



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

Gender-Based Violence Country Profile DOMINICA



Contents

INTRODUCTION	3
PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: PRE- AND POST-COVID	4
SOCIAL NORMS WHICH DRIVE GBV	6
POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK	6
GBV RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND SERVICES	10
APPENDIX 1 – AVAILABLE SERVICES	13
APPENDIX 2 – UN WOMEN: MEASURES AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (DOMINICA)	15
GLOSSARY	16
REFERENCES	17

INTRODUCTION

The Commonwealth of Dominica (Dominica) is a multiparty unicameral parliamentary democracy. It was the first country in the Americas to elect a female Head of Government (Prime Minister), which it did in 1980. She remained in office for over 14 consecutive years. The island is also the only Republic in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and the only island in the OECS which has an indigenous population, the Kalinagos, which maintains distinct cultural practices from the mainstream of society¹.

According to data from the 2011 Census, the population has fallen in every census since 1981², standing now at some 73,000 people. Dominica is classified as having high human development, ranking 94th out of 189 countries in the Human Development Index (HDI) in 2019, having enjoyed a steady increase in its HDI ranking since 2000³. Life expectancy is estimated at 78.8 years for women, and 74 years for men.⁴

In 2017, the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria, which resulted in total damage of approximately \$2.51B Eastern Caribbean (EC) dollars. This represented 226 per cent of Dominica's 2016 Gross Domestic Product (GDP).⁵ By 2019, however, the island experienced economic growth of 5.7 per cent, back to its pre-hurricane levels, having experienced significant expansion in all areas of economic activity.⁶ As with countries across the globe, Dominica's economy suffered severe stress in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The extent of this impact isn't yet clear, but the World Bank estimates that the Caribbean economy declined by 8.6 per cent in 2020,⁷ and the Caribbean Development Bank has noted that due to uncertainty as to how long this situation will persist, it is very difficult to forecast how the economy will perform in 2020 and beyond.⁸

¹ The Kalinago (Carib) population was estimated at 3,000 persons, most of whom lived in the 3,782-acre Kalinago Territory. The government recognizes their special status, and their rights are protected in the 1978 Carib Act. This law allocates Kalinago territory and gives the local council its authority, including the exercise of veto power over new infrastructure projects within the territory. The Kalinagos have a Chief, but are also represented in central government by a Minister of Kalinago Affairs/Upliftment. For more information see <http://kalinagoaffairs.gov.dm>

² This is the result of a low fertility rate and a consistent level of out-migration. See Baksh, R. (2014). Country Gender Assessment: Dominica. Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados.

³ See Briefing Notes for Countries on the 2020 Human Development Report, Dominica. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/DMA.pdf. Because of lack of relevant data, the Gender Equality Index (GEI), which is a gender adjusted HDI, is not calculated for Dominica.

⁴ <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.DYN.LE00.FE.IN?locations=DM>

⁵ Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Hurricane Maria September 18, 2017: A Report by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica. https://www.gfdr.org/sites/default/files/publication/Dominica_mp_012418_web.pdf

⁶ Caribbean Development Bank (2019). Country Economic Review: Dominica. <https://www.caribank.org/sites/default/files/publication-resources/CER%202019%20Dominica.pdf>

⁷ The World Bank Overview <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/caribbean/overview>

⁸ *Ibid*

PREVALENCE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: PRE- AND POST-COVID

UN Women Prevalence Data on Different Forms of Violence against Women⁹:

- Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence: Official National Statistics Not Available
- Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence in the last 12 months: Official National Statistics Not Available
- Lifetime Non-Partner Sexual Violence: Official National Statistics Not Available

Men are more active in the labour force than women. **The labour force participation rate for men was 70.6 per cent, compared to 59.5 per cent for women, and unemployment for women was 19.5 per cent, versus 15 per cent for men.**¹⁰ This is consistent with time use data which shows that women in Dominica spent more than twice the number of hours as men on unpaid domestic work,¹¹ and the fact that women head 39.2

per cent of households.¹² As women generally support larger households than men, they are more at risk of becoming or remaining poor and they carry greater responsibilities for caring for and the maintenance of the family.¹³

The adolescent fertility rate in Dominica stands at 40.3 per thousand females, aged 15–19 years. This rate is comparable to the global average of 46.1, as well as that of the non-Hispanic Caribbean of 46.9. However, it is lower than the average for Latin America and the Caribbean (66.5), but more than twice as high as for the more developed countries.

There is no easily accessible data on some key indicators of the status of women such as those for **maternal and child health, contraceptive prevalence, and unmet contraceptive needs.** There is also no accessible data which examines the living conditions of the indigenous population separately as a group of special interest.

⁹ UN Women Global Database on Violence Against Women. (n.d.). Dominica. <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/dominica>

¹⁰ Using 2013 Labour Force Survey data quoted in International Labour Organisation (2018). *Gender at Work in the Caribbean: Country Report, Dominica*. International Labour Organisation, Geneva.

¹¹ International Labour Organisation (2018). *Gender at Work in the Caribbean: Country Report, Dominica*. International Labour Organisation, Geneva.

¹² See Baksh, R. (2014). *Country Gender Assessment: Dominica*. Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados.

¹³ (UNICEF (2017). *Situation Analysis of Children: Commonwealth of Dominica*. (p.37)

The limited data from the National Registry for Domestic Violence¹⁴ indicates that from 2011- 2013¹⁵

, there were 391 reported cases of domestic violence. These cases were reported to various agencies mandated to respond to incidents of GBV.¹⁶ This does not include any reports which may have been made to the Ministry of Health or the Courts, as they are not parties to the reporting system established by the National Registry. The Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) has acknowledged that the figures available through the registry are significantly under-reported.¹⁷ Closer examination of the data shows that 73 per cent of reports were made through the Child Welfare Division, suggesting that the data being collected by the Registry is mainly related to child abuse. The cases of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), 93 in total, were reported to the BGA (44 cases), the Legal Aid Clinic (22 cases) and the National Council of Women Dominica (27 cases). The Dominica Police Force reported only 9 cases of domestic violence (2.3%) to the National Registry.

Of the 391 cases of abuse reported for the period, 60.9 per cent were of sexual abuse, 27.1 per cent for physical abuse, and 24.6 per cent for psychological/emotional abuse. Twenty-five reported cases of abuse were made by men, who identified both women and men as their abusers. In addition, although the Ministry of Health was not a partner agency of the National

Registry, it received the third highest reports of domestic violence – some 27 cases had been reported to doctors and community nurses.

Overwhelmingly, the victims of domestic violence are female.

Data from the Registry confirms this; 85.7 per cent of reported victims were women and girls. Few victims were identified as male, but these figures are noteworthy since they indicate that despite the social stigma associated with male victims of domestic violence, some men are coming forward to report domestic violence.

The Commonwealth of Dominica does not produce timely and reasonably accurate data on GBV.

The only source of systematic data is the National Registry which only receives reports made to some of the major agencies involved in the prevention and response to GBV. The absence of data from important sources, such as the health and justice sectors, calls into question the veracity of the data being produced. Furthermore, the absence of any prevalence data on GBV makes it difficult to accurately assess the level of GBV on the island.

Impact of COVID-19:

Due to the limited data, there is no further documentation on how gender-based violence has been affected by COVID 19.

¹⁴ National Registry for Domestic Violence was established in 2011 with support from UN Women following the call for improved data on domestic violence. The Bureau of Gender Affairs maintains the Registry and receives reports from various partners including the Dominica Police Force, the Gender Bureau, the Dominica National Council of Women, the Dominica Legal Aid and the Welfare Department.

¹⁵ The data used for this section is taken from the Country Gender Assessment, 2014 by R. Baksh.

¹⁶ These agencies include the Dominican Police Force, The Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA), the Dominican National Council for Women, The Legal Aid Clinic, and the Child Welfare Division.

¹⁷ This is discussed in Baksh, R. (2014). Country Gender Assessment: Dominica. Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados

SOCIAL NORMS WHICH DRIVE GBV

Traditional roles for men and women are still widely accepted in Dominican society. The Country Gender Assessment (CGA), 2014 reports that although these traditional roles of men as breadwinners and protectors, and women as caretakers and nurturers are still embraced, there is some indication that changes are being recognised and embraced. It notes though, that despite the notable changes in gender roles that have taken place, the media portrayal of women is still highly sexualised, and the popular local calypsoes (songs) promote VAWG. Women are also more economically vulnerable and dependent than men, as they work in lower-paying jobs, and are concentrated in a narrow band of skills areas in the labour force, making them more susceptible to unemployment.

The influence of traditional gender ideologies is seen in many areas, including in the criminal justice system, particularly in the prosecution and adjudication of IPV. The CGA goes on to note that victims of IPV face serious gender bias due to widespread judicial misunderstanding of the dynamics and seriousness of gender-based violence in a sexual relationship. This often leads to unjust conclusions about victims who are reluctant to leave an abusive relationship or face family and social pressure in testifying. Despite the potential impact of these prejudices, available information suggests that the police are not reluctant to arrest and prosecute offenders in GBV cases, especially those which involve sexual assault. However, women who experience IPV are often hesitant to report these cases to the police or to follow through with prosecution even if reports are made.¹⁸

POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Gender equality in the legal framework: With regards to overall gender equality in the legal framework, according to the World Bank's 2021 "Women, Business and the Law" study, Dominica scores 62.5 out of 100. When it comes to constraints related to marriage,

and gender differences in property and inheritance, Dominica gets a perfect score. However, when it comes to constraints on freedom of movement, laws affecting women's decisions to work, laws affecting women's pay, laws affecting women's work after

¹⁸ <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/dominica/>

having children, constraints on women starting and running a business, and laws affecting the size of a woman's pension, Dominica could consider reforms to improve legal equality for women¹⁹.

The Constitution, Acts of Parliament and rules from the common law form the legal framework which protects women and girls from gender-based violence in Dominica. Similar to all countries of the English-speaking Caribbean, it has ratified most of the International Conventions aimed at addressing GBV and promoting gender equality, and developed local national policy frameworks and action plans to directly guide its GBV response including the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belem do Para) and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Additionally, the country has signed on to several International Plans of action to promote gender equality: the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the plan of action of the InterAmerican Commission of Women (CIM), the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, and the Commonwealth Plan of Action.

The Constitution of Dominica, enacted when the country attained independence from Great Britain in 1978, is the supreme law. It guards the human rights of all persons within the country and holds the State accountable for violation of human rights, and protects the right to life and prohibits cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment of all citizens. As such, it mandates the State to protect women from all forms of violence perpetrated against them, in both public and private spaces.

The Protection against Domestic Violence Act (No. 22 of 2001²⁰) is the primary legislation which provides protection for women experiencing violence in the family. The Act criminalizes physical, sexual, economic, psychological or emotional violence against any person in the family or household.²¹ The Act recognises that domestic violence can occur within a family, within a domestic unit, and within interpersonal relationships.²² Under this law, survivors may report incidents of domestic violence to the justice system and it also allows them to enlist the services of a private attorney to apply to the Courts for state protection through Interim Orders²³, Protection Orders²⁴, Occupation orders²⁵, and Tenancy Orders²⁶, and gives power to the

¹⁹ World Bank. (2021). *Women, Business and the Law 2021*. <https://wbl.worldbank.org/content/dam/documents/wbl/2022/snapshots/Dominica.pdf>

²⁰ The government is making efforts to update the Domestic Violence Act. However, the amended legislation has been pending in Cabinet for some time.

²¹ Section 2 of the Act defines domestic violence as "physical, sexual, emotional or psychological or financial abuse committed by a person against a spouse, child or any other person who is a member of the household, dependant or parent of a child of that household."

²² Unlike in some other OECS countries, the Act protects persons in a visiting relationship for at least 12 months. They do not have to be living together and they may or may not have a child in common.

²³ This is an order made to be enforced for a period of time. An Interim Order made under an ex parte application shall not be enforced for more than 21 days after it has been made.

²⁴ If the court is satisfied that a person has used or threatened violence or caused injury to an applicant, a child of the family or a dependant then a Protection Order can be granted which prevents the respondent from entering or remaining in the residence where the applicant occupies or from entering in an area around that residence

²⁵ This order allows the applicant to occupy the household residence for a fixed period of time. The respondent has to be out of the house for that period of time.

²⁶ A tenancy order acts as if the property was taken from one person and given to another person.

police to execute these orders. The court may order counselling for applicant and/or respondent, and the Act requires the counsellor to provide the court reports on attendance at counselling sessions as well as on the progress of the counselling.

The 2003 Offences Against the Person Act establishes penalties for those crimes related to deprivation of and damage to life, in cases in which it is threatened or endangered, and various crimes that threaten the security, freedom and welfare of individuals²⁷. Although no specific laws criminalize spousal abuse, spouses were able to bring charges against their partners for battery under the Offences Against the Persons Act. The domestic violence legislation provides protection from physical and sexual violence in intimate partner relationships, but it is not meant to exclude the criminal laws or replace criminal proceedings. Rather, it is to expand the range of remedies which are available to victims of domestic violence.²⁸

The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act, 2016, amended the original Act passed in 1998. The amendments expand the penalties for rape²⁹; criminalizes marital rape and grooming children for sexual relations and voyeurism; and includes penalties

for persons who fail to report child abuse and those who accept bribes to avoid a penalty for child abuse. Although the law provides for a maximum sentence for sexual molestation (rape or incest) of 25 years' imprisonment, the usual sentence was five to seven years.³⁰ The Act prescribes sexual offences in relation to persons with mental impairment, and criminalises anal intercourse and sexual contact ('indecenty') between a woman and a girl³¹.

Sexual Exploitation of Children is criminalised under the Sexual Offences Act. The age of consent is 16 years, and any sexual activity by children of a younger age is illegal³². The act also prohibits sexual intercourse between a child and an adult and imposes a penalty to 25 years of imprisonment for an adult who rapes a child whom the adult employs or controls, or to whom the adult pays wages.

There is no law dedicated to criminalizing human trafficking in all its forms, and the country is not party to the Palermo Convention to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. However, a new section was inserted in the Immigration & Passport Act³³ to deal specifically with Human Trafficking, defined as 'anyone assisting any

²⁷ Including Violence against women in state institutions, or institutional violence (although not defined in these terms) such as hospitals, schools, and prisons.

²⁸ <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/caribbean-gender-portal/caribbean-gbv-law-portal/gbv-country-resources/dominica>

²⁹ Under the Sexual Offences Act, the offence of rape is gender-neutral. Both men and women are protected from the offence of rape. Rape is defined as where any person has sexual intercourse with another person without that person's consent, without believing that that person consents or is reckless as to whether the other person consents to sexual intercourse. <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/caribbean-gender-portal/caribbean-gbv-law-portal/gbv-country-resources/dominica>

³⁰ United States Department of State (2018). *Dominica Human Rights Report 2018*. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/dominica/>

³¹ So-called "Indecency statutes" carry a maximum penalty of five years in prison, and same-sex sexual conduct between consenting adult men carries a maximum penalty of 10 years.

³² The maximum sentence for sexual intercourse with a person under the age of 14 years is 25 years in prison. When victims are between ages 14 and 16, the maximum sentence is 14 years.

³³ Chapter 18:01-section (27b)

other person to enter or leave Dominica in an unlawful manner.' Anyone found guilty is liable to a fine of up to EC \$100,000 dollars or seven years imprisonment or both³⁴.

Dominica was the first country in the English-speaking Caribbean to develop and approve a National Policy on Gender Equality³⁵. Approved by the Cabinet in 2007, this policy aims to achieve gender equality by eliminating discrimination against women in the policy arenas of health, economic development, violence, education and skills training, and power and decision-making.³⁶ The overall objective of this policy is to promote gender equality, equity, social justice and sustainable development, and to transform gender relations in Dominica. It specifically contains measures to protect, prevent and punish gender-based violence.³⁷ However, official approval of a revised version of the policy, the National Policy and Action Plan on Gender Equity and Equality (2014-2024) is still pending. Still, Dominica does not have a National Strategic Action Plan to Reduce GBV.

Regarding child protection, Dominica adopted The National Child Protection Action Plan in May 2018. The Plan is anchored in three broad strategic

areas: a) Legislative and Policy Reform, b) Structural and Institutional Arrangements, and c) Service and Programmatic Interventions. The Plan notes that although the State has established a Child Protection Unit in the Social Welfare Division, both units are understaffed and 'can only be described as a very basic and preliminary step in moving towards a full-fledged Child Protection Department that can satisfy the State's legal and moral obligation to protect children from all forms of abuse and maltreatment.'³⁸ This capacity gap prevents the State from bringing child protection applications before the court, admitting to only taking the most severe matters to Court because they do not have the resources to legally pursue all matters coming to their attention.

Dominica's National Plan of Action on Sexual Abuse (2010-2013) needs to be rightfully implemented and enforced³⁹. The Action Plan outlines activities to strengthen the child protection system, primarily through capacity building strategies such as an increase in staff, establishing written standard operating procedures, and provision of relevant training. There is also a national protocol for the mandatory reporting of child abuse, but UNICEF reports that this needs updating (ibid).

³⁴ Mechanism Of the Follow Up to Convention Belem Do Par  (Mesecvi) Fourth Conference Of States Parties. April 2012 . <https://www.oas.org> › FinalReport2012-Dominica

³⁵ Biholar, R (2014). *Masculinities and the Practice of Dominica's National Gender Policy, in Politics, Power, and Gender Justice in the Anglophone Caribbean: Women's Understandings of Politics, Experiences of Political Contestation and Possibilities for Gender Transformation*. International Development Research Centre Research Report 106430-001.

³⁶ Dominica 2019 UPR: Joint Submission from the United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the OECS.

³⁷ Dominica 2019 UPR: Joint Submission from the United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the OECS.

³⁸ National Child Protection Action Plan, Dominica. May 2018.

³⁹ UNICEF (2017). *Situation Analysis of Children: Commonwealth of Dominica*.

Sexual Harassment: The law does not prohibit sexual harassment, although civil society reports that it is a pervasive problem.⁴⁰

Early Marriage: The legal minimum age for marriage is 18 for both men and women, but marriage is permitted with parental consent at age 16 for both boys and girls.

GBV RESPONSE MECHANISMS AND SERVICES

The Bureau of Gender Affairs⁴¹ leads Dominica's efforts to prevent and respond to GBV. It is supported in its work by key agencies such as the Dominica Police Force⁴², the Legal Aid Clinic, the Ministry of Health, the courts, and civil society bodies.

The Bureau has engaged in a range of actions and interventions, including public awareness and advocacy, prevention programs, legislation and policy formulation, victim support, data collection and dissemination, police training, and community outreach. To lessen women's economic vulnerability, it has also provided skills training and enterprise development for women at risk of violence. It has also hosted training workshops on GBV and human rights with its partner organizations, including the police, women organizations, community and church-

based organizations, and youth organizations across the island. Of particular interest was the series of training sessions held in seven police districts on their understanding and handling of domestic violence matters and their contribution to the Central Registry. The resources available to the **Bureau of Gender Affairs** are limited, and some programmes are funded by international organizations. This shortage of human, technical and financial resources constrain its capacity to sustain training and capacity-building for officials and institutional staff that have jurisdiction in the matter.

Many of its activities are done in partnership with the Police, the **Legal Aid Clinic**, the **Social Welfare Division**, the **Dominica National Council of Women**, and the community-based women's groups. As the

⁴⁰ United States Department of State (2018). *Dominica Human Rights Report 2018*. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/dominica/>

⁴¹ The Bureau was first established as a Women's Desk in 1980 (only a couple of years after Independence in 1978), which was renamed the Women's Bureau in 1982. As of 2014, the BGA comprised a staff complement of five including a Director, Coordinator of Research and Programme Development, Field Officer, Secretary and Messenger. In addition, the temporary post of Data Registry Officer was supported by funding from UN Women.

⁴² The Ministry of Justice, Immigration, and National Security oversees the operations of the Dominica Police Force.

result of coordinated work between the BGA and the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, a module on Health and Family Life and gender-sensitive issues, including domestic violence, has been incorporated into school curricula. Despite these partnerships, the BGA has identified the lack of a formal interagency coordination mechanism to address gender-based and domestic violence as one barrier to effective prevention and response⁴³.

The Bureau of Gender Affairs conducts two radio programmes on the Dominican Broadcasting Corporation: "Speaking of Gender" and "Magazine Women", sensitizing the population as to the various forms of gender-based violence. Neither programme is specifically geared to the Kalingo population.

Police are mandated to respond to every complaint of Domestic Violence (DV) under the DV Act whether or not the complainant is the victim. The Act spells out in some detail, the duties of the Police, and establishes a National DV register, to be kept by the Commissioner of Police. Police are obligated in their report to include details related to the weapon used to commit the abuse. This crucial piece of information can be used as a an aggravating factor in cases heard under the Sexual Offences Act, and influence the penalty imposed by the court.⁴⁴

The Legal Aid Clinic was established in 2004 to

ensure that low-income citizens could access justice at affordable fees. Domestic violence (DV) issues are among the areas for which clients can get legal assistance through the Clinic, including help with filing for the various orders/remedies available under the Domestic Violence Act. Women, disabled and senior citizens are the primary targets and users of services offered by the Legal Aid Clinic. **Dominica does not have a Family Court** and matters under the DV Act are heard in the Magistrates Courts.

Presently, **there is no Government facility that offers refuge/shelter, counselling/therapy and training/capacity building for victims/survivors of domestic violence.** The US State Department reports that the only shelter for victims of gender-based violence remains closed since Hurricane Maria in September 2017⁴⁵.

The National Council of Women of Dominica, a voluntary umbrella group for women's organizations, created and implemented a programme of emergency assisted housing for women living in abusive homes and their children, although only for a period of five days.

Lifeline Dominica, a NGO, has successfully apply for a grant from the British High Commission to train volunteers as victim support workers. Working in partnership with the Dominica National Council

⁴³ UPR 2019 Report.

⁴⁴ United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) (2020). Normative Study: Making the link between norms on violence against women and small arms control and regulation norms: Analysis of CARICOM States. <http://unlirec.screativa.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Caribbean-Legal-Study-on-Gender-SALW-Sept.-2020.pdf>

⁴⁵ United States Department of State (2018). Dominica Human Rights Report 2018. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/dominica/>

of Women, three cohorts of counsellors have been trained and are now able to support victims of GBV through the process of investigation, prosecution and recovery. Additionally, it is seeking to develop a portal for help in reporting and recovery for victims of rape, sexual assault and abuse. With its coordination, three 'survivors' groups' have been established, where victims of sexual violence are supported to move from victim, to survivor, and to advocate for improvements in services to support survivors.

There are no inter-sectoral protocols to address gender-based violence. A referral pathway and protocols have not yet been developed for Dominica. This means that the stakeholders do not have clear guidelines and understandings of their coordinated role in the prevention and care for survivors of GBV.

The Centro de Orientación e Investigación Integral (COIN) with support from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs has launched "**Caribbean United against Gender-based Violence – GBV**," from which Dominica will benefit⁴⁶. The goal of the project is to address the root causes of GBV in the Caribbean and to contribute to the end of violence against women and promote violence-free, gender equal social norms. The project will support the creation of an enabling environment through a series of community-level small grants for interventions

aimed at changing social norms, building institutional capacity, empowering young people, and improving availability and access to services through service mapping and the development of a GBV referral pathway for use by the key first responders such as the police and the health sector.

Overall, the key deficits in GBV services include inadequate emergency shelters, lack of long-term housing and financial assistance, and insufficient service providers to assist women through the court system. There is also little coordination between the data collection activities of the BGA and the Police. Even though the police are mandated by law to collect critical information on each reported case, this has not fed into an articulated system for collecting administrative GBV data.

⁴⁶ The project will be implemented through small grants to local organizations in twelve Caribbean countries, namely: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. <https://pancap.org/coin-launches-caribbean-united-against-gender-based-violence-gbv/> Dec. 2020

APPENDIX 1 – AVAILABLE SERVICES

Name	GBV Service	Contact
Bureau Gender Affairs	<p>Receives reports and provides direct social and psychological services to victims of IPV and adult victims of sexual abuse.</p> <p>Report can be made via telephone, email, mail or a visit to the Bureau's office</p> <p>Conducts capacity building and training of other GBV service providers.</p>	<p>106 Independence Street Roseau Commonwealth of Dominica Email: genderaffairs@dominica.gov.dm Phone: (767) 266 3344/3023/3083 Fax: (767) 448 7855</p>
Social Welfare Division: Child Protection Unit	<p>Receives reports of child abuse, including sexual abuse, and provides counselling and referral services as needed.</p>	<p>Kennedy Ave., Rosseau, Dominica. Tel: 1 767-266-3080</p>
Legal Aid Clinic	<p>General legal advice and representation.</p>	<p>Legal Aid Clinic Great Marlborough Street Roseau Dominica Tel: (767) 266 3331 Fax: (767) 440 2984 E-mail: legalaid@dominica.gov.dm</p>
Dominica Police Force	<p>Emergency response, investigations, arrests, and providing evidence for prosecution. SVU Hotline</p>	

Civil Society Organizations

Lifeline Ministries Dominica	Train volunteers as victim support workers. Survivor Support Group	https://www.lifelinedominica.org Tel Office: 1-767-449-8593 Cell: 1-767-235-8367: Email: lifelinedominica@hotmail.com
National Council for Women Dominica:	Emergency Shelter facility: stay for a maximum of 5 days. Counselling and mediation services	3 King George V Street, Roseau, Dominica Telephone/Fax: 1-767-448 3935 Telephone 1-767-448-7546 Hotline: 1800-744-3629

APPENDIX 2 – UN WOMEN: MEASURES AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (DOMINICA)⁴⁷



<https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/americas/dominica>

⁴⁷ UN Women. (n.d.). *Global Database on Violence against Women*. (n.d.). <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/fr/countries/americas/dominica>

GLOSSARY

Gender	Roles that are determined socially, behaviours, activities, and attributes that a society considers appropriate for men and women. These roles are contextual and influenced by a society's culture and traditions, as well as by prevailing religious beliefs.
Gender-Based Violence (GBV)	Any act of violence that results in, or the nature of which causes, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to someone because of his or her sex. This including threats through similar acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether in public or private life (UN, 1993).
Sex	Refers to the biological and physiological characteristics which differentiate men and women.
Sexual Exploitation	Any real or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, power differential, or relationship of confidence for a sexual purpose, including, but not limited to, taking financial, social, or political advantage of another through sexual means.
Sexual Abuse	Real or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether it be by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.
Sexual Harassment	Unwelcomed sexual advances, demand for sexual favors, or any other verbal or physical behavior of a sexual nature. In the workplace, submission to these advances or behaviors may be made either implicitly or explicitly a condition of continued employment, promotion, or other decisions affecting a person's employment.

REFERENCES

- Baksh, Rawwida (2014). Country Gender Assessment, Dominica, 2014. Caribbean Development Bank, Barbados.
- Biholar, R (2014). Masculinities and the Practice of Dominica's National Gender Policy, in Politics, Power, and Gender Justice in the Anglophone Caribbean: Women's Understandings of Politics, Experiences of Political Contestation and Possibilities for Gender Transformation. International Development Research Centre Research Report 106430-001.
- Bureau of Gender Affairs, Dominica (ud). National Policy on Gender Equality and Equity Made Simple. <https://genderaffairs.gov.dm/publications/booklets/file/31-national-policy-on-gender-equity-and-equality-made-simple>
- Caribbean Development Bank (2019). Dominica: Country Economic Review 2019. <https://www.caribank.org/publications-and-resources/resource-library/economic-reviews/country-economic-review-2019-dominica>
- Dominica 2019 UPR: Joint Submission from the United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the OECS.
- International Labour Organisation (2018). Gender at Work in the Caribbean: Country Report, Dominica. International Labour Organisation, Geneva.
- Mechanism Of the Follow Up to Convention Belem Do Pará (Mesecvi) Fourth Conference Of States Parties. April 2012 . <https://www.oas.org> > FinalReport2012-Dominica
- National Child Protection Action Plan, Dominica. May 2018.
- Post-Disaster Needs Assessment Hurricane Maria September 18, 2017: A Report by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica. https://www.gfdrr.org/sites/default/files/publication/Dominica_mp_012418_web.pdf
- UNICEF (2017). Situation Analysis of Children: Commonwealth of Dominica.
- United Nations Development Programme (2020). Briefing Notes for Countries on the 2020 Human Development Report, Dominica. http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/DMA.pdf

- United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) (2020). Normative Study: Making the link between norms on violence against women and small arms control and regulation norms: Analysis of CARICOM States. <http://unlirec.screativa.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/Caribbean-Legal-Study-on-Gender-SALW-Sept.-2020.pdf>
- United States Department of State (2018). Dominica Human Rights Report 2018. <https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/dominica/>

