UN Women

- UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.
- UN Women Multi-Country Office covers 22 English and Dutch speaking Countries & Territories in the Caribbean.
- MCO physically present in Barbados and a project outpost in Jamaica.
SDGs and Political Participation

- Target 5: Ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
- Target 9: Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
- On average, 22% of ministerial portfolios/cabinet positions in the Anglophone Caribbean are held by women.
- Across the region, women generally do not hold more than 30% of elected positions with the exception of Guyana (which has a legislated quota of one-third of the number of political party nominees must be women) and Trinidad and Tobago.
People here accept the need for women in politics and political leadership

Barbados  Guyana  Jamaica  St Lucia  All countries
Perceptions of Political Participation

Which sex is better suited to politics?

- Men more suited
- Both sexes equally suited
- Women more suited
Perceptions of Political Participation

Preferred justification for women’s involvement in politics

- There are as many women as men and so women should have equal representation
- It seems fair that women and men should both have the right to hold political office and become leaders
- Women should be equally represented because they bring much needed qualities to politics
Perceptions of Political Participation

Female leaders are more likely to...

- Eliminate poverty
- Build schools, hospitals and clinics
- Strengthen moral or religious fabric of the nation
Partnerships

- UN Women supports parliaments through consultations including sensitization sessions e.g. Trinidad and Tobago.

- Parliamentarians can look to UN Women for research and data, legislative reform/drafting and awareness raising.

- UN Women supports countries in achieving the SDGs, the Beijing Platform for Action and their CEDAW Commitments.