

Guyana

Country Report



UNITED NATIONS JOINT PROGRAM ON ESSENTIAL SERVICES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS SUBJECT TO VIOLENCE

This document has been prepared with information from the Country Report of the UNDP and UN Women publication From commitment to action: Policies to eradicate violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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1. Legislation

The Domestic Violence Law (1996) (Domestic Violence Law) and the Sexual Offenses Act (1996) (Domestic Violence Law) and the Sexual Offenses Act (2010) (Sexual Offenses Act, 2010), the latter reform in 2013. For its part, the Criminal Offenses Act (Chapter 8:01) regulate crimes committed against the physical, psychological and sexual integrity of people (not specifically against women). These legal instruments are restricted in the scope of work despite the accession and ratification of the state party. National Law on Constitutional Reform No. 2 (Constitution (Amendment) Act No. 2). In 2005, the Law to Combat Trafficking in Persons was read in Guyana (2005) (Law on Combating Trafficking in Persons, 2005), which defines forced prostitution in a manner complementary to the regulation that said entity appears in the Penal Code.

Recommendations about legislation

1. **Move towards a comprehensive legal framework**, including the manifestations of violence against women in the streets, transport, recreational, educational spaces, in the context of armed conflicts, of migratory phenomena, among other "new contexts of criminality", such as drug trafficking or gangs, and above all that recognizes the responsibility of the State for action or omission in situations of violence against women and girls.

2. National Plan

The State of Guyana has the **National Policy on Domestic Violence** (2008-2013) (National Policy on Domestic Violence 2008-2013) (more, the National Policy) as a result of the advocacy work of civil society organizations, organizations and feminists' movements and the strong push by the media and the press to make the scourge visible. Despite the fact that by 2015 the period of execution of the National Policy had past, according to consulted sources, it remains enforced. With the support of UN Women, the State of Guyana has formulated a preliminary version of the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence Laws (2014-2017) (National Plan of Action for Implementation of Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence Acts 2014 - 2017) but it has not yet been fully developed or officially approved by the Cabinet of Ministers. The National Plan of Action Acts of Sexual Offenses and Domestic Violence (2014-2017) and the draft protocol is fully developed and was presented to the previous cabinet, with support from UNICEF and UNFPA. The regulations on domestic violence were officially launched on February 12, 2015.

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The National Policy and the Stamp It Out campaign (complementary resource implemented in the framework of the National Policy) address violence against women through the implementation of various actions in the following areas of prevention and attention.

In terms of prevention, the Office of Women's Affairs along with other state entities, organizations and movements of women and feminists have developed various actions for the prevention of domestic violence and sexual violence. Among them, the campaign '**Awareness of the teams**' stands out sports on the issue of domestic violence '(Sensitization of sports teams to the issue of domestic violence) held in 2008; the Stamp it Out campaign that contains awareness and awareness programs on domestic violence and prevention of sexual violence aimed at the general public and particularly young people, students and teachers and promotes the inclusion of the issue of gender-based violence in the mesh curricula in the field of education and dissemination of information on where to access services for victims / survivors and where and how to report cases of domestic violence through the media; between the main actions. **TO UPDATE**

With respect to training and capacity building, the Office of Women's Affairs has developed awareness actions on domestic violence aimed at rural communities in the interior of the country and American Indians, seeking to meet the specific needs and requirements of women in these communities. The Office of Women's Affairs has also developed training programs for officers of the British Guiana Police Force. For its part, according to information from 2013, the Government of Guyana, articulated with the Religious Organizations of Guyana in New York City, have joined efforts to prevent domestic violence through training programs aimed at more than 600 religious leaders and workers of the three official religions of the country. 89 awareness and training sessions were held in 2015 by WAB & MAB.

The economic resources for the implementation of the National Policy are assigned through the National Budget, the support of international cooperation, multilateral credit organizations and individual donors.

The National Policy is monitored and evaluated by the National Committee for the Supervision of Domestic Violence (National Domestic Violence Oversight Committee), which has the obligation to issue annual reports. The collection of information is also carried out by hospitals and health centers, the Police Force of British Guiana, the Courts of Justice and the Ministry of Legal Affairs and civil society organizations.

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Recommendations about National Plan

1. Achieve the necessary support in institutionalizing and with the influence of civil society organizations, for the formulation of a specific national plan of action to address gender-based violence in line with the commitments assumed by the country when ratifying the convention of Belem do Pará and other legal instruments.

3. Recommendations addressed to all sectors (police-judicial, health, social services) that provide essential services

4. Police and Judicial Services

Services	SPECIALIZED SERVICE ON VAW		Description of the service (include profile and coverage of professionals who attend VCMN at the national level)	Acting instruments
	Yes	No		
POLICE: Women's Commissioners, Police Service to women and children victims of violence etc.			PUT NUMBER Units of Domestic Violence in the regional police barracks. Victims / survivors of domestic violence can make their complaints through the Police Force of British Guiana, which has specialized personnel to provide legal advice at the time of making complaints.	
JUDICIAL: Office or similar of victims' defense Judicial Power			Legal Aid Clinic of Guyana (Guyana Legal Aid Clinic) provides free legal advice prior to the start of the judicial process.	
JUDICIAL: Foundation of NGO or juridical services.				
JUDICIAL: Office or similar victim assistance Public Ministry.				
JUDICIAL: Prosecutor's offices specialized in Violence against women				
JUDICIALS: Institute or similar of legal medicine				

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TREATMENT PROGRAMS DIRECTED TO THE REHABILITATION OF AGGRESSORS ¹			The Office of Men's Affairs (2010) (Men's Affairs Bureau) provides support and psychological assistance to aggressors, in coordination with civil society organizations. It works addressing masculinities in coordination with the Ministry of Health, civil society organizations and technical support from regional and international organizations.	
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Recommendations for the improvement of police and judicial services

5. Health Services

ESPECIALIZED SERVICE ON VAW.		Description of the service (include profile and coverage of professionals who attend VCMN at the national level).	Acting instruments
Yes	No		
		A specific unit has been created to address domestic violence in the Ministry of Health (2011).	

Recommendations for the improvement of health services

6. Social Services

SERVICIOS SOCIALES	ESPECIALIZED SERVICE ON VAW.		Description of the service (include profile and coverage of professionals who attend VCMN at the national level).	Acting Instruments
	Sí	No		
VAW emergency line				

¹ The Essential Services package for women and girls who suffer violence mentions in the corresponding Guide to police and judicial services, the need for aggressor rehabilitation programs with specific methodology, minimum sessions and systematized tools to assess: compliance by the aggressors, the safety of the victims and the reduction of the incidence of violence.

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Governing body for the care of children and adolescents				
Responsible agency for the care of people with disabilities				
Ministry of Labor (Job placement services for women who suffer violence)				
Institution of support for micro, small and medium enterprises (Services for women who suffer violence)				
Leading institution of vocational training (training services for women who suffer violence)				
Comprehensive care centers (One stop center): include n° of Centers and places where they are located			3 shelters for the reception of victims / survivors , which are assisted by specialized personnel. These shelters receive support from social and religious organizations.	
Other relevant institutions (Ministry of Education, Ombudsman, etc.)			According to data from 2013, the Guyanese State, with the support of the private sector, provides financial support services to victims / survivors through the granting of microcredits under the Women of Worth Program.	

Recommendations for the improvement of social services

7. Information and statistics

The **National Center for Resources and Documentation on Gender and Development** (Resource and Documentation Center for Gender and Development) has accepted the responsibility of effectively monitoring the situation of women in general and the progress made in society through the compilation of a series of **statistics from governmental and non-governmental organizations** in order to facilitate an analysis of domestic violence in the country. According to data from ECLAC (2015), the State of Guyana has applied a Demographic and Health Survey in 2009, including a module with questions on domestic violence and against women.

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Recommendations on information and statistics

1. Collect and present information on the different forms of violence against women, including jurisprudence.

8. Diversity

Recommendations about diversity

9. Coordination and governance

Existence of a mechanism to coordinate the response at the national level and its operation

For the implementation of the National Policy, a National Committee for the Supervision of Domestic Violence (National Domestic Violence Oversight Committee) was created, composed of senior ministerial officials from various State institutions, civil society organizations and experts in the matter. The National Supervision Committee has its own resources and presents an Annual Operating Plan every year.

Existence of a mechanism to coordinate the response at the local level and its functioning

The National Supervision Committee mentioned above has carried out a process of decentralization of responsibilities among the 10 administrative regions in which the country is divided. In these, regional and local committees have been created that have the responsibility to initiate and supervise the strategies, activities and services. The regional and local committees have representation from officials of regional and local governments, civil society organizations, health centers, community-based organizations, religious organizations, among others.

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Description of integral care models

References

From commitment to action: Policies to eradicate violence against women in Latin America and the Caribbean. UNDP and UN Women. 2017. Country fact sheet: Guyana.