Pre-Sessions 53

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Conflict Women Ltd.

Violence Against Women

The following recommendations were supported at the previous UPR session by Trinidad & Tobago:

- Prioritize access to shelters, medical services, legal aid and counselling services for women exiting domestic violence situations.

- Strengthen measures to combat violence against women by creating specialized police units to investigate these crimes and mitigate impunity.

- Address the problem of gender-based violence and fully implement the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020, and thereby guarantee that particularly vulnerable migrant women have access to gender-based violence services and are protected from trafficking.

Conflict Women's Proposed Recommendations

Reinstate a Ministry of Gender & Child affairs, with a designated Minister, Permanent Secretary, and adequate budget.

Adequately fund shelters, that include migrant women and victims of trafficking,e nsuringt hat these shelters are financially sustainable with trained staff and measures in place for the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and the provision of realistic strategies for women to transition into stable living environments after leaving.

Increase resources, staffing, GBV training, and partnerships for the TTPS' Special Victims Department and the Community Mediation Services Division adopting a survivor-centric approach, in accordance with the Victims Rights Act of June 2026, ensuring that the well-being, protection, and dignity of survivors is prioritized.

Creating a specialized GBV court to expedite processing, reduce femicides, and reduce the further violence/victimization of survivors of sexual abuse.

Establish a specialized government website for GBV survivors, providing assistance with: protection, psychosocial support, skills training, job placement, legal support, and safe houses, utilising the UN's Catalogue of Services for the Economic Empowerment of Women as a resource.

Developments Since The Last UPR Pt. 2

The **Special Victims Department of the TTPS provides a new umbrella framework** for the operations of the Gender-Based Violence Unit, the Child Protection Unit and the Sexual Offences Unit offering "a **coordinated, victim-centred, and trauma informed response** to the rising national concern surrounding domestic abuse, sexual offences, child abuse, and other related crimes".

Notably, **despite progress made** through this department **with an increase in DV reports** to the TTPS from 2022-2024,**the actual number of charges laid for offenses decreased.** As breach of protection order reports increased by 32%, charges decreased by 37%. As assault by beating reports increased by 32%, charges decreased by 91%. As the total number of DV reports increased by 51%, charges decreased by 65%.

Furthermore, there is an **increasing incidence of femicides in Trinidad and Tobago.** Between 2022-2024, the TTPS saw a 27% increase in homicide reports with "over a dozen women murdered in Trinidad and Tobago from January 1 to April 8, 2026..".

Conflict Women Ltd. is an organization in Trinidad & Tobago which financially empowers survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and provides them with livelihood and legal services. For more information, please contact Asiya Mohammed (Founder and CEO) at asiya@conflictwomen.com.