

**RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE
THIRD MULTILATERAL EVALUATION ROUND**

I. LEGISLATION

1. How has the Convention of Belém do Pará been incorporated in your country's legislation? Can it be applied directly or is a specific mechanism for incorporating it into the country's law necessary? In the latter case, has that mechanism been utilized? If not, why?

The Convention of Belem do Para has been ratified by the government of Antigua and Barbuda. The implementation of this convention has been advocated in the National Youth Policy.

Several laws have been implemented which speak either directly or indirectly to violence against women:

- The Inter-American Convention on the Punishment, Prevention and Eradication of Violence Against Women, which became domestic law in 1995 by virtue of S.I. 27 of 1995;
- The Sexual Offences Act No. 9 of 1995;
- The Domestic Violence (Summary Proceedings) Act, No. 3 of 1999.
- The Domestic Violence Act of 2015
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

2. Are there any provisions in your national law that define violence against women, distinguishing it from intra-family, family, or domestic violence and that include as components:

- a) Action, failure to act or conduct against women because of their condition as women?
- b) That results in death, injury, or suffering?
- c) That said injury or suffering is physical, sexual, or psychological?
- d) That the victims are women, girls, and female adolescents?
- e) That this takes place in both the public and the private sphere?

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about, the dates of its adoption and entry into force, and the text itself.

If not, which measures have been taken to include such provisions in national law?^{1/}

The Domestic Violence Act of 2015 outlines a range of partnerships in which violence may occur. This range includes marriage, common law relationships, individuals that share the same household, or any other relationship that includes but is not limited to those that are romantic,

^{1.} Based on the recommendation #4 (Rec.4) of the Hemispheric Report and indicator 1.1.a. of the Indicators for Follow-Up to the Committee of Experts' (CEVI) Recommendations.

intimate or sexual. Distinctions are also made concerning the type of violence that may be inflicted. These include: physical, sexual, psychological (including verbal and emotional) abuse.

3. Do your civil and criminal legislation and administrative procedures contain any provisions that prevent, punish and eradicate the following forms of violence:

- a) **Physical violence?**
- b) **Psychological violence?**
- c) **Sexual violence?**
- d) **Patrimonial or economic violence?**
- e) **Other types of violence? Please specify:**

If yes, kindly provide:

- **The information about the dates of its adoption and entry into force, the text itself and the relevant legal articles defining rape.**
- **Whether the perpetrators include individuals and government agents^{2/}**
- **Whether there is any form of reparation for the victims.**

The Domestic Violence Act of 2015 defines domestic violence as physical, sexual, psychological, economic and patrimonial. The definition of domestic violence also extends to intimidation, threats, harassment, stalking, damage to or destruction of property and the non-consensual trespassing onto the premises of an individual.

The Sexual Offences Act, 1995 was enacted to deal with all sexual offences pertaining to women in Antigua and Barbuda. This Act tackles issues such as (but is not limited to) rape, sexual assault within marriage, sexual encounters with minors, indecent assault and abduction. In addition, there are several supplemental provisions.

². Indicator 1.1.b.

4. Does the legislation contain provisions on the prevention and punishment of domestic and international trafficking in persons, especially women? Are those provisions consistent with the Palermo Protocol and is trafficking in persons regulated differently from forced prostitution?

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about the dates of adoption and entry into force, and the text itself.

If not, which measures have been taken to include such provisions in national law?^{3/}

In 2010, Antigua and Barbuda recently passed in the Lower House of Representatives, the Trafficking in Persons ‘Prevention Act’ which seeks to give effects to the UN Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons especially women and children: to combat the trafficking in persons within and across the borders of Antigua and Barbuda: to provide for the offence of trafficking in persons and other offences associated with trafficking in persons and to provide measures to protect and support trafficked persons. Further, in 2015 the legislation was amended to remedy some existing gaps.

5. Does the legislation contain provisions on the prevention and punishment of forced prostitution? Are these provisions consistent with the Rome Statute, which established the International Criminal Court, and do they address forced prostitution separately from trafficking in persons, especially women?

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about the date of adoption and entry into force, and the text itself.

If not, which measures have been taken to include such provisions in national law?^{4/}

Forced prostitution is recognized and criminalized in The Trafficking in Persons “Prevention Act” of 2010. Prostitution is considered as a variation of sexual exploitation which involves “compelling the participation of a person...as a result of being subjected to threat, coercion, abduction, the effect of drugs, force, abuse of authority or fraud.”

6. Is sexual harassment punishable in the following spheres?

- a) In the workplace?
- b) In health?
- c) In education?
- d) Anywhere else? Please specify:

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about dates of adoption and entry into force, and the text itself, including the type of sanctions.

If not, which measures have been taken to include it in national law?^{5/}

Sexual harassment is not specifically defined in national law. However, under domestic laws, employers have a duty to provide safe and healthy conditions at work as stated in Section A3 (d) of the Antigua & Barbuda Labour Code: *The employment conditions of workers should be those*

³. Rec. 13 and indicator 1.1.c.

⁴. Rec. 13.

⁵. Rec. 12 and indicator 1.1.d.

that serve to preserve their health, safety and welfare, and to prevent industrial accidents. Over and above domestic provisions, there are international conventions, which Antigua and Barbuda have ratified. These include the Belem do Para Convention, CEDAW Convention, ILO Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention (No. 111), the ILO Convention No. 155 (Occupational and Health) and the ILO Convention No. 161 (Occupational Health Services); and the Beijing Plan for Action.

Harassment is recognized in the Domestic Violence Act of 2015 as a pattern of conduct that induces the fear of harm. Cyberstalking is also included in the act and its definition is indicative of sexual harassment. It is defined as “using any lewd, lascivious, indecent or obscene words, images, or language, or suggesting the commission of any lewd or lascivious act anonymously or repeatedly....”

7. Has sexual violence within marriage and common-law unions been defined as a specific crime? Please indicate whether:

- a) **Rape within marriage and common-law unions has been criminalized.**
- b) **Other forms of sexual violence within marriage and common-law unions have been criminalized.**

Rape within marriage has not been criminalized. Exceptions are made in the Sexual Offences Act of 1995 in situations such as: a decree nisi of divorce, a decree of judicial separation, an order for the husband not to molest his wife or have sexual intercourse with her. This offence is legally categorized as sexual assault and an offender is liable on conviction to imprisonment for fifteen years.

Under the common law, rape is generally defined as sexual intercourse by a male without consent. In Antigua and Barbuda, this has traditionally excluded intercourse within the context of marriage. The Sexual Offences Act, 1995 has expressly retained an exception by defining the offence of rape to be “sexual intercourse with a female person who is not his wife”. However, Section 4 (1), created certain limited exceptions to the marital exemption including situations where there was:

- (i) A decree nisi of divorce;
- (ii) A decree of judicial separation;
- (iii) An order for the husband not to molest his wife or have sexual intercourse with her.

8. Is there a provision in your legislation that explicitly bans the use of conciliation, mediation, or any other method that seeks an extrajudicial settlement to violence against women, girls, and female adolescents?

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about dates of adoption and entry into force, and the text itself.

If not, indicate whether substantive or procedural law or jurisprudence provides for any of these methods and which steps have been taken for their repeal.⁶

There is currently no provision in the legislation that explicitly bans the use of conciliation, mediation, or any other method that seeks an extrajudicial settlement to violence against women, girls, females and adolescents. However, Antigua and Barbuda is guided by the ‘Practice

⁶. Rec. 14 and indicator 1.1.g.

Direction Court Connected Mediation’ in accordance with the Practice Direction of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Civil Procedure Rules 2000.

9. Are there any provisions that criminalize femicide?^{7/} In case not, are the elements of femicide considered as aggravating circumstances of homicide?

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about the dates of adoption and entry into force, and the text itself.

If not, which measures have been taken to include this in national law?^{8/}

No distinction is made in the laws of Antigua and Barbuda concerning the unlawful killing of an individual on the basis of gender. Any unlawful killing is criminalized under the law.

10. Are there provisions in your national legislation that criminalize violence against women perpetrated by the State? In this regard, are there provisions in your legislation that:

- a) **Punish sexual violence in armed conflicts?^{9/}**
- b) **Punish violence such as torture, war crimes, and crimes against humanity?^{10/}**
- c) **Punish violence against women committed in hospitals, educational establishments, prisons and other State institutions?**

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about the dates of adoption and entry into force, and the text itself.

If not, which measures have been taken to include these crimes in national law?

Under the domestic violence act the police have a duty to respond to all reported cases of domestic violence. Failure to respond or act will result in them being held liable.

11. Are there any provisions to protect sexual and reproductive rights of women?

- a) **Are there provisions that criminalize obstetric violence?^{11/}**
- b) **Punish public functionaries who prevent women, girls, and female adolescents from taking proper care of their sexual and reproductive health?^{12/}**
- c) **Are there any provisions decriminalizing abortion as a result of rape?**
- d) **Are there any provisions decriminalizing therapeutic abortion?**

7. According to the CEVI Declaration on Femicide (MESECVI/CEVI/DEC. 1/08) of August 15, 2008, femicide is “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 perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by action or omission.”

^{8.} Rec. 37 and indicator

^{9.} Rec. 33.

^{10.} From Rec. 33.

^{11.} Article 15 of Venezuela’s Organic Law Related to the Right of Women to a Life Free of Violence defines obstetric violence as the “taking over of women’s bodies and reproductive processes by health professionals, as evidenced by dehumanized treatment, over-medication and the pathologization of natural processes, resulting in women’s loss of autonomy and of their ability to decide over their own bodies, and negatively affecting their quality of life.”

^{12.} A question is proposed on violence by the state and subparagraphs c, d, and e, taking into account their inclusion in Table No. 4 of the Hemispheric Report.

- e) **Are there any provisions to punish forced sterilization?**
- f) **Are there any provisions to punish artificial insemination without consent?**
- g) **Are there any provisions that guarantee the free access of women to emergency contraceptives?**
- h) **Are there any provisions that guarantee emergency prophylactic care and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases especially in cases of sexual violence?**
- i) **How do you guarantee the exercise of these rights?**

If such a provision exists, kindly provide information about the dates of adoption and entry into force, and the text itself.

If not, which measures have been taken to include these provisions in national law?

12. Are there national awareness campaigns to disseminate information on women's rights, specifically the Convention of Belem do Para?

Antigua and Barbuda recognize and commemorate special events such as the International Day for the Eradication of all Forms of Violence against Women, 25th November, each year. These events are used to promote national awareness campaigns. During this period, we promote the 16 Days of Activism Campaign. The 16 Days of Activism Campaign commences on 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women and ends 10 December, Human Rights Day. It includes:

- 1 December: World AIDS Day
- 3 December: International Day of Disabled Persons
- 10th December: Human Rights Day

This period is used to highlight important issues such as VAW as a public health crisis, the intersection between HIV/AIDS and VAW, and the protection and promotion of women human rights. We also promote advocacy and lobby for stronger legislation to prevent and protect women from violence. The Belem do Para Convention and other human rights conventions are also promoted.

II. NATIONAL PLANS

13. **Is there a national Plan/Action/Strategy for the prevention, punishment, and eradication of violence against women? Does it address all forms of violence against women? Are evaluations conducted regarding its implementation and any problems in that regard?**

If such a program exists:

- a) **when was it established?**
- b) **what period does it cover?**
- c) **how it is executed and evaluated?**
- d) **how is it disseminated and promoted?**
- e) **has there been a multisectoral approach in which government institutions and civil society participate in drawing up the plans?**
- f) **are there any penalties for failing to comply with national plans? If not, which measures have been taken to establish one?^{13/}**

The national strategic action plan of Antigua and Barbuda was approved by cabinet in 2013. The action plan outlines a strategy for prevention, response and eradication of violence against women and girls for a five-year period from 2013 to 2017. The strategic action plan was designed to address all forms of violence against women and it also includes a monitoring and evaluation plan which outlines the periodic review of its implementation and challenges and opportunities for improvement.

The United Nations Trust Fund supported the government of Antigua and Barbuda through a grant to implement the National Strategic Action Plan for three years 2014-2016. The action plan was executed using a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approaches with various agencies, partners and groups. It is characterized by a full engagement of government leaders and the local community, as well as interdisciplinary and inter-organizational cooperation, collaboration, and coordination. The goals of the collaboration efforts are to create synergy among all stakeholders to avoid the duplication of efforts. The action plan was also implemented using and promoting human rights.

The implementation of the plan also involved participatory processes that engage all stakeholders. Various strategies have been used to increase public awareness and knowledge which includes; working with men, youth, faith-based groups, civil society groups and community organizations. The action plan is promoting through a number of advocacy and communication strategies in collaboration with stakeholders through the use of social media, public media, education and communication materials, public and town hall meetings, workshops and policy briefings.

Further, to ensure sustainability of the plan there are efforts to develop gender-responsive budgeting at the national level. There are no written penalties to comply with the action. However, there were MOUs to ensure that the various agencies understand and agree to their roles in the implementation process. Further, recognizing that lack of compliance can be a major gap, in reviewing the action plan with implementing partners, it was agreed that the revised action plan would be tied to a national gender policy.

¹³. Recs. 18 and 19 and the indicators from section 1.3.

14. Is the topic of violence against women addressed in the following national plans/plans of action/strategies on:

- a) education**
- b) employment and income**
- c) poverty eradication?**
- d) gender equity and equality?**
- e) health?**
- f) HIV / AIDS?**
- g) public security/crime prevention?**
- h) other? Please specify:**

In the event it is addressed, kindly describe how violence against women is addressed in those plans/plans of actions/strategies. If not, which measures have been taken to implement it?^{14/}

The current national strategic action plan includes strategies on education, employment, poverty eradication, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and public security. The action plan outlines strategies such as developing a team of trained personnel within schools to prevent and address gender-based violence in all its forms. The action plan also articulates poverty eradication strategies which includes partnerships with key stakeholders to empower women and families economically through skills training.

Additionally, health is mainstreamed throughout the plan and gender equality forms part of the overall framework upon which the plan was developed. The action plan of Antigua and Barbuda proposes a health protocol which is designed to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence receive comprehensive care and support which includes PEP to prevent HIV/AIDS contraction and anti-biotics to prevent STI transmissions. The plan also recognizes the link between HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence and is careful in articulating strategies for the prevention of both. The strategies include; educating and mobilizing communities on prevention mechanisms and partnering with youth groups, men, faith groups and other civil society organizations.

15. Are there plans to offer training (not isolated or sporadic training sessions) to the following on the topic of violence against women, women's rights, in the framework of the Convention of Belem do Para:

- a) Lawmakers?**
- b) Justice system personnel (judges, prosecutors, paralegals, special family violence units in the police force and other public functionaries)?**
- c) Health system personnel?**
- d) Educators?**
- e) Military and police forces?**
- f) Women's social and community-based organizations**
- g) Specialized units to deal with violence?**
- h) Others? Please specify.....**

¹⁴. Item taken from the United Nations questionnaire on implementing the coordinated database on violence against women, October 2006. The Secretariat proposed as a complement to question 13 on national plans. Proposal was modified by the CEVI in its V Meeting.

If such training exists, describe their characteristics and the topics considered, and indicate how frequently they are held. If not, which measures have been taken to include them?^{15/}

The Directorate of Gender Affairs has implemented projects which provide training and education to key stakeholders working to prevent violence against women. These projects are geared toward strengthening capacities, sensitivity and public awareness on gender-based violence and HIV and to raise awareness and build on existing access to services that are supportive and effective in addressing HIV/AIDS as a result of gender-based violence.

Within the last years, the Directorate of Gender Affairs also built the technical competencies of the justice and security sectors and the non-governmental sector to respond effectively to gender-based violence with the international agencies such as UN Women and the UN Trust Fund. The Directorate has trained over 300 police officers within the last year on the domestic violence legislation, gender-based violence, victim centered approach, effective and coordinated response, gender-based violence indicators and statistics among other topics. Additionally, social services personnel, health professionals and other law enforcement officers.

The Directorate of Gender Affairs is also working with key stakeholders on the establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC). Training workshops were facilitated to build the capacity of law enforcement officers and advocates to effectively respond to gender-based violence. Registered nurses were also trained to become Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANEs) be on an on-call roster to provide care for patients at the Sexual Assault Referral Centre. 19 employees of the Directorate of Gender Affairs have also been trained as frontline workers and will serve as the first point of contact at this centre.

The Directorate of Gender Affairs, in collaboration with UN Women and a regional gender consultant, has trained and certified male advocates to build their capacity to advocate for gender equality and to raise awareness about gender-based violence in a programme titled Men as Partners (MAP).

A number of training sessions have also been conducted with early childhood educators, other government agencies, community groups and women's groups and civil society organizations.

16. Does the State promote the participation of civil society in:

- a) **Design of the Plan/Action/Strategy?**
- b) **Monitoring and Evaluation of the Plan/Action/Strategy?**
- c) **Execution of conjoint projects or collaboration in activities? Please specify.....**
- d) **Others? Please specify.....**

During the period 2008 to 2010 a number of consultations were held with stakeholders, community groups, women's groups and civil society organizations to support the development

^{15.} Recs. 24 and 31 and indicator 2.5.2. A reference is made in this question to the military and police forces, which were not included in the questionnaire for the First Multilateral Evaluation Round.

of the National Strategic Action Plan. Meetings were held with survivors, service providers, other experts, the justice sectors and health professionals.

Consultations along included regional meetings facilitated by UN Women and the British High Commission to discuss prevention, improvement of services and community coordination, including a visit to St. Mary's Crisis Centre in London, United Kingdom with observers from the Royal Police Force, Ministry of Health and Gender Affairs. Meetings were also held with key experts and groups of all ages to discuss prevention strategies, education and awareness frameworks. Overall the process was very consultative and diverse opinions and participation influenced the development of the action plan.

17. *Are there cooperation agreements with the media and publicity agencies to promote women's rights and disseminate the contents of the Convention of Belem do Para?*

There are no formal cooperation agreements with the media and publicity agencies to promote women rights and disseminate the contents of the Convention of Belem do Para. While official agreements have not been established, the media has cooperated with the Directorate of Gender Affairs to disseminate several PSAs on gender equality and gender-based violence during the annual 16 Days of Activism Campaign and the media also play pivotal role in increasing awareness on gender issues.

III. ACCESS TO JUSTICE

18. *Has there been an increase in the number of entities in charge of receiving complaints of violence against women? If so, identify the type of institution, on which date it occurred, how many were added and where they are located? If not, indicate why that number did not increase and the measures taken in that regard.*^{16/}

There has not been an increase in the number of entities receiving complaints of violence against women. However, existing entities that have been receiving these complaints are significant in number and include: The Directorate of Gender Affairs, The Legal Aid Clinic, Family and Social Services Division, Private Attorneys, the Magistrate's Court, NGOs - that include church groups and Women Against Rape (WAR) - the Royal Police Force, Mount Saint John's Medical Centre (MSJMC), security services and the national emergency telephone service (9-1-1).

19. *Are there any administrative provision or others that ease access to justice for women and guarantee due process, such as:*

Specialized officers?

- b) Private spaces?**
- c) Free legal services?**
- d) Interpreters in indigenous languages?**
- e) Guidelines on confidentiality and data protection of the victim, her family and/or witnesses?**

¹⁶. Rec. 29 and indicators 2.1.b and 2.4.

f) Others? Please specify.....

The Directorate of Gender Affairs has facilitated the training of police officers to increase their capacity to respond effectively to gender-based violence. 30 law enforcement officers were trained as part of a Sexual Assault Referral Team (SART) established by the Directorate of Gender Affairs. A crisis centre was established to provide a one stop approach where all of the services are offered from one location.

Free legal services are available for victims of violence, based on their disposable income, by the Legal Aid Clinic under the Ministry of Legal Affairs. Approximately 85% of clients that apply for this service are women. Domestic violence accounts for some of the cases that are processed by this entity.

Please also explain what measures are taken so that rural, indigenous and afro-descendent women can get access to justice.

Antigua and Barbuda's population is predominantly of African descent. However, low-income persons from rural constituencies or otherwise are entitled to assistance from the Legal Aid Clinic.

20. Which of the following mechanisms are in place for ensuring the effectiveness of measures to protect women, their relatives, and/or witnesses in cases of violence?
- a) Funds for transportation?
 - b) Mechanisms for rescuing women?
 - c) Change of identity?
 - d) Witness protection?
 - e) Clearance for leaving the country?
 - f) Secure networks for reference?
 - g) Others? Please specify.....

A mechanism is currently in place whereby the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda conducts house calls to separate victims of violence from their abusers for their safety. The Directorate of Gender Affairs is charged with identifying secure and compatible locations to which victims are relocated. The police also provide transportation for victims and witnesses. There is also a move to use teleconferencing in the court.

21. Are there assessments and studies on how much time it actually takes to provide protection orders after a complaint is reported? Are there statistics on how many and what type of protection orders were granted last year to women victims of violence as compared to the total number of protection orders requested?^{17/}

An interim protection order is usually granted on the same day an application is made. However, the time it takes for a final protection order to be granted could take ten or more days on average.

22. Are there any protocols of care for women, girls, and female adolescents who are victims of violence, in the official language and in indigenous languages, for use by:

The police and the staff of entities that receive complaints?

- b) Prosecutors' offices?
- c) Health system personnel?
- d) Others? Please specify

If such a protocol exists, kindly attach a copy. If not, or if only an official language version exists, explain the measures taken to draft one and/or translate it.^{18/}

The Directorate of Gender Affairs, stakeholders and sexual assault response team have developed protocols for the care and treatment of victims of gender-based violence. The protocols are presently in draft and will be finalized for the launch of the sexual assault response centre (Crisis Centre.)

23. Do judges and prosecutors use the Convention of Belém do Pará and international human rights treaties in their judgments and rulings? Has a study or an assessment been made of the use of these instruments in the work of judges and prosecutors? If such a study exists, please outline its main conclusions and/or the relevant judgments.

¹⁷. Rec. 34 and indicators 1.1.f and 1.2.1 (quantitative).

¹⁸. Rec. 28 and indicator 2.3.2.

The international human rights treaties and conventions form the basis upon which national laws were established and as such judges and prosecutors are knowledgeable of them. However, no studies have been done on the use of these instruments by judges.

24. Are there studies or assessments on judges and prosecutors about:

a) the influence of stereotypes, prejudices, myths and customs in the prosecution of cases of violence against women; and how these affect the trial and/or the sentencing?

Not known

b) If judges and other judiciary officers take into account or use negatively the personal history of the victim or her previous sexual experience in delivering the sentence?

IV. SPECIALIZED SERVICES

25. **Has the number of government (not civil society) shelters and integrated support centers for women victims of violence and their children increased over the past four years? If so, please indicate how many have been added and where they are located. If not, what measures have been taken to increase their number and when are the new shelters and support centers expected to begin to operate?**^{19/}

The Mount St. John's Medical Centre which was opened in 2009, has partnered with the Crisis Centre to provide treatment and support to victims of violence. The Directorate of Gender Affairs, with the support of the government of Antigua and Barbuda and the United Nations Trust Fund, is in the process of constructing the country's first 24hrs Gender Based and Sexual Assault response centre. It is located in Antigua and Barbuda's capital, St. John's. The Directorate has also led a specialized training for police, medical officers, counselors and advocates who form part of the sexual assault referral team.

26. **Over the past four years has the coverage of free specialized services provided by the government (not civil society) expanded and/or been enhanced, for example:**

- a) **Free pre-trial legal counsel?**
- b) **Free legal counsel during trials?**
- c) **Free 24-hour national telephone hotlines?**
- d) **Health care programs, including Sexual health programs and services for legal interruption of pregnancy?**
- e) **Psychological counseling, therapy, support and self-help groups?**
- f) **Other? Please specify**

If they have increased and/or enhanced, please explain how. If not, explain why and the measures taken to ensure such an increase and/or enhance.^{20/}

The Legal Aid Clinic provides legal assistance for low-income people, particularly women. The Directorate of Gender Affairs continues to operate it's free 24-hour hotline and psychological counseling is offered by partners of the Directorate and individuals can access services at the sexual assault referral centre free of charge. There is also a support group for victims which was formed with the support of the Directorate of Gender Affairs.

27. **Are there information campaigns for the promotion of these services among women?**

Information campaigns are conducted on the promotion of general legal assistance. Street fairs and open day sessions are organized and engagement with the media. The Directorate of Gender Affairs also led a number of campaigns which is used coordinate services and inform the public on the services that are available.

¹⁹. Rec. 32.

²⁰. Rec. 32 and the indicators from section 2.2. Services based on the questions from the questionnaire of the First Multilateral Evaluation Round.

28. **Have existing services mentioned in questions 25 and 26, as well as client satisfaction been evaluated? If so, describe the results of those evaluations and the measures taken by the State to comply with the recommendations and improve services. If not, describe the measures being taken to conduct an evaluation this year.**^{21/}

The sexual assault response centre will ensure that exit surveys are used to assess the quality of the services provided. The evaluations will be used to improve the services provided by the centre. The use of the evaluations form part of the National Strategic Action Plan and its implemented that was funded by the UN Trust Fund.

BUDGET^{22/}

29. **In the past four years, what percentage of the national budget has been allocated to programs to combat violence against women (not only family or domestic violence)? Please specify if the source of such allocations are public funds, private funding or international cooperation.**

A Country Gender Assessment commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank noted that the Directorate was allotted EC \$624,136 of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Gender Affairs total budget of EC \$84,446,171 or 0.7%. It was also noted that 77.4% of this figure is allocated to personal emoluments. The Directorate over the years has relied on international funding. However, within the past two years, there has been a significant increase in the Directorate's budget under the Ministry of Social Transformation and Human Resource Development.

30. **In the past four years, what percentage of the annual national budget has been allocated to:**
- a) **Women's police stations, prosecutors or other entities that receive complaints?**
 - b) **Training of functionaries?**
 - c) **Specialized services: women's shelters, free help hotlines, free legal advisory services, free legal counsel, and free psychological counseling?**
 - d) **Campaigns to prevent violence against women?**
 - e) **Health services for women affected by violence nationwide?**
 - f) **Other? Please specify.....**

INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

31. **In the past four years, has the State conducted studies and research on violence against women and/or implementation of the Convention of Belém do Pará in your country? If so, present the main conclusions of those studies and indicate whether any type of follow-up**

²¹. Rec. 32.

²². Section taken from item 4 of the document on indicators and from Andrew Morrison's recommendations on the Information and Statistics section of the Hemispheric Report, Recs. 39 and 40.

has taken place at the national level. If not, which measures have been taken to conduct them?

A review of existing legislation and policies on gender-based violence in Antigua and Barbuda was prepared by a consultant for the Directorate of Gender Affairs. The report provides an analysis of all the gender-related legislations in Antigua and Barbuda, highlighting persisting gaps. It also provides recommendations for amendments.

The Belém do Pará convention is also mentioned in this report as one of several international commitments to eradicating gender-based violence, to which Antigua and Barbuda has ratified.

32. In the past four years, which activities have taken place to promote and support research on violence against women, in coordination with civil society organizations and with academic institutions in your country?^{23/}

33. In the past four years, have surveys been periodically conducted on:

- a) **Violence against women?**
- b) **Women’s understanding of their rights?**
- c) **Women’s familiarity with the public services available, in the event that they are victims of violence?**
- d) **Other? Please specify.....**
If such surveys have been conducted, indicate whether the survey interviewers were given prior training on the topic and the methodology used, and report on the survey results. If not, report on measures taken to conduct such a survey.^{24/}

The aforementioned review of legislation and policies on gender-based violence in Antigua and Barbuda cites a survey conducted in 2012 that discloses public sentiment concerning victims in abusive domestic relationships:

“Findings from a 2012 DOGA survey conducted with members of the RPFAB found prevailing sentiments that incidents of domestic violence are private matters best resolved between partners, and further repeated victims of domestic violence who have stayed in abusive relationships should not contact the police (Directorate of Gender Affairs, 2012).

34. Have publicly accessible records been kept of the number and characteristics of reports or cases of violence against women (not only family, intra-family, or domestic violence) by:

- a) **The police and other entities that receive complaints?**
- b) **The courts and prosecutors’ offices?**
- c) **Health care services?**
- d) **Other? Please specify**

The Criminal Records Office within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has records of the number and characteristics of reports of violence against women but they are not publicly accessible. However, the Directorate of Gender Affairs has coordinated the collection of administrative data across agencies through a gender-based violence electronic database. The system allows for the analysis of information entered which can be retrieved by various agencies.

²³. Recommendation 51; also recommended by Andrew Morrison.

²⁴. Suggested by Andrew Morrison.

If these records are kept, report on the number of complaints received each year and on any other data collected on the victim, disaggregated by age, geographical location, ethnicity, marital status, educational level, occupation and relationship to the aggressor. If not, report on the measures taken to establish these records.^{25/}

35. Is any information from the past four years available on:

- a) The number of women victims of violence each year by age, marital status, type of violence, and geographic location?
- b) The number of cases of violence against women that were prosecuted as compared to the total number of complaints of violence against women?
- c) The number of convictions for violence against women as compared to the total number of complaints?
- d) The number of women victims of femicide^{26/} each year by age, marital status, and geographical location?
- e) The number of convictions for femicide as compared to the total number of cases recorded?
- f) Other? Please specify

If such information is available, kindly provide figures. If not, explain the measures taken to obtain such figures in the future.^{27/}

The Directorate of Gender Affairs is presently leading the process to collect disaggregated data on gender-based violence through its newly established electronic database.

36. Is there any mechanism or body for coordination between the institutions for women/gender and the public entities that draw up and compile national statistics, to improve the compilation of data on violence against women? If such a mechanism or body exists, please explain which one, its purpose and functions.^{28/}

The Directorate of Gender Affairs is the agency that is leading coordination for this mechanism in collaboration with other agencies.

²⁵. Qualitative indicators from section 3.

²⁸. According to the CEVI Declaration on Femicide (MESECVI/CEVI/DEC. 1/08) of August 15, 2008, femicide is “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 perpetrated or tolerated by the state or its agents, by action or omission.”

²⁷. Qualitative indicators from section 3.

²⁸. Rec. 46, also suggested by Andrew Morrison.