, is an Act to reform the laws relating to evidence in proceedings in courts in Saint Lucia and to provide for related matters.

##### ***Results:***

82. The State reports that the existence of legislation to cover public access to the information gathered through surveys and administrative records is unknown.

#### ***QUALITATIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS:***

##### ***Structural:***

83. The report states that civil society organizations participate and /or collaborate with other agencies and participate in campaigns, discussions and other mediums to disseminate information in with a view to ending violence against women.

##### ***Process:***

84. While the State's report does not make clear whether periodic statistical and qualitative reports on violence against women exist, the tables provided in the report demonstrate that data collection is ongoing.

#### ***BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS:***

##### ***Structural:***

85. No reference is made to a national statistical office. However, the State notes that offices where data on reported incidents of violence against women and children can be obtained include:

- Division of Human Services and Family Affairs (child abuse- abandonment/neglect physical, psychological and sexual violence)
- Women's Support Centre (domestic violence)
- Family Court (domestic violence, child abuse, child maintenance)
- St. Lucia Crisis Centre (counseling, referrals by self, family, employer, friend, Women Support Centre)
- Vulnerable Person Team (sexual offences, domestic violence)

***Process:***

86. No reference was made with respect to the publication of reports on budget allocations and execution. However, this reviewer located copies of the budget on the Government of St. Lucia's website.

87. The percentage of public spending assigned to the development of databases with information on different forms of violence is unknown.

***Results:***

88. The percentage of the execution of the budget allocated for programs, plans, and institutions related to different forms of violence against women was reported as unknown.

***QUALITATIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS:***

***Structural:***

89. No information was provided regarding the number of locally registered organizations whose mission includes the promotion of a life free from violence by women by specific area of work and geographic location and which participate in budget oversight initiatives and budget execution.

***Process:***

90. There is no indication in the report pertaining to the ways in which the public can readily access data on violence against women.

***STATE CAPACITIES:***

***Structural:***

91. No reference is made as to whether formal agreements exist between the national women's mechanism/the competent authorities in the area of violence (at different public agencies) and the national statistics office; to produce quality information on different forms of violence against women and girls.



***Process:***

92. The processes for negotiating agreements and/or cooperative technical ties between the national women's mechanism, the competent authorities for violence (at different public agencies) were not outlined in the State report.

***Results:***

93. The report stated that data is collected from the following entities:

- Division of Human Services and Family Affairs
- Women's Support Centre
- Family Court
- St. Lucia Crisis Centre
- Vulnerable Person Team

***QUALITATIVE SIGNS OF PROGRESS:***

***Structural:***

94. The report stated that the existence of periodic reports, about studies on sentences and opinions that contains stereotypes, prejudices, myths and customs in the cases of women victims of violence, and the use of the personal history of the victim and/or her sexual experience to deny justice to her, is unknown.

***Process:***

95. Based on the information provided in the state report, it is clear that mechanisms exist for access to updated statistical information. However, given that information is dated in 2015, clarification should be provided about issues preventing timely data collection.

96. Apart from highlighting the work of several nonprofit organizations, the report did not make reference to the existence of mechanisms for mass dissemination of national statistics on violence against women.

***Results:***

97. Periodic reports are available because no national study was carried out to test social perception on the issue of violence against women

**DIVERSITY Article 9**

***RECEPTION OF THE RIGHT:***

***Structural Indicator:***

98. St. Lucia reports that the existence of a specific policy or law on mental health and the right of gender identity, sexual identity and sexual diversity is unknown.
99. The reviewer notes, however, that a ministerial submission was prepared by The National Council of and for Persons with Disabilities in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports, the Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, the St. Lucia Blind Welfare Association and other individuals, organizations and institutions concerned about the welfare of Persons with Disabilities. The submission seeks to achieve the full recognition, integration and participation of all persons with disabilities into the mainstream of society without favour and discrimination. It emphasizes the consideration and incorporation of the following cross cutting imperatives:
- Gender
  - Social inclusion and integration
  - Non-discrimination
  - Rights, freedoms and responsibilities
  - Representation
  - Quality of life

#### ***BASIC FINANCIAL CONTEXT AND BUDGETARY COMMITMENTS:***

##### ***Structural:***

100. The reviewer found is no national budget law with allocations for meeting the obligations of ensuring the adoption of the measures enshrined in the Convention of Belém do Pará and national law, free of discrimination.

##### ***Process:***

101. In response to the request for the number and characteristics of civil society organizations with specific knowledge of each of the areas involved in the allocation, monitoring, and oversight of budget execution the report stated “unknown”.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

102. The CEVI is grateful for the answers provided by St. Lucia in its report. Additionally, it congratulates the State for the progress made during the period of the Third Follow-up Round, particularly the introduction of policies on sexual and reproductive health, the concerted effort made by the State to train police officers, as well as additional efforts made in the education sector to raise awareness about violence against women within the schools.
103. In accordance with the information presented and the recommendations already contained in this report, the CEVI recommends the State to:

104. Modify the current legislation and harmonize it to the Convention and the international and regional human rights law. This should include incorporating into the national legal framework all forms of violence against women, and the diverse circumstances they might be in; legislate femicide as a criminal offence; include obstetric violence in domestic legal framework; include places other than work and school in laws regarding sexual harassment; legislate sexual violence against women and girls in armed conflict as a criminal offence.
105. 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.
106. 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.
107. Guarantee that authorities have been trained and sensitized in the different forms of violence against women. Ensure that training is consistent, regular and sustained.
108. Guarantee that all women and girls who have been victims of violence have access to specialized services, particularly shelters if they require it, and that there is enough coverage in all the State.
109. 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.
110. Ensure that public institutions and policies have enough resources to fulfil their objectives.
111. In general, compile and present information regarding the different forms of violence against women, including case law.
112. Regarding informing that the judiciary is well trained on issues of violence against women.