Questionnaire to Governments on Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

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Profile on Grenada:

Three main islands make up the nation state of Grenada: Carriacou and Petite Martinique. Approximately 100,000 people inhabit the nation. It is situated approximately twelve degrees north latitude and sixty-one degrees west longitude is part of the Caribbean Island grouping.

Grenada is also known as the "Isle of Spice" since there are more spices here per square meter than any other place on the planet. It is also the third largest supplier of the world's nutmeg.

The Island was once inhabited by Carib Indians who were conquered by both the French and British pirates who eventually established colonies and became settlers.

In 1961, Grenada became an associated State within the British Commonwealth and in 1974 gained its full independence. Between 1979 to 1983 Grenada was ruled by the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) following a coup. The country was returned to constitutional democracy in October 1983.
Grenada’s economy is agriculturally based but tourism is gradually taking over due to the loss of earnings in the main export markets of nutmeg, cocoa and banana. The people are very hospitable with a rich culture and healthy eco-system. The Islands are excellent destination for holiday seekers, Grenada being the gem of the Caribbean.
**Introduction:**

The Beijing Platform for Action is a powerful instrument for the empowerment of women which embodies all the policies and programmes towards the integration of a gender prospective.

In view of this, the Division of Women’s Affairs act as a pivotal body for the support, encouragement, participation and advancement of women and the girl child.

Although Grenada has not adequately and appropriately implemented the Beijing Platform for Action, the Division of Women’s Affairs persisted on recognising the strategies of the Action and has in-cooperated some critical issues into its annual work-plan since 1995.

Q 1. The Division of Women’s Affairs in 1996 re-establish the Inter-Ministerial Committee. This body comprises of representatives from some Government Ministries and Non-Governmental Organizations having as its main objectives:

1) To develop a national policy statement on women for Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique;

2) To assist the Division of Women’s Affairs in the planning, monitoring and evaluation of its programmes and projects:
3) To develop a core group of persons in the public service who are gender aware and who will be in a position either directly or indirectly to influence policy directions re women and development.

In 1997 two (2) sub-committees were formed within the existing Inter-Ministerial/Non-Governmental Committee (i) to review existing laws and develop new laws for enactment; (ii) to develop a national policy statement on women. A draft document from each committee has been submitted for review.

In 1995 a Programme for Adolescent Mothers (PAM) was established to cater for the educational needs of girls who had to drop out of school because of pregnancy. This was done through the initiative of the Division of Women’s Affairs and GRENSAVE.

This project has been very successful but needs continuous funding for its sustenance.

A major breakthrough was achieved in September 1998, when three (3) teenage mothers were able to return to the regular school system. It created a high level of controversy which led to the drop-out of one (1) student.

In an effort to provide appropriate specialized service to women who are subjected to violence and to assist in the provision of adequate training and counselling to resolve family conflict, the Ministry has built and commissioned the CEDARS Shelter for abused women and their children.
The Ministry is also in the process of finalizing plans to implement a Crisis Hotline Service to offer twenty-four (24) hours counselling service to persons in crisis situations.

Q2. In Grenada’s 1991-1996 Situational Analysis of Children and their Families, page 9 Chapter 1 Section 4 GENDER EQUALITY - Paragraph 1 line 1 reads: There are constitutional provisions which recognize and guarantee equality of sexes. Support statements - The Grenada Constitution/Introduction/Pre-Amible Page 11 Item C and E - page 12 Chapter 1 Section 1 and Section 13.

Q3. When surveys are conducted, the sex desegregated method is often used but the information is not incorporated in the development of policies. However, the Division of Women’s Affairs in collaboration with the Royal Grenada Police Force (RGPF) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) have conducted several programmes and workshops geared towards gender awareness and sensitivity.
WOMEN IN THE ECONOMY INCLUDING POVERTY REDUCTION

In the past women were known to suffer from traditional influences as most times they were forced to remain at home to care for younger siblings, learn the art of sewing, crochet, clean and cook, while the men got the opportunity to go to colleges and become qualified as doctors, lawyers, technicians and so on. This contributed to the further increase of poverty in women.

The table below shows the composition of the labour force. This information reveals that there are approximately twice as many unemployed women as there were men. This information was based on the findings of the 1988 Labour Force Survey by the Ministry of Finance in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO). In the present day instance research has shown that the statistics are very similar.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Details of Labour Force</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labour Force</td>
<td>38,920</td>
<td>20,016</td>
<td>51.4</td>
<td>18,904</td>
<td>48.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed Labour Force</td>
<td>13,955</td>
<td>15,985</td>
<td>56.6</td>
<td>12,437</td>
<td>42.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed Labour Force</td>
<td>10,885</td>
<td>4,031</td>
<td>36.9</td>
<td>6,867</td>
<td>61.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


In present times, more women are becoming educated and are better able to hold good paying jobs, these women are in the minority and are better able to manage their households.

Many women are also involved in starting and managing their own businesses. These opportunities are made possible by the introduction of loan opportunities offered by the Micro-Enterprise Unit. 75% of the loans granted by the Micro-Enterprise Unit are owned by women. National Development Foundation offers training to women in many different skills-training areas (both traditional and non-traditional), small loans are also offered at attractive interest rates.

In Grenada, Domestic Helpers are very marginalized and the work of Domestic Workers is not recognized. As a result of a workshop for Domestic Helpers in Jamaica, there are now plans to mobilize all domestic workers in Grenada to form an organization.
This organization will monitor the work of its members and seek to develop strategies and policies for their benefit. The Ministry of Labour is also in the process of revising and developing new laws with provisions for women workers to include special provisions for Domestic Workers.

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN THE STRUCTURES OF POWER AND DECISION-MAKING

The persistence of prejudices and customs still intimidates women’s active participation in the political arena. All barriers of access to the electoral process and decision making position are removed, this allows for women continued involvement and participation. However, the ratio of men to women being involved in front line politics leaves much to be desired.

In the local House of Parliament or Upper House there is fifteen (15) representatives, three (3) of which are female. Of the twelve (12) members of the lower house there is one (1) female. In the local ministerial structure there are eleven (11) Permanent Secretaries, six (6) of which are females. There are also several female representatives as Chairpersons and Members of National Boards and Committees. (Adoption Board and Public Workers Union) The Chief Personnel Officer of the Public Service Commission and the Director of Audit are also women.

In the 1995 elections, forty-three thousand and sixty-nine (43,069) registered voters took to the polls. Out of that populace, twenty-one thousand four hundred and ninety-four (21,494) a percentage of (49.9 %) were females, therefore females have continued to show support for the political structures of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. (General Electoral Office)

Women also hold top positions in the private sectors. Many local companies have experienced an increase in the number of women elected/nominated/promoted to executive positions. There are approximately two thousand, two-hundred and seventy one (2,271) Senior Officers, managers and legislators in Grenada and women account for 33.3 %. In the school system there are eighty-eight (88) principals, the percentage of female is 51.1 %, this dominance can be noted as the positive influence to the improvement of the educational standards.

To allow for continued participation and influence by women, the Division of Women’s Affairs has implemented many programmes to improve the Personal Growth and Development of women. Over four hundred (400) women benefitted from these programmes. (Many of these Workshops were sponsored by UNICEF).
The efforts of the Division are complimented by the Grenada National Organization of Women. This Non-Governmental Organization is comprised of a core group of persons who are gender aware and are in a position to educate, organize and influence policy direction regarding the development of women throughout the state.

EDUCATION AND SKILLS TRAINING

Increasing emphasis is being placed on the development of Grenada’s human resource. This is to ensure that training and skills are in keeping with the basic job requirements and the widening of avenues for better job placements and employment opportunities.

In Grenada, statistics has shown that an increasing number of girls are enrolled in the primary school system, accounting for 91.6% attaining primary school education, thus indicating a further increase in the accessibility of women exposed to secondary school education. It is also evident that up to the year 1995, the percentage of female enrolled in the secondary school system was 58.6% as opposed to 41.4% males.

(Annual Abstract of Statistics 1996)

Though the economic status of some families is cause for concern, some members of these families are given the opportunity to acquire non-formal education through literacy programmes organized by the Ministry of Education and the Faculty of Arts and Continuing Education of the T.A. Marryshow Community College.

Resulting from a needs assessment survey conducted by the Division of Women’s Affairs, the Ministry has decided that increasing emphasis should be placed on the development of the literacy level of the depressed communities. With this in view the Division of Women’s Affairs is in the process of implementing a Three R’s Literacy Programme to equip one hundred and forty (140) persons with the basic literacy and numeracy skills.

The Division of Women’s Affairs has also undertaken the development and implementation of a number of small visible skills training projects exposing women to a wide range of marketable skills. During the course of the year 1997/1998, women throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique were exposed to many different skills training projects and educational programmes.
SKILLS TRAINING

With the focus on Women's Development through skills training, over five hundred (500) women in groups, organizations, as well as individuals were afforded the opportunity to participate in a variety of small viable income generating projects. These projects were geared towards assisting women who are unemployed and underemployed and to increase the overall independence and self-sufficiency. Projects undertaken included Computer literacy training, Ceramics, Tie Dying, Handicraft Skills, Pig and Chicken Rearing, Home Economics, Candy Products, Baking, Sewing among others.

In the area of Empowerment, four hundred (400) women throughout the Tri-Isle state benefitted from three (3) Personal Growth and Development Workshops. These workshops were structured to equip the participants with the skills that will assist them in the development of positive self-images, a sense of independence and self worth.

A similar two-phase programme was implemented to target approximately Seventy (70) street and dropouts. This was in an effort to reduce juvenile delinquency and foster positive attitudes and values among youth.

These programmes covered the following topics:

- Motivation
- Building Positive Self Concepts
- Interpersonal Relationship
- Anti-drug Change
- Personal Health and Development
- Career Guidance
- Goal Setting / Time Management
- Effective Communication Skills
- Conflict Resolution
- Leadership in Voluntary Organization

A series of educational programmes were also implemented to include fora on different topics pertaining to issues that affect women, and workshops to discuss the severity of incidences such as violence against women, incest, rape and family planning.

The year 1998 saw the introduction of a new form of public awareness developed by the Division. The first issue of a Newsletter "Share" was produced.

The aim of this newsletter is to continue to raise public awareness and increase the sensitivity of the population to information that will help them to better understand and appreciate women’s roles in and contribution to national development.
WOMEN AND HEALTH

Women in Grenada constitute over 49.5% of the total population, with approximately 24% of this number being under the age of twenty (20). The greater amount of live birth by female occurs in the age group (20-24) which is approximately 28.2% (Annual Abstract of Statistics 1996).

The focus of the Health Education Division and the Ministry of Health and Non-Governmental Organization (special mention of the Grenada Planned Parenthood Association) is to promote healthy policies and education of communities. Activities undertaken to achieve Health for All with specific programmes for women include the following:

» Public discussion on Genital and Urinary Tract Infections and diseases
» Cervical and Breast Cancer
» Health services available to women
» Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health
» Family Planning Services in all Health Centres
» Ante-natal, Post-natal, Intra-natal care
» Immunization Services

One of the major concerns in Grenada today is the increasing prevalence of HIV with the greater occurrence recorded in the age group 15-34. (Ministry of Health- Aids Education and Counselling Committee)

The Aids Education and Counselling Committee is in the process of developing and implementing strategies, projects and educational programmes to increase the awareness and sensitivity of the nation as it pertains to HIV and AIDS. Some of the activities planned include Call-in Radio Panel Discussions, T.V. interviews, Youth Fora, Publishing of Newspaper Articles, Public Address Messages, Distribution of Condoms, Pamphlets and Leaflets and Education Talks. Although family planning methods are commonly used, the focus and mission is to ensure that safe sex is exercised by every individual to eliminate the chances of incidences such as unwanted pregnancies and sexual transmitted diseases.
ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The Ministry of Housing, Social Security and Women’s Affairs is fully aware of the cases involving violence against women and child abuse. In the past, due to societal norms and cultural influences, family members, neighbours and even the victims were restricted from speaking out and reporting on matters of domestic situations.

Increasing emphasis is now being placed on the care and protection of women and children. Programmes are now in place to sensitize the nation and as a result of these programmes, increased exposure of cases of all forms of abuse as they affect women and children are being reported.

Though there are no laws to specifically address domestic violence and sexual harassment, these cases are still conducted under the Criminal Code. This being a concern, the Division of Women’s Affairs has set up a sub-committee, (The Legal Reform Committee) out of the Inter-ministerial Committee, to look at the revision of the existing laws and develop new laws for enactment.

Subsequently, one of the major objectives of the Division of Women’s Affairs, over this reporting period, is the establishment of a Shelter for Battered Women. This Shelter will be available to provide temporary shelter and protection for battered women and their children. These women will be taught self-maintaining skills, to ensure an increase in self-esteem, confidence and independence for a positive return to the system. With the assistance of local Government and other overseas funding agencies, preparations are speedily on the way for the opening of the Home in the coming year (1999).

Resulting from the collaborative efforts of the Division of Women’s Affairs and the Grenada National Organization of Women (GNOW), many programmes and fora were executed to sensitize the nation, especially women on different aspects of Domestic Violence, other forms of abuse and gender related issues. The Grenada National Organization of Women has also organized marches to protest violence against women and fora to educate women on the different forms of Violence against women and to strategies to influence the development of specific laws pertaining to violence against women.

A brochure on Domestic Violence was prepared and distributed nationally and regionally by the Division of Women’s Affairs. A newspaper column, “Intouch With Women,” a weekly production, published in “The Grenadian Voice” also highlighted issues on Domestic Violence.
In a National Convention organized by the Division of Women’s Affairs in November 1997, many hundreds of women marched to protest violence against women. This created widespread coverage and was supported not by only women but surprisingly by a number of men.

The Division of Women’s Affairs in conjunction with the Caribbean Women’s Writers & Scholars Association conducted a forum on women in violence. Many personal experiences were shared and the different forms of domestic violence were discussed. Following these discussions, suggestions on strategies to combat the problem of violence against women were made.
Q5. Gender main-streaming is not included in any of the country's national plans, programmes and policies.

The Division of Women's Affairs is the focal point for gender development and gender awareness which is reflected in the corporate plan of Women's Affairs. Also, the staff of Women's Affairs has been exposed to gender and development training.

The Division of Planning recognise the need for trained personnel in the aspect of gender and planning to be included in their team, so that the concept of a gender appraisal/equity could be incorporated in the national plans and policies.

Weaknesses:
(a) Government has not recognised the importance of gender main-streaming;
(b) Inadequate and lack of trained personnel;
(c) National goals, objectives and policies are not clearly defined.

Q6. Government policy: No
Public Perception: Yes

Since 1995, greater awareness has been placed on understanding the vast change in male and female roles and responsibilities.

Increasing emphasis has been placed also on the development of programmes and workshops geared towards deepening the sensitivity of the public to gender concepts.
Media:

Calypsoes with a high level of vulgarity pertaining to women are not aired on the National Radio and Television Stations.

The Division of Women’s Affairs and some NGO’s express concern to media houses as to the lack of sensitivity in what is presented to the nation. Media workers were exposed to gender sensitivity training at a regional workshop in St. Lucia.

Academic Institutions:

Primary Level – There is an aspect on gender incorporated in the Social Studies and Health and a Family Life Education Syllabus.

Secondary Level – The Social Studies Syllabus gives much more details on the subject of gender as per the requirement of the CXC Examination Unit.

Q7. Grenada depends highly on the export of its agricultural products for economic stability. The three (3) main export crops are cocoa, nutmeg, and banana. Although there is a demand for these products the benefits derived are usually dependent on what take place at the international bargaining table.

Since the decline of the banana industry, may women especially single parents have been left under-employed or unemployed. The same can be said about the cocoa and nutmeg industries where approximately two-thirds (2/3’s) of the employees in the nutmeg industry are women.
Because of lack of earnings in these areas and the rapid increase in the construction industry, many women are left unemployed and dependent on the men folk for support. This situation has left women exposed to domestic violence, prostitution, migration and poverty with no policy and other facilities in place to make the necessary adjustments to accommodate them in the non-traditional areas of employment.

Recently an increasing number of women have become engaged in non-traditional pursuits such as building, drafting, brick-laying, masonry and auto-mechanics.
PART TWO: FINANCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL MEASURES

Q2a. It is difficult to ascertain the benefits derived from the national budget by women, since the budget does not cater for the dis-aggregation of gender. However, Six point nine percent (6.9%) of the entire Ministry’s budget has been allocated for programmes for the advancement of women. (The Ministry of Housing, Social Security and Women’s Affairs).

There is no significant increase in the budgetary allocation for programmes of the Division.

Q2b. The Division of Women’s Affairs has been able to obtain an annual increase of approximately thirty-three (33.3%) from financial donors in support of its programmes.

Q2c. As the national Machinery, the Division in collaboration with the Inter-Ministerial Committee and other Non-Governmental Organizations has been utilising and monitoring the financial resources made available by ensuring that programmes and activities are designed and implemented to promote equity and the advancement of women.

Q2a. In 1997, the Division of Women’s Affairs increased its staffing by nineteen (19) members. Four (4) Permanent Co-ordinators and fifteen (15) Temporary Field Co-ordinators who operate under the supervision of the four (4) Permanent Co-ordinators.
The Division is now equipped with twenty-six (26) members of staff. Other
government sectors, e.g. Ministries of Finance, Health and Education have also
arranged certain activities and mechanism to monitor aspects and strategies of the
Platform for Action that pertains to their areas of work.

Q3b. The Government Information Services and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and
Information are structures set up for the dissemination of information nation-
wide, however important information acquired at global conferences is not
sufficiently distributed to the nation.

Q3c. The Inter-Ministerial Committee comprises NGO's who have been very
instrumental in the developmental process of the Division. Other NGO's have also
impacted positively on the nation's women through innovative programmes and
activities giving them the impetus to overcome the many problems that confront them
and creating the necessary changes needed to remove existing structural biases that
impede the advancement of women in our society.
ANSWER SHEET

FOR

PART THREE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Areas of Concern</th>
<th>Example of Successful policies, programmes and projects to implement the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. (Indicate any targets and strategies set and related achievements) (Statistical Data)</th>
<th>Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned</th>
<th>Commitment to further action/new initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Women and Poverty        | 30.8% of all individuals in Grenada were poor (annual expenditure was less than $2,820.22)  
21.5% of all individuals in Grenada were found to be extremely poor or indigent.  
50% of the poor were less than 25 years old.  
40% of the people living below the poverty line in Grenada are below the age of 20 years.  
In respect of household headship, males head 52% of the households in Grenada. Among the poor, the figure was 47%.  
75% of those persons below the poverty line owned the land on which they lived, while 69 of those above the poverty line owned the land. Squatting amount for only 2.3% of all land tenancy. (Poverty Assessment Survey (draft) Report 1999) | Increase in family size, unavailability of skilled and knowledgeable workers at internationally competitive rates; failure of light manufacturing and other tradable sectors to achieve growth; shortage of arable land for many small farmers and limited infrastructure distribution; lack of training and educational upgrading constraining expansion of skills and productivity of work force in all sectors. | In recent years the country has sought to enter light manufacturing, information services and tourism services. At the same time as it reorganizes its agricultural sector.  
New initiatives are as follows:  
Facilitate macro-economic management;  
Sustain employment expansion for lower income groups |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critical Areas of Concern</th>
<th>Examples of obstacles encountered/lessons learned</th>
<th>Commitment to further action/new initiatives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education and Training of Women</td>
<td>There is no availability of equal opportunity to the education system by both males and females. Because of the area of the Guardians economy that provides goods and services, high levels of technical competence and training are not required. In some other sectors there is likely to be a lack of effective demand for some of the educationally certified on the job market.</td>
<td>Government of Grenada is committed to the institutionalization of the efforts to ensure that primary and secondary education is available to all children. It is, therefore, Government of Grenada's intention to restructure the education system. Currently, a basic education reform project is being implemented which will enable it to provide school leavers with the skills necessary to meet future manpower needs and improve quality of life. (Medium term Economic Strategy Paper, 1999-2000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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- There has been an increasing number of girls in the primary school system. In a recent survey, 22.8% were enrolled in the primary school, 16.0% in secondary and 0.7% in University.
- There are some of the programmes developed to sensitization of women:
  - Project Adolescent Mothers (PAM)
  - Head Start and Continuing Education (FACE)
  - Role of training opportunities provided for women through the Division of Women's Affairs and Social Services Assessment Survey (Draft) Report 1998
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Women in Health</strong></th>
<th><strong>Insufficient allocation from budget to implement and monitor proper programmes</strong></th>
<th><strong>The focus of the Ministry of Health, NGO's, National Boards and Committees is to promote healthy policies and education of communities.</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The focus of the Ministry of Health and NGO's is to promote healthy policies and education of communities. Activities undertaken to achieve Health for All with specific programmes for women are: Public Discussion on Genital and Urinary Tract Infection and disease; Cervical and Breast Cancer, Health Services available for Women at every Health Centre; Workshop on Sexual and Reproductive Health; Family Planning Services at every Health Centre; Ante-natal, post-natal and Intra-natal care, Immunisation services, Setting-up of Health Promotion Council and Aids Task Force.</td>
<td>Government of Grenada will establish a statutory body to manage the acute care hospitals in an effort to improve the delivery system. It is expected that the conversion of the health service into a statutory corporation would improve planning, financial management and cost recovery.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Government of Grenada will also put systems in place for planned construction of a new hospital.</strong></td>
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<td>Women in Power and Decision-making</td>
<td>In the local house of Parliament there are fifteen (15) representatives, four (4) are female. There are eleven (11) Permanent Secretaries in the local ministerial structure, four (4) are females. There are several female representatives as Chairpersons and members of National Boards and Committees. In the 1995 general elections 42,869 registered voters voted, 21,494 (50.9%) were female. There are approximately 2,271 Senior Officers, managers and legislators in Grenada, women account for 55.9%. In the school system there are 88 principals (51.1%).</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violence against Women</td>
<td>Increasing emphasis is now being placed on the care and protection of Women and Children. Programmes are now in place to sensitize the nation. Establishment of a Shelter for Abused women and children to provide temporary shelter and protection. Efforts are also on the way for the implementation of a Counselling Hotline. Many funds and programmes were executed to sensitize the nation to the different aspects of violence against women and children. A National Convention was organized to protect violence against women. An Interministerial Committee set up to review existing legislation and policies for women. Re-establishment of the Family Court to deal with cases of domestic incidences. Skills training in small- and micro-enterprise generating projects to increase their job opportunities and independence.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>It must be noted that the bureaucracy and insensitivity of persons holding key positions can be one of the problems experienced that will prohibit the implementation of projects and programmes to assist women affected by violence. Insufficient provision for structures and institutions to support families in crisis situations. Insufficient budgetary allocation and trained staff to address persons in crisis situations.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Establishment of a Shelter for Abused Women and Children, Draft Domestic Violence Bill and a National Policy Statement on Women. Increased collaboration with NGOs for the efficient implementation of programmes.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Increased personal growth and development workshops for women; Policies that will include at least 40% of women in the construction business and as representatives on National Committees and Boards. Exposure in training for women in the areas of politics by Political Parties and tertiary institutions. Re-socialization of girls</td>
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The Girl Child

In 1990 Grenada became a signatory to the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child, since then Grenada has implemented the Convention and reported on the CRC. The National Coalition of the rights of the Child is the umbrella body that advocate and lobby for the Rights of the Child. To date the following are successful experiences:

- Maintenance (Amendment) Act No. 54 of 1991
- Adoption (Amendment) Act No. 17 of 1994
- Establishment of the Grenada Adoption Board November 1994
- Child Protection Act No. 17 of 1994
- Programme for Adolescent Mothers
- Family Life Issues Committee
- Inadequate sensitivity and awareness towards children the girl child with disabilities
- Inadequate structures and mechanisms to successfully prosecute perpetrators of criminal act against the girl child. Absence of the Family Court.
- Cultural myths and norms towards the socialization of the girl and tolerance toward acts of crime against women and girls.
- Lack of financial resources as well as trained resource personnel to adequately meet the basic and emotional needs of abused, neglected and abandoned children.
- Inadequate preparation of young children for re-entry into society upon leaving a rehabilitative institution.
- Young girls who have been given the opportunity to enter the formal education system after first pregnancy have enrolled.
- Inufficient school welfare services that emphasize career guidance and counselling.
- Legislative reform regarding the girl child with disabilities in areas such as education, health, construction of public facilities.
- Clear policies that pertain to the reintroduction of teenagers mothers into the formal school system.
- Formulation and implementation of policies and specialized programmes in all sectors that would recognize the rights of the girl child.
- Standardization of the definition of a Child. (Note that in certain laws a child can be below the age of fourteen (14) years, below the age of eighteen (18) years, or deemed not to have the legal capacity to make certain decisions without parental consent if below the age of twenty-one (21) years.)
- Increasing the initial level of training that teachers receive while emphasizing on-the-job training, research, workshops, short courses, counselling.
| Revisit and review of the Education Curriculum to address the needs of the girl child. |
| Mentorship Programmes for young people. |