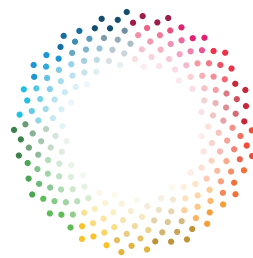


In the *Spotlight*



**Spotlight
Initiative**

December 2022

Caribbean

16 Days of Activism



Lighting up the CARICOM Secretariat

The Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme marked the beginning of its 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence (GBV) activities with a lighting ceremony on 29 November 2022 led by CARICOM Secretariat in partnership with UN agencies and civil society.

16 Days of Activism Against GBV is an international campaign that is used around the world

to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls (VAWG). It commences on 25 November (International Day of No Violence against Women) and ends on 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

This year the United Nations' theme "UNiTE! Activism to End Violence Against Women & Girls!" aligns perfectly with the goal of the Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of VAWG.

Caribbean Regional programme partners marked 16 Days in Guyana at the headquarters of the CARICOM Secretariat, a key partner for the regional programme. A week of activities were planned to shine a light on the Spotlight Initiative and its efforts to eliminate VAWG and Family Violence, one of the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide.

The main highlight of the week of activities was the Lighting Ceremony, which brought together the executive and senior management and staff of the CARICOM Secretariat, the United Nations Guyana, UN agencies participating in the regional Spotlight Programme, the European Union, and members of civil society.

Yesim Oruç, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guyana thanked the CARICOM Secretariat for highlighting 16 Days of Activism Against GBV as well as for collaborating with the Spotlight Initiative on the event.

"The investments in gender equality and ending violence against women and girls by development partners, notably the European Union and the United

Nations, along with Member States, is a pathway to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region," she said.

Oruç also expressed concern that the rates of violence against women in the Caribbean are above global averages. She highlighted that one in every two women in CARICOM Member States experienced intimate partner violence or domestic violence in their lifetime. She went on to share that she was proud of the fact that CARICOM Member States are implementing programmes to eliminate violence against women.

The UN Resident Coordinator stated that "Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago are implementing very successful Spotlight initiatives."

"What we are recognising with this observance is that addressing issues of GBV, gender equality and women's empowerment require a regional approach, and it is a testimony to the commitment of our international development partners, including the EU, to regional solutions for regionally shared problems and working through regional institutions, such as CARICOM, with whom we are very proud to be collaborating on the regional programme for Spotlight".

During the ceremony, the United Nations Development Programme one of the Recipient United Nations Organisations (RUNOs) previewed a video highlighting the Guidelines on the Integration of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), including Family Violence (FV), in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) in the Caribbean. This body of work is being implemented in collaboration with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the University of West Indies (UWI).

Another highlight of the ceremony was a song performed by St. Lucian soca artiste, Tennyson John, Jamaican reggae artiste, Nadine Sutherland and St. Lucian Mix/Spoken Word artiste Curmiah Lissette produced as part of a regional Spotlight campaign.



DR. CARLA BARNETT, Secretary-General - CARICOM Secretariat flipping the switch to alight the building in orange to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence.

The song urges everyone to play their part in ending family violence and VAWG. This was a preview of one of the assets for a social behavioural change campaign to be launched early in 2023 by another RUNO, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General, CARICOM Secretariat, delivered the feature address and stated that the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign's "focus is to challenge harmful gender norms and end the impunity, silence, and stigma that have allowed violence against women and girls to escalate and/or remain normalised in far too many countries".

She went on to explain that the campaign colour of orange was particularly significant as it symbolises a brighter future "in which all women and girls can live free of violence".

The Secretary-General had the honour of flipping the switch to illuminate the Secretariat's building in orange and noted the organisation's commitment to ending VAWG.

"The Secretariat is pleased to light up our building as a beacon of our promise to stand by women and girls and advocate for their protection," she said.

Orange the CARICOM Secretariat



SHAUNA JUPITER - Programme Manager with of Nations School of Management.



(ABOVE) Dr. Carla Bennet, Secretariat-general - CARICOM Secretariat (with scarf) listening intently to remarks delivered by UN Guyana Resident Coordinator Yesim Oruç.



(AT LEFT) Nicole Cole, a member of the Spotlight Guyana Civil Society National Reference Group (left), with Dr. Nicolette Henry (right), UNFPA Spotlight Coordinator.



YESIM ORUÇ, Resident Coordinator - United Nations (UN) Guyana delivering remarks during the CARICOM Secretariat Lighting Ceremony.



FROM LEFT: Lisa Legall Belgrave - Regional Communications Officer and Jabarrie Hurdle - Finance and Administrative Analyst, Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme, chatting with Yesim Oruç, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guyana.



ELISABETH ROBERT - Consultant (left), Dr. Laurette Brisol - Programme Manager, Human Resource Development - CARICOM Secretariat (centre), and Debbie Gray (right) - Gender Programme Specialist and Regional Coordinator, Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme.



FROM LEFT: Jabbarie Hurdle - Finance and Administrative Officer and Lisa Legall Belgrave - Communications Officer from the Programme Management Unit, Dr. Nicolette Henry - UNFPA Spotlight Coordinator, Elisabeth Robert - Programme Officer, Education and Prevention of Violence against Children, CARICOM Secretariat, Debbie Gray - UNICEF Spotlight Coordinator, Akola Thompson, moderator and Adele Clarke - Spotlight Guyana Coordinator.

UNFPA hosts Thematic Dialogue on Spotlight work

UNFPA's work under the Spotlight Initiative is progressing well and the Spotlight Coordinator for UNFPA, Dr. Nicolette Henry used the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence as the perfect backdrop to shine a light on its work to date when it hosted a Thematic Dialogue on 30 November 2022.

The Dialogue under the theme 'A Look at UNFPA's Work Under the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme' was a hybrid event with attendees in Georgetown as well as online.

Jewel Quallo-rosberg, Officer in Charge, Sub-Regional Office for the Caribbean delivered welcome remarks before the Dr. Henry set the context for the discussion with an overview, which featured Brittany Brathwaite from the Caribbean Employers' Confederation, a representative of the Caribbean Family Planning Association, who shared an update of the Caribbean SRHR Observatory, Dr. Laurette Bristol, Programme Manager - Human Resource Development CARICOM Secretariat and Elisabeth Robert, Programme Officer, Education and Prevention of Violence against Children, CARICOM Secretariat.



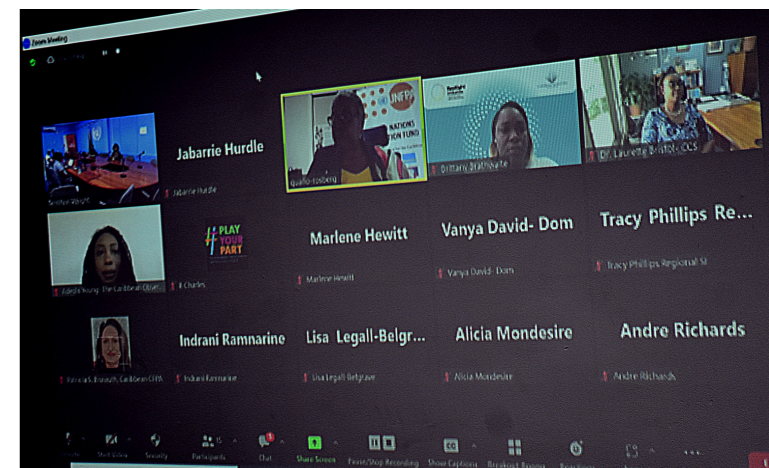
DEBBIE GRAY - Gender Programme Specialist and Regional Coordinator, Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme during the UFPAs Thematic Dialogue.



ELISABETH ROBERT, Programme Officer, Education and Prevention of Violence against Children, CARICOM Secretariat.



DR. NICOLETTE HENRY, Comprehensive Sexuality Education Consultant and UNFPA Spotlight Coordinator (right), with Akola Thompson who moderated the Thematic Dialogue.



ONLINE PARTICIPANTS of the UNFPA Thematic Dialogue that focused on the agency's work with the Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme



DR. QUACY GRANT, Vice Chair, Civil Society Regional Reference Group acted as Chair of the Enhancing Spotlight Initiative engagement with CSOs in Guyana meeting.

Spotlight, CSOs discuss collaboration

The Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme, Spotlight Guyana and United Nations Guyana, together with representatives from civil society organisations in Guayna met on 24 November 2022 as part of the Regional programme observance of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence.

The meeting entitled **Enhancing Spotlight Initiative engagement with CSOs in Guyana** was an opportunity for attendees to discuss areas of collaboration and foster synergies in delivery of Spotlight in the region.



RENATA CHUCK-A-SANG, a member of both the CSRRG and the CSNRG making a point during the Enhancing Spotlight Initiative engagement with CSOs in Guyana.



LOVENESS NYAKUJARAH, Spotlight Caribbean Regional Coordinator delivering welcome remarks at the Enhancing Spotlight Initiative Engagement with CSOs in Guyana meeting.



(ABOVE) Parbattie Ranglall, a member of the Spotlight Guyana CSNRG during the meeting with the Spotlight Caribbean Regional Programme and members of civil society in Guyana.



AT LEFT: Omattie Madray of Childlink and member of the Spotlight Guyana Civil Society National Reference Group (CSNRG) listening to a participant make a point.



Produced by the Programme Management Unit
Caribbean Regional Spotlight Initiative
Resident Coordinator Office, Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean