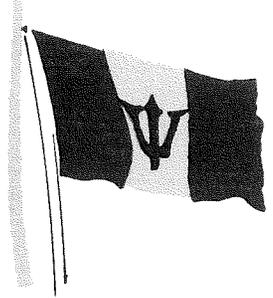


*Permanent Mission
of Barbados to
the United Nations*



STATEMENT BY

**H.E MR. JOSEPH GODDARD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BARBADOS
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT THE

**57TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS
OF WOMEN**

ON THE

**ELIMINATION AND PREVENTION OF ALL FORMS
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

ON

MARCH 11, 2013

**United Nations Headquarters
New York**

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Thank you Madam Chair,

Barbados congratulates you and the other members of the Bureau on your election to steer the work of the 57th session of the Commission.

Barbados maintains its steadfast commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of women, and has identified the empowerment of women as one of its priorities. It is our view that there is no other way to ensure that women and girls are able to fully enjoy their human rights.

The theme of this session, the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, is particularly apt, as violence against women and girls is a scourge existing in every country. Domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, remains a major form of violence suffered by women in Barbados, and the country continues to develop legislative and policy measures to combat this. Barbados is currently revising its Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act to address gaps in legislation to ensure that

all victims are protected. A programme for perpetrators has been implemented in order to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. The executive agency with responsibility for gender affairs is currently developing an operations protocol for domestic violence, to guide the work of the agencies providing services for victims and survivors.

Legislative measures, and their effective implementation, send the clear message that violence against women and girls will not be tolerated, and that there is no place for impunity.

Responses must take place hand in hand with prevention strategies, and concerted action by all stakeholders is needed to create new mind-sets, in order to transform unacceptable social and cultural norms and patterns of conduct.

Civil society continues to be a key actor and major driver in all efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women, and in responding to its consequences. One of the primary activities to highlight and combat violence against women and girls is the annual '16 days of activism against gender-based violence'. This event is

jointly held by government, civil society and other strategic partners and continues to grow every year. Men and boys are being actively engaged as agents of change. For example, government and civil society have implemented a white ribbon campaign to encourage men and boys to speak out against violence, and also to signify that they will not engage in acts of violence against women and girls. Government and NGOs collaborate in the running of a shelter for victims and survivors of violence, and in the provision of psycho-social support.

Madam Chair,

Although Barbados has made significant progress towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment, there still remain a number of challenges and obstacles in the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action, particularly in the wake of the financial and economic crisis which has had profound impacts on the society and economy.

Barbados will therefore continue to call upon the international community to assist the genuine efforts of developing countries to achieve the full implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action, and to create a world where women and girls can live free of violence.

I thank you.