



**Organization of
American States**



INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION OF WOMEN

THIRTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES
November 3 to 5, 2010
Mexico D.F., Mexico

OEA/Ser.L/II.2.35
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1 November 2010
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NATIONAL REPORT: GRENADA

(Item 2) on the agenda

Grenada was the first country in the English speaking Caribbean to establish a Ministry of Women's Affairs. This was established during the reign of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) (1979–1983). Following the collapse of the PRG in October, 1983, the responsibility for women's issues was assigned to the Ministry of Education and later the Ministry of Tourism.

In 2004, the Ministry of Social Development was established. It is charged with the responsibility of assisting in the development and improvement of the lives of all Grenadians. The Ministry is sub-divided into three (3) main functional areas: namely: Administration, Social Services, and Gender and Family Affairs.

The Gender and Family Affairs Division is responsible for promoting equality between the sexes; institutional development in support of family life; reduction of poverty among families; and supporting interventions for individuals and families in crisis.

Grenada, a small tri-island State in the Caribbean region (mainland Grenada, and its two dependencies, Carriacou and Petite Martinique) is located latitude 12° 07 North and longitude 61° 40 West. Its landmass measures approximately 340 square kilometers. In 2008, the country's population was estimated to be 109,000 with 32% between 0-14 age range, 65.2% between the 15-64 age range and 2.8% 65 years and over. Grenada gained independence from Britain in 1974 and is now a member of the group of Commonwealth Nations. Its political structure is based primarily on the Parliamentary Democratic System, a derivative of its colonial past. The Country has a GDP per capita of US\$13,400.00 (in 2009), with 35.3% of the population falling below the poverty line.

On September 7, 2004 Grenada was struck by a devastating category five hurricane named Ivan which destroyed 90% of the country's housing stock and a large percentage of its agricultural production. This unfortunate disaster was followed by another hurricane (Emily) in 2005, which further sunk the country's already crippled economy. The combined damages of both hurricanes amount to an estimated US\$951 million dollars. The country's main sources of revenue were destroyed, namely the Agricultural and the Tourism sectors. However, the devastating effect was not limited only to these primary sectors. Each sector felt the immense effects of the hurricanes, including the delivery of social services.

The Grenada Constitution Order of 1973 states in Chapter I Section 1: "***Whereas every person in Grenada is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms, that is to say, the right, whatever his race.....or sex but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest...***" Thus, women enjoy the same rights as men in the Grenadian society.

Approximately eighty percent (80%) of public workers in Grenada are women. Approximately ninety-five percent (95%) of the persons occupying the highest administrative positions as Permanent Secretaries in the Public Service are also women. The Cabinet Secretary is also a woman.



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Our women also play a significant role in our education system. All teachers at our pre-primary levels are females (147) and seventy-nine percent (79%) of the 722 primary school teachers are females. At the secondary level there are 664 teachers of which sixty-three percent (63%) are females. Thirty-six (36) females are Principals at primary schools compared to twenty-one (21) males. Eleven (11) females are also Principals at Secondary Schools compared to nine (9) males.

Male and female agricultural workers earn different rates of wage. For example women work for \$4.75 Eastern Caribbean dollars (EC) an hour, while men earn \$5.00 EC. The Ministry of Labour is in the process of reviewing the minimum wage which will standardize and equalize the wage rates for men and women.

It is important to note that a Gender Policy was crafted in 2000 and revised in 2008. This draft policy will be reviewed and enhanced for implementation, hopefully in the second quarter of 2011.

Grenada is party to the United Nations Convention against all Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Belem do Para Convention against Eradication of all Forms of Violence against Women. In relation to the Belem do Para Convention, the Domestic Violence Act was passed by the Grenada Parliament in 2001. This Act provides protection for victims of domestic violence. The intention of the law is to maintain a state of peace and stability within the home and, by extension, the entire society. The Domestic Violence Act seeks to protect everyone including men. Last Friday, October 29, the Government of Grenada approved in the House of Representatives the Domestic Violence Act, 2010 which will replace the law of 2001.

The objectives of the new Domestic Violence Act are to:

- afford protection to victims
- broaden the category of applicants and circumstances e.g. harassment, stalking
- include visiting relationships

This law allows a platform for meaningful intervention in domestic violence.

Commemorative Activities

These dates are celebrated each year with a series of national activities relating to the themes:

- **International Women's Day: (March 8th)**
- **International Family Day: (May 15th)**
- **International Day of Peace: (September 21st)**

- **International Day to Protest Violence against Women and 16 DAYS of Activism (November 25-10, December)**

The International theme for this year's celebration is: ***"Structures of Violence Defining the Intersections of Militarism and Violence against Women."*** As part of the 16 DAYS of Activism, the Ministry will embark on activities to include: Community Fora in each parish; Television and Radio Programmes sensitizing the public on the issues of violence against women; and a National Address by Hon. Sylvester Quarless, Minister for Social Development.

● **International Men's Day: November 19th**

2010 will be the first year that Grenada will celebrate International Men's Day. The intention of the celebration is to recognize men's contribution and highlight the need to partner with women in resolving conflicts and dealing with problems in an effort to create a better family life and by extension a more peaceful society.

Future Actions

At the national level, the Government of Grenada through the Division of Gender and Family Affairs will carry out its targeted programmes for uplifting and enhancing the status of women in partnership with local stakeholders and relevant International Organizations.

At the regional level, the Government of Grenada pledges to support the work undertaken by CIM in the short term.

