

Inter-Parliamentary Meeting for ParlAmericas' Anglophone Membership:

Partnerships to Transform Gender Relations

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Session 1: Comprehensive approaches to address gender inequality

January 24, 2018 - 10:30am-12pm

Title: METRICIZING GENDER FOR STATE INTERVENTION



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Outline of presentation



- The presentation covers three main areas
- **First:** The Complexity of Gender and frameworks which breakdown this complexity to allow for coalition or state actions and interventions.
- **Second:** How inequality has been progressively interpreted and acted upon in targeted issues in the region since the 1980s
- **Third:** Blueprints for the gender policy making process
- Some Insights and conclusions

First: FROM CONCEPTUAL TO INTERPRETATIVE GENDER FRAMEWORKS



- How does one quantify gender
- How to present metrics in gender that are easily grasped by a range of actors
- To break down complexity of gender to allow for analysis and measurement of inequality, two definitions that have been usefully applied
- **Framework one**
- Eudine Barriteau: Political Economy approach: The gender system comprises a network of power relations with two principal dimensions: one ideological, the other material. The material dimensions demonstrate how women and men **gain access to or are allocated** economic and social resources within the state and society. The ideological **sustains** the cultural norms, ideas and beliefs about sexual difference.

FROM CONCEPTUAL TO INTERPRETATIVE GENDER FRAMEWORKS



- **Framework Two:**
- Patricia Mohammed: Gender is the social organization of sexual difference and sexual diversity.
- Every society take its units of human labour, human sex and sexuality and determines the cogs into which each sex should fit in order to ensure the survival of the family and culturally reproduce economy and society.
- We are born with a biological script but what we make of that script is socially and culturally shaped over our lifetime and varies by society. Social and cultural gender are not fixed but fluid entities open to negotiation.

Second: How gender inequality has been progressively interpreted and acted upon in targeted issues in the region since the 1980s



1. Gender based violence and Legislative reform central and predates many other initiatives

- First generation legislation – Sexual offences act – Trinidad and Tobago and ripple effect throughout the Caribbean
- Second Generation – Domestic Violence focus and CARICOM Model legislation

2. Reproductive rights legislation and programme actions

- Abortion on demand – Barbados
- Provisions for Teenage Pregnancy – Jamaica

Second: How gender inequality has been progressively interpreted and acted upon in targeted issues in the region since the 1980s



3. Men and Masculinity

- NGO Men's Organisations – eg Fathers Incorporated/Jamaica
- Publications and Research on Education – Miller, Chevannes, CDB study on male underachievement
- Government commission of young men and crime – Youth at Risk: Trinidad

4. Women and Leadership gaps and Coalition politics across parties

- WID/WAD/GAD Development discourse
- UNDP and Metrics for global inequality status - GDI and GEM
- Quota system for female representation – Guyana 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ percent electoral candidates
- FES/CPDC Caribbean workshops for preparing women for political leadership
- Caribbean Institute for Women in Leadership/Institute for Gender and Development Studies

Third: Blueprints for the gender policy making process



- I draw variously on the experience of drafting four Caribbean national gender policies (Cayman, Dominica, British Virgin Is, Trinidad and Tobago) among other policy analysis and experience regionally and globally
- A sound understanding of region's history of gender relations, tools of gender analysis, the history of feminism and women's struggle and experience in the field of activism and outreach are the best qualifications for crafting a gender policy.

Third: Blueprints for the gender policy making process



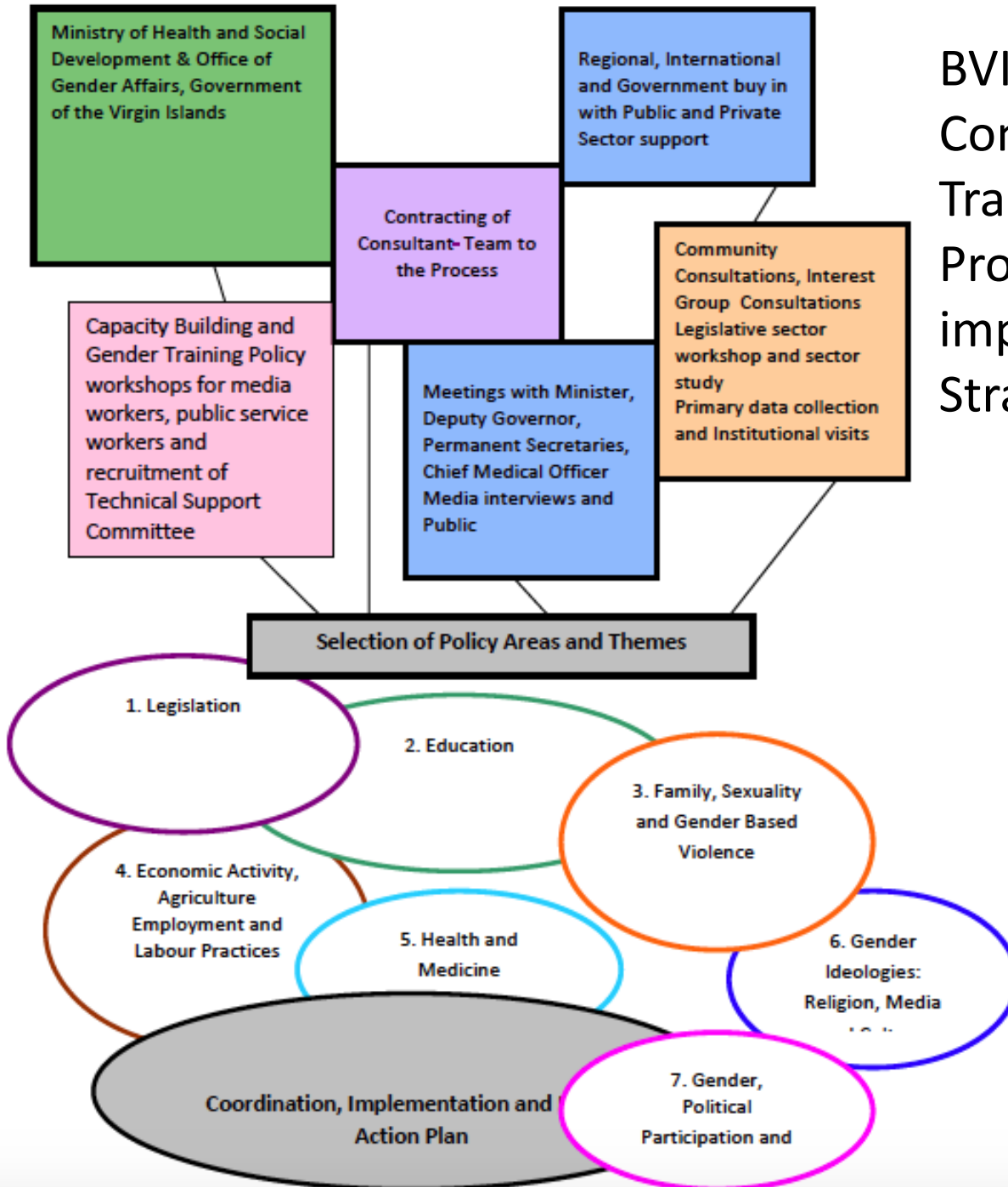
The Enabling Environment – Six prerequisites

1. Signed Conventions and agreements which inform all gender policies
 - Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948,
 - Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1979,
 - Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) 1994
 - Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, 1995
 - Commonwealth Plan of Action for Gender and Development CARICOM Plan of Action to 2005 and its Framework for Mainstreaming Gender.
 - Country's constitution, national development plans, visions and strategies

Third: Blueprints for the gender policy making process

2. UN Funding for country process
3. Identification of National Machinery charged with responsibility
4. Wide ranging actors in consultation process include Ministers, PS, NGO, Civil Society, Religious leaders, Professional experts etc
5. Selection of appropriate Consultant Team
6. Rallying of Parliamentary support

BVI Research, Consultation, Training, Sensitization Process and implementation Strategy



Conclusion and Insights



- Gender policies are important historical documents of gender for a society.
- The commissioning and acceptance of a Policy by Cabinet does not automatically lead to resource allocation for ensuring implementation of policies.
- Can one measure the gains of coalition politics against national policy gains?
- The vital and under-examined role of Parliaments and the employment of Parliamentary Joint Select Committees to address complex area of gender inequality