

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2018/159.asp

IACHR Welcomes Ruling by the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) Making Mandatory Death Penalty in Barbados unconstitutional

July 23, 2018

Washington, D.C. - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) welcomes the judgment of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) that declared that the mandatory death penalty in Barbados is unconstitutional.

The judgment was delivered by the CCJ on June 27, 2018 in relation to two mandatory death penalty cases from Barbados: Jabari Sensimania Nervais v The Queen and Dwayne Omar Severin v The Queen. The Court stated that section 2 of the Offences Against the Person Act was unconstitutional because it provided for a mandatory sentence of death.

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2019/039.asp

IACHR visits Barbados, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica

February 22, 2019

Washington, D.C. - The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) is conducting a promotional visit to Barbados, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, with a delegation led by the President, Commissioner Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitiño, who is also the Rapporteur on the Rights of Children and Adolescents, and by Commissioner Margarette May Macaulay, Rapporteur on the Rights of Women and on the Rights of People of African Descent and against Racial Discrimination, as well as Country Rapporteur for The Bahamas. The visit takes place from 20 to 27 February 2019.

The purpose of this promotional visit is to promote the Commission's mandates, strengthen knowledge of the mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights in the inter-American system, and strengthen dialogue with key actors working in the field of human rights in these countries. In addition, this visit is an opportunity for the Rapporteurs to promote inter-American standards and recommendations of the IACHR related to the eradication of violence and discrimination against women, girls and adolescents. In this regard, the IACHR will meet with representatives of the State, civil society, international organizations, and experts with a view to establishing a dialogue and identifying future lines of work on the main issues of concern in each country, as well as taking cognizance of good practices in the States visited.

https://www.oas.org/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2019/251.asp

First Joint Consultation discussing the inclusion of LGBTI persons in the economic, social and cultural sphere

October 8, 2019

Bridgetown, Barbados – From 1 to 2 of October 2019, the Rapporteur on the Rights of LGBTI Persons of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) and the United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (UN IE SOGI) held their first Joint Consultation concerning the inclusion in the economic, social and cultural sphere of the LGBTI persons and the eradication of violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in the Caribbean. The consultation was organised as part of a strategic alliance between both human rights mandates, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

https://www.oas.org/en/IACHR/jsForm/?File=/en/iachr/media_center/PReleases/2021/333.asp

IACHR welcomes the strengthening of democratic institutionalism in Barbados, through its transition to a Republic

December 10, 2021

Washington, D.C. - The IACHR salutes Barbados on its transition to a Republic, which contributes to the strengthening of democratic institutionalism in the country. In this context, the IACHR reiterates that democracy is indispensable for human rights, and it is essential for the social, political and economic development of countries.

On November 30, 2021, Sandra Mason officially replaced Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State. With this act, Barbados formally transitioned to a Republican state, removing its last remaining colonial bond after nearly 400 years of British rule. This was done in keeping with the election held on October 20, 2021, where Mason was [elected by the Parliament as the country's first President](#). On that occasion, the [IACHR saluted Barbados](#) on electing its first President.

In the framework of strengthening democratic institutions in the country, the IACHR welcomes the [announcement](#) by the Prime Minister regarding the commencement of public consultations in January 2022 for the creation of a new Constitution. Furthermore, the IACHR notes that Barbados established a [Republican Status Transition Advisory Committee](#) on May 22, 2021, that is tasked with determining the legislative and constitutional requirements essential for the transition and ensuring the full participation of citizens throughout the transition process.

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES - 2018

PM 1047/17 - Dwayne Omar Severin and Jabari Sensimania Nervais, Barbados

On May 5, 2018, the IACHR moved to request the adoption of precautionary measures in favor of Dwayne Omar Severin and Jabari Sensimania Nervais in Barbados. The request for precautionary measures alleges that the proposed beneficiaries are prisoners at Her Majesty's Prisons in Dodds, St. Philip, after being convicted and sentenced to the obligatory imposition of the death penalty by hanging, and that they are currently on death row. After analyzing the legal and factual allegations, the IACHR considers that the information presented demonstrates, prima facie, that the beneficiaries are in a situation of serious and urgent risk. Consequently, in keeping with Article 25 of the IACHR's Rules of Procedure, the Commission asked Barbados to refrain from applying the death

penalty that has been imposed on Clyde Dwayne Omar Severin and Jabari Sensimania Nervais until the IACHR makes a decision on their petition; to adopt any measures necessary to preserve beneficiaries' lives and personal integrity; and to come to an agreement with beneficiaries and their representatives regarding any measures that need to be taken.

PM 1046/17 - Clyde Anderson Grazeite, Barbados

On May 5, 2018, the IACHR moved to request the adoption of precautionary measures in favor of Anderson Grazeite in Barbados. The request for precautionary measures alleges that the proposed beneficiary is a prisoner at Her Majesty's Prisons in Dodds, St. Philip, after being convicted and sentenced to 99 the obligatory imposition of the death penalty by hanging, and that he is currently on death row. After analyzing the allegations of fact and law, the IACHR believes that the information that has been put forward proves, in principle, that the beneficiary is at grave risk. Consequently, in keeping with Article 25 of the IACHR's Rules of Procedure, the Commission asked Barbados to refrain from applying the death penalty that has been imposed on Clyde Anderson Grazeite until the IACHR makes a decision on his petition; to adopt any measures necessary to preserve the beneficiary's life and personal integrity; and to come to an agreement with the beneficiary and his representatives regarding any measures that need to be taken.

ANNUAL REPORT – CHAPTER 4A - 2018

Regarding progress, the IACHR highlights the holding of general elections in Barbados, the decrease in crime, and the proposal of bills to promote transparency, the right to access to public information, and the protection of personal information.

Regarding the main challenges in 2018, the IACHR observes with concern the rejection of Haitian migrants at the border. The IACHR notes there were cases of rejecting Haitians trying to enter Barbados. In November, three Haitians arrived to Barbados and were administratively detained in the airport before being repatriated. Of that group, two people escaped and were later detained.

Regarding democratic institutionalism, on May 24, Barbados held general elections, in which 280,000 people voted to elect a new government. As a result of the election, the Barbados Labour Party (BLP) obtained 30 seats in the House of Assembly of Barbados. The elections went down in history as the first election in the post-independence era of Barbados in which a single political party won all the seats. Additionally, attorney Mia Mottley was the first woman to become prime minister of Barbados.

Regarding the crosscutting theme of institutionalism in human rights, the country has an Office of the Ombudsman whose objective is to investigate complaints, thereby ensuring protection of individual rights and liberties against bureaucratic wrongdoing and the effects of maladministration

As regards access to justice, the IACHR welcomes the judgment of the Caribbean Court of Justice finding the mandatory death penalty unconstitutional. The ruling was handed down on June 27, 2018, in the cases of Jabari Sensimania Nervais and Dwayne Omar Severin, and it found it was indisputable that the nation, through its actions, had acknowledged that it had an obligation to

eliminate the death penalty and that section 2 of the Offences against the Person Act was unconstitutional because it established a mandatory death penalty.

On the rights of women, the IACHR received information on domestic violence and harassment; the existence of a single shelter for women who are victims of violence; and problems accessing justice for LGBTI women due to gender stereotypes. In a protocolary meeting with the authorities, the IACHR received information on women victims of violence who are being assisted by an NGO that later transfers the cases to the corresponding ministry for follow-up. The IACHR also underscores that since 1983, the law has allowed abortion under certain circumstances, and that the State reported to the IACHR on the impact that access to abortion has had on increasing the life expectancy of women.

Regarding the rights of LGBTI persons, the Commission notes with concern that the Sexual Offenses Act, Chapter 154, Section 9, remains in force and criminalizes consensual relations between adults of the same sex. In addition, the 2002 Sexual Offenses Act Crimes Act remains in force; it defines the crime of "serious indecency".

With regard to the rights of older persons, in a protocolary meeting with the authorities, the IACHR received information on improvements to the quality of life and increased life expectancy for Barbadians, as well as a significant reduction in the rate of people with Alzheimer's.

Regarding freedom of expression, the IACHR was informed that the State had made proposals aimed at promoting a law on access to public information and other legal reforms to improve accountability, protect whistleblowers, and implement government transparency policies. The IACHR also takes note that a bill on "integrity in public life" is being processed that would strengthen measures for taking action against corruption. Lastly, in 2018, the State conducted a consultation process on provisions of a preliminary draft of a bill on data protection.

ANNUAL REPORT – CHAPTER 4A - 2019

With respect to progress, the IACHR notes the ranking of the State of Barbados as the country of the Caribbean with the lowest rate of corruption according to Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perception Index. Additionally, the Commission underscores the conviction of the assailant of trans persons' rights defender Alexa Hoffmann.

As for challenges, the IACHR notes the context of crime in Barbados, potential reinstatement of the mandatory death penalty and legislation in force that criminalizes the LGBTI community.

Regarding the framework of human rights institutions, the IACHR recognizes the Office of the Ombudsman of Barbados and its participation as a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association and the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. Likewise, the IACHR takes note of the interest of the authorities of the country in continuing and strengthening dialogue between the different sectors about the Inter-American Human Rights System and their commitment to protect human rights.

With respect to citizen security, the IACHR takes note that, according to Transparency International's 2018 Corruption Perception Index, Barbados ranks 25 out of 180 countries, ranking the highest

among the Caribbean countries. However, the Commission notes the context of crime in the country, as evidenced by increased armed violence in certain districts of the country. From January to October 2019, Barbados has reported 41 murders. In particular, in October alone, at least four murders took place, with three cases involving firearm (one case involving a non-firing weapon) following an attack in the parish of St. Michael.

As for the death penalty, the IACHR notes that, according to public information, hanging as a form of punishment could resume in Barbados. Public information suggests that the Ministry of Legal Affairs declared that all of the necessary legislative adjustments had been made to resume homicide trials and executions by hanging in the country. This transpired subsequent to a decision of the Caribbean Court of Justice that found Barbados's mandatory death penalty unconstitutional

Regarding the rights of LGBTI persons, the Commission became aware of the conviction of the assailant of trans human rights defender Alexa Hoffmann. However, pursuant to the 2018 Annual Report, the IACHR notes that the Law of Sexual Offenses, Chapter 154, Section 9, continues to be in force and criminalizes consensual relations between adults of the same sex, as well as the 2002 Law of Sexual Offenses, which makes "serious indecency" a criminal offense. On this score, the IACHR reiterates that automatic imposition of the death penalty without consideration of the individual circumstances of the offense and of the offender is incompatible with the rights to life, humane treatment and due process. The Commission also regrets this potential backward step, in view of the fact that the State undertook to adopt reforms aimed at abolishing the mandatory death penalty, in light of the judgment of the Inter-American Court in the *Boyce* case.

ANNUAL REPORT – CHAPTER 4A - 2020

With respect to progress, the IACHR commends the policies implemented during the COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in only seven recorded deaths during 2020. The Commission also underscores the measures implemented to protect women and older persons who suffered domestic abuse. The IACHR also observes the 50% reduction in homicides and the introduction of early release and rehabilitation programs for persons deprived of their Liberty

Regarding challenges, the IACHR is concerned about the reports of corruption by public officials, reduced operations of the courts and the backlog of cases due to the pandemic, and the increase in cases of domestic violence. In relation to LGBTI persons, the challenges that persist in the State for the approval of legal unions continue to be of concern, as do the criminalization of same sex relations, discriminatory treatment in the workplace based on gender identity and expression, and the so-called conversion therapies. The Commission also notes the failure of the State to abolish the death penalty.

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IACHR highlights the measures adopted by the State that contain the spread of the virus. The first case was found on March 17th and preventative actions were immediately taken, such as the declaration of a state of public health emergency on March 26, night curfews, 126 suspension of classes at all levels of education on March 18, and border closures. In particular, the curfew was expected to end on April 14, but it was extended to May 3, and again to June 30. The IACHR takes note of the implementation of regulations that resulted, during 2020, as mentioned earlier, in only seven recorded COVID-19 related deaths since the outbreak of the pandemic in Barbados. Barbados reopened its borders on July 121 to those who presented a negative RT-PCR test and who completed a mandatory preventive social isolation. Furthermore, in order to form a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, technical experts were

appointed to supervise the establishment or conversion of the COVID treatment and quarantine facilities, and an infectious disease specialist was appointed to oversee isolation facilities, clinical management, and training of healthcare workers.

In relation to access to education, schools officially remained closed on April 23 following closure in March, and that, during the closure, social services provided counseling for vulnerable families. The IACHR observed that online schooling was introduced, with guidance by the Ministry of Education, while the Media Resource Department of the Ministry provided education content via radio broadcasts and worked with private internet providers to expand access to households that had no internet access. Schools were officially reopened on 21 September 2020.

In relation to human rights institutions, Barbados has an Ombudsperson Office and participates as a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association and in the Commonwealth Forum of the National Institutes of Human Rights.

With respect to democratic institutionalism, the Commission observes Barbados' intention to "leave its colonial past behind" and become a republic by November 2021, when the country will celebrate its 55th anniversary of independence. In her Throne Speech on September 16th, the Governor General noted that having gained independence more than fifty years ago, Barbados was capable of self-governance. With respect to democratic governance, the Commission observes that Barbados' overall rule of law score decreased by less than 1% in this year's Index, placing it 4th out of 30 countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region. Furthermore, the IACHR takes note of reports of acts of corruption by a former Parliamentarian and two former public officials who were found guilty of money laundering and bribery. In this context, the Commission urges the State to implement legislative, administrative and other measures that would guarantee the exercise of human rights and combat the violations and restrictions caused by the phenomenon of corruption.

With respect to citizen security, the Commission observes an almost 50% decrease in the number of homicides during 2020 compared to the same period in 2019. The IACHR remains concerned about the number of illegal firearms available in the country and takes note of the efforts by the police to remove them. The Commission is aware that the Royal Barbados Police Force (RBPF) has assured the public that they will continue to work to rid the streets of illegal firearms.

In relation to access to justice, the IACHR observes that the COVID-19 outbreak negatively impacted the efficiency of the justice system, and notes that the courts reduced operations to protect judicial employees and officers and held hearings via video and teleconferences. During this time, the Commission took note of an increase in cases of domestic violence, while there were only a limited number of police officers to oversee family matters. However, the IACHR is aware of the creation of a hotline by the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs for persons in need of services or experiencing forms of domestic violence, and that the Shelter for Battered Women remained open to accommodate those women who were in need of such services.

Regarding the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and gender diverse/intersex (LGBTI) persons, the Commission acknowledges the efforts that have been made to recognize legal unions between persons of the same gender, especially the words expressed by the governor in this regard; as well as the pronouncement of the Prime Minister against discrimination based on gender and sexual orientation. However, the IACHR is concerned about the challenges that persist in the State for the approval of legal unions, beyond the recognition of equal marriage in accordance with international obligations on the matter.

In addition, the IACHR acknowledges the legal protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation in the workplace. Nevertheless, civil society organizations have provided information of non-inclusion of the legal protection against discrimination based on identity and gender expression. Furthermore, the Commission is concerned that the work visa program would discriminate against couples of the same gender. Likewise, the Commission notes with concern that the Sexual Offenses Act, Chapter 154, Section 9, which criminalizes consensual relationships between adults of the same sex, is still in force; as well as the crime of “serious indecency.” Civil society organizations have indicated that repealing these norms would provide a better social environment for LGBTI people; they add that criminal law consequences of these rules could even include sentencing to life imprisonment.

On the other hand, the Commission has received worrying information about the so-called “conversion therapies” or efforts to “correct” the sexual orientation and gender identity of LGBTI people or those perceived as such, in the Caribbean States, including Barbados. These practices, generally carried out clandestinely, constitute a serious violation of human rights and cause mental, physical, or sexual harm to those individuals.

Regarding persons deprived of their liberty, the IACHR notes that given the vulnerability of this population, the Minister responsible for the Prison Service assured the public that the health protocol that was developed together with the Ministry of Health and Wellness is amended during each national influenza outbreak, and that the COVID-19 protocol at Dodds Prison (the only penitentiary in the country) was activated in February. Furthermore, the Commission commends the Government for: i) its establishment of a six-month pre-release program that focuses on preparing persons deprived of their liberty for reintegration into their communities; ii) the application of the remission of sentence, which allows sentences to be cut by 25 percent for good behavior and participation in rehabilitation programs; and iii) its plans to allow persons in pretrial detention to access “educational and developmental programs”. Participation in rehabilitation programs for those in pretrial detention is crucial according to a High Court judge due to the backlog of cases. The IACHR values these efforts and reiterates the importance of applying pretrial detention in keeping with the criteria of exceptionality, legality, necessity, and proportionality. The Commission also recalls that Article 5.6 of the American Convention attributes social reintegration as the main purpose of the deprivation of liberty.

ANNUAL REPORT – CHAPTER 4A - 2021

Regarding progress made, the IACHR applauds the democratic process undertaken for the State’s transition to a Republic. In this context, it highlights the election of Sandra Mason as the country’s first president and the announcement that a new constitution is to be drafted. It also notes the decrease in crime and the priority placed by the State on the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to persons deprived of liberty. The Commission also highlights the initiatives adopted to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities and the approval of the National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking.

As regards challenges, the Commission notes its concern regarding the adoption of measures that limit the protection of women victims of violence, the lack of updated information on situations of violence faced by women, the increase in domestic violence cases during the pandemic, and reports of acts of sexual abuse and street harassment against tourists. The IACHR also notes that pretrial detention is enforced in contravention of applicable international standards and that the death penalty remains on the country’s statute books. Similarly, the IACHR expresses concern about the

criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual relations, and about the lack of equal housing and education opportunities for persons with disabilities. The State did not respond to the request for information for the preparation of this chapter.

As regards human rights institutions, the IACHR has noted that Barbados has an Office of the Ombudsman, which is a member of the Caribbean Ombudsman Association, the Commonwealth Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, and the International Ombudsman Institute. The office lost its accreditation as an NHRI in 2001 because it was deemed not to be in compliance with the Paris Principles; it currently operates in the absence of that accreditation. On the other hand, the Commission highlights the training of immigration and security officers of the Defense and Security Division carried out by the Immigration Department, which covered such human rights issues as human trafficking.

With respect to democratic institutionalism, the Commission applauds the democratic process instituted for the State's transition to a Republic. In this regard, it takes particular note of the election of the country's first president and the announcement of the drafting of a new constitution. In its press release of December 10, the IACHR noted that Dame Sandra Mason had officially replaced Queen Elizabeth II as head of state on November 30, and it applauded the formal transition of Barbados to a republican State, eliminating its last colonial link after nearly 400 years of British rule. This was done in accordance with the vote held on October 20, 2021, in which Mason was elected by Parliament as the country's first president, a development that was welcomed by the Commission at the time. The IACHR reiterates that Barbados's transition to a Republic strengthens its democratic institutions and that representative democracy is indispensable for the effective exercise of human rights.

In this context, the Republican Status Transition Advisory Committee was created on May 22, 2021, to strengthen the State's transition to a republic. In particular, among its other functions, the Committee is responsible for: (i) establishing the necessary constitutional requirements for the transition, (ii) determining the roles of different governmental institutions, and (iii) addressing issues related to the rights and freedoms of the inhabitants of Barbados. The Commission also notes that the Committee was tasked with ensuring full public participation throughout the consultation process. In addition, in the context of strengthening the country's democratic institutions, the IACHR welcomed the announcement made by the Prime Minister on August 21 regarding the start of public consultations in January 2022 for the drafting of a new constitution.

Regarding citizen security, the Barbados Police Service reported during a public interview that between January 1 and June 5, 2021, and compared to the corresponding period in 2020, a decrease of 26% in the total number of reported crimes, 34% in serious crime, and 47% in the number of homicides. The Commission also notes that although the police data indicate a reduction in serious crime, fear of crime had reportedly increased due to the publicity given to the commission of this type of crimes. The IACHR notes that to address this perception of crime, the Barbados Police Service raised the visibility of its actions and implemented an outreach strategy to strengthen its community ties.

As regards access to justice, the Commission takes note of the launch of an electronic filing system and a Court Case Management System (CCMS) for a more expeditious administration of justice. Thus, on September 15, 2021, the judiciary launched the APEX Curia electronic filing system, which was created to manage the duration of cases and evaluate the overall performance of the courts. According to the Bar Association, this tool is expected to improve the processing of civil and family cases. The IACHR further notes that the State launched the CCMS project for the management of

case schedules, including cases involving the collection and distribution of child support. According to the State, the success of the CCMS will require additional staff training to improve access to the justice system.

With reference to the human rights of women, the IACHR welcomes the March 2021 launch of the Gender Violence in the Workplace Project, in collaboration with UN-Women, which seeks to increase knowledge on the subject through various training tools. However, the IACHR notes the lack of updated information on situations of violence faced by women. In that regard, it points to the 2020 statistics, which show a 38% increase in domestic violence cases during the pandemic. It also expresses concern about reports of sexual abuse and street harassment against tourists. At the same time, the IACHR regrets the Appeals Court's decision that adds a time limit to the definition of "former spouse" contained in the Domestic Violence Protections Orders Act, restricting access to protection orders by those women victims of violence who are no longer in a relationship with their aggressors

Regarding the rights of persons deprived of liberty, the IACHR is concerned about the denial of bail for certain types of offenses and the spread of COVID-19 among detainees at Dodds Prison, the country's sole penitentiary. The IACHR notes that under the Bail (Amendment) Act, persons charged with serious firearms offenses or homicide cannot apply for bail: instead, those suspected of such offenses must be remanded in custody for 24 months, unless a High Court judge determines that the case against the accused is "weak." According to available information, a judge of the Barbados High Court ruled on May 18 that the Bail (Amendment) Act was unconstitutional as it violates the fundamental rights of the accused, including personal liberty, the presumption of innocence, and the right to a fair trial. In that context, the IACHR calls on the State to implement the necessary measures to reduce the use of preventive custody and to guarantee that it is enforced on an exceptional basis and is constrained by the principles of the presumption of innocence, legality, exceptionality, proportionality, rationality, and necessity. In particular, it is recommended that the State regulate and implement alternative measures, such as bail.

The Commission also notes that according to public information, in September 2021 the State prioritized the vaccination of persons detained at Dodds Prison. The Commission applauds this decision, which is in line with the call made in IACHR Resolution 1/21 on COVID-19 vaccines for States to prioritize the vaccination of persons who are at greater danger of infection due to their special situations of risk.

With respect to the death penalty, the Commission notes that the number of persons sentenced to death remains at 10, as reported by the IACHR in 2020, and that no progress has been made with removing this penalty from the statute book. This is despite the fact that no executions have been carried out since 1984. The IACHR once again urges the State to abolish capital punishment.

As regards the rights of LGBTI persons, the IACHR notes that the proposed "Charter of Barbados" includes protection against discrimination on the grounds of gender and sexual orientation. Nevertheless, the Commission notes with concern that Chapter 154, Section 9, of the Sexual Offences Act, which criminalizes same-sex relations between consenting adults, remains in force, as does the offense of "serious indecency."

With respect to the rights of children and adolescents, the Commission notes that the Ministry of Home Affairs prohibited the use of prolonged solitary confinement as a disciplinary measure at the Government Industrial School (GIS), a public institution responsible for providing alternative care for minors. The Commission notes that the decision was taken by the government at the conclusion of

its investigation into the abuse—reported on social networks—of one of the residents of the Industrial School for Girls, who was stripped naked and placed in solitary confinement. According to information from the government, the incident was the culmination of several years of this practice. In this respect, the IACHR notes that the State began an investigation into the facts and into disciplinary practices at the GIS, imposed an immediate ban on that form of punishment, and appointed a new board of directors for the institution.

Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, the Commission takes note of the initiative for adequate management of public spaces and the adaptation of public transport to facilitate access by persons with disabilities. Similarly, the IACHR has recorded the challenges faced by such persons in accessing adequate housing and the education system, under conditions of equality.

In relation to trafficking in persons, the IACHR notes that the 2021-2023 National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking was approved at the beginning of the year, with the aim of determining the nature and scope of this crime at the national level. It also takes note of the development of e-learning modules by the Attorney General's Office to train immigration agents, customs officials, and the Royal Barbados Police on human trafficking issues.