



The United Nations
sexual and reproductive
health agency

Meeting of Caribbean women parliamentarians

*Catalysing Regional Action on Technology-Facilitated
Gender-Based Violence Against Women in Public Life*

Internet Access:
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Opening remarks

- **Alisha Todd**, Director General, ParlAmericas

Opening remarks

- ▶ **Candice Wallace**, Head of Trinidad and Tobago Liaison Office and Sub-regional Technical Specialist for Gender and GBV, UNFPA Caribbean

Opening remarks

- ▶ H.E. **Michael Callan**, High Commissioner of Canada to Trinidad and Tobago

Session 1:

Understanding TFGBV against women in public life in the Caribbean

- ▶ Moderator: **Sjamira Roseburg** (Saint Martin), Member of Parliament
- ▶ **Candice Wallace**, UNFPA Caribbean



Break



Session 2:

Outlining priority areas for parliamentary engagement to address TFGBV

- ▶ Moderator: The Honourable Senator Dr. **Erecia Hepburn** (The Bahamas)
- ▶ **Sherna Alexander Benjamin**, Member of the Committee of Experts, Follow-up Mechanism of the Convention of Belém do Pará (MESECVI)
- ▶ Senator the Honourable **Brittney Galvez** (Belize), Vice-President for Central America of the Parliamentary Network for Gender Equality



"In an era of instant access, social media has confused people between knowledge, opinion and popularity; whatever is popular is assumed to be true." — Unknown

Session

The Inter-American Model Law as a Parliamentary Tool

Practical Pathways for Caribbean Action on TFGBV

Presented by

Sherna Alexander Benjamin, Organizational Health Strategist and Futurist

Former Vice-President, MESECVI Committee of Experts

January 21st,

2026



Road map for Session



**Five Practical
Recommendatio
ns for Caribbean
Leadership**



**The Model Law -
More Than
Legislation**



**Critical Areas for
Parliamentary
Action**



**The Caribbean
Leadership
Moment**

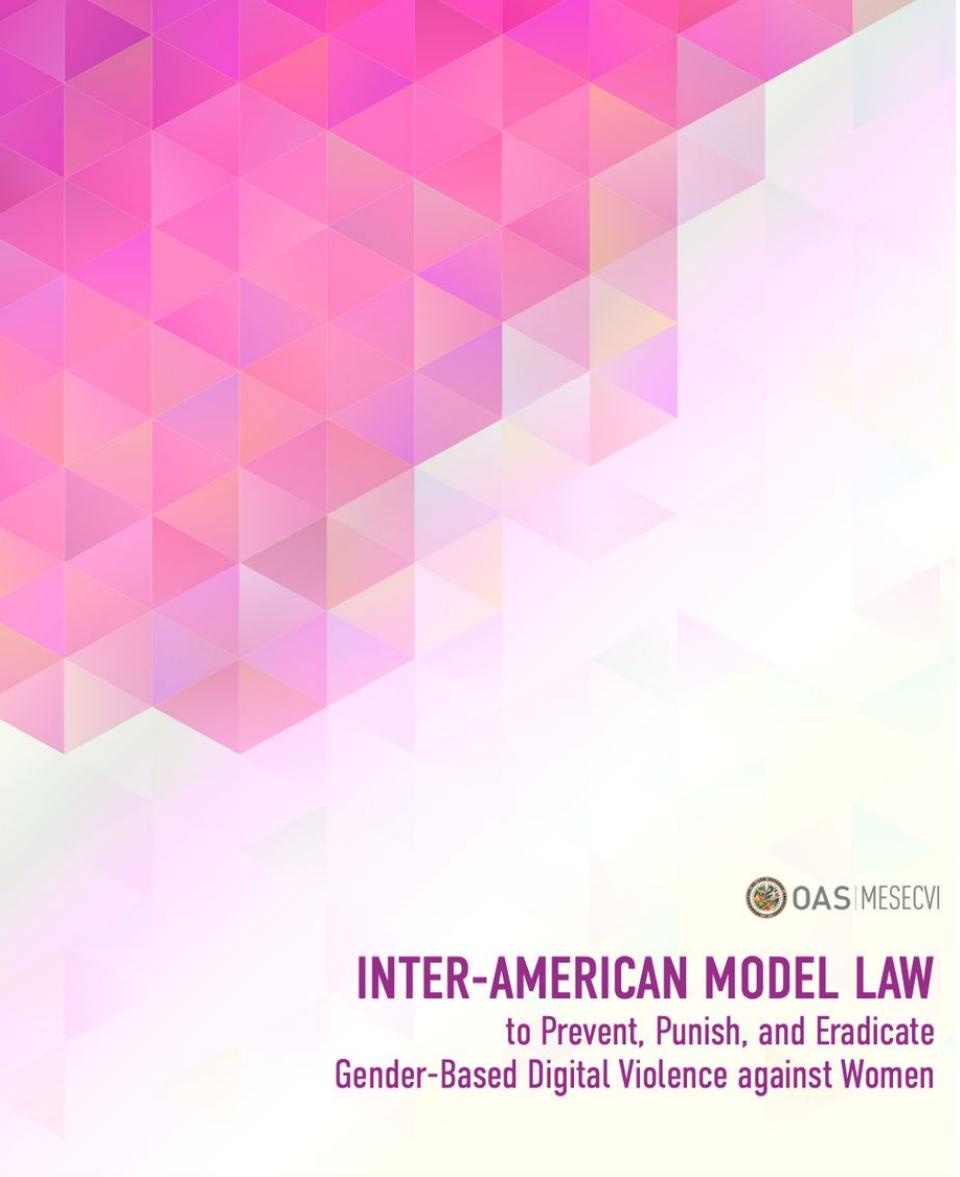


**Regional Good
Practices -
What's Working**



**Call to Action -
What You Can
Do This Week**

The Model Law - More Than Legislation



5 Ways to Use This Framework NOW (Before Drafting Laws):

- **Budget Oversight:** Scrutinize allocations for digital forensics, victim services, and specialized units
- **Parliamentary Questions:** Hold governments accountable on TFGBV response, training, and prosecution rates
- **Committee Investigations:** Convene hearings with survivors, tech companies, law enforcement, and civil society
- **International Cooperation:** Learn from regional examples, build Caribbean solidarity through ParlAmericas
- **Constituency Awareness:** Launch campaigns in schools, communities, and women's organizations



INTER-AMERICAN MODEL LAW
to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate
Gender-Based Digital Violence against Women

Critical Areas for Parliamentary Action

Three Priority Focus Areas from the Model Law

Platform
Accountability
(Articles 18-33)

Algorithmic
Accountability
(Article 32)

Intersectional
Protection
(Article 9)

5 Chapters and 68 Articles

Chapter I: Definition and Scope of Application

Chapter II: Duties of the State

Chapter III: The Regulation of Internet Intermediaries for the Purposes of this Law

Chapter IV: Judicial Proceedings

Chapter V: General Provisions

One additional article labeled "Article 25 bis" (which provides functions for the Internal Evaluation Team mentioned in Article 25). So technically, there are 69 distinct articles when counting Article 25 bis separately.

Regional Good Practices - What's Working: Proven Strategies from the Americas & Beyond

Ley Olimpia Movement (Mexico, 19+ states, crossing borders)	Survivor-led, multi-state adoption, dual approach (law + culture)	Build coalitions across parties; start local where possible; center survivor voices
Mauritius Cybersecurity Act (2021)	Young MP transformed trauma into legislative change	Swift action IS possible; support young women MPs as champions
ALEXINNA AI Literacy & Digital Literacy Innovation Hub (Caribbean)	Women engage practically to improve AI/digital skills, submit data to train AI models, develop AI avatars/agents, learn responsible AI governance architecture	Empower women to understand and shape AI systems; build digital capacity; create ethical frameworks for AI twins/avatars; use AI for social change
Pacific Women in Power Forum (UNDP, 14 countries)	Cross-border peer support, digital safety training for MPs	Strengthen ParlAmericas network; create regional TFGBV-specific support system
Trinidad & Tobago Community Approach (UNFPA partnership)	Art, culture, youth engagement for prevention	Use creative methods; build grassroots demand for policy change
UNFPA-ECLAC Regional Study (22 Caribbean territories)	Evidence-building on TFGBV against women MPs/journalists	Participate; use findings to justify budgets and priorities

Five Practical Recommendations for Caribbean Leadership



-  Caribbean Parliamentary Digital Safety Protocol
-  Digital Dignity Initiative in Schools
-  Parliamentary Safe Spaces Program

-  Digital Safety Score Cards
-  Caribbean Tech Accountability Summit

The Caribbean Leadership Moment



Global Context:

- International observers track women's protection as a key development indicator
- Early adopters set standards and influence global conversations
- Caribbean can lead, not follow

What's at Stake?

- Safety and dignity of Caribbean women and girls in digital spaces
- Democratic participation and freedom of expression
- Economic opportunities (the digital economy requires safe digital spaces)
- Regional reputation and global leadership

Our Regional Opportunity:

- Model Law approved December 2025—we're at the starting line WITH everyone else
- Small island states can move faster than large bureaucracies
- ParlAmericas network provides a built-in cooperation infrastructure
- Our diverse experiences enrich global learning

What You Can Do This Week

Immediate Next Steps for Parliamentarians: Rain drop Steps

In Parliament



In Your Constituency



In Regional Networks



In Your Leadership

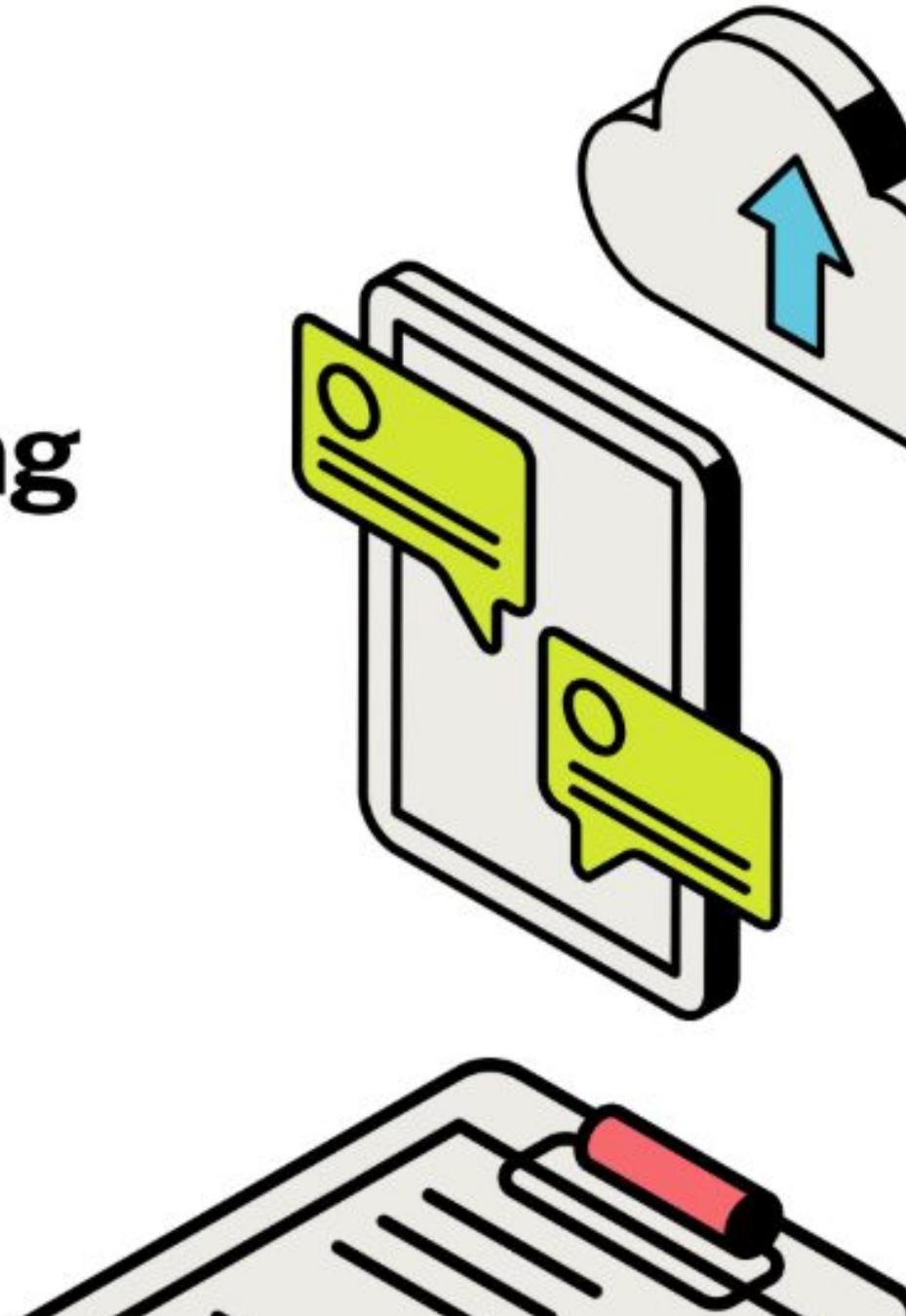




Parliamentarians' Contributions to Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence (TFGBV).

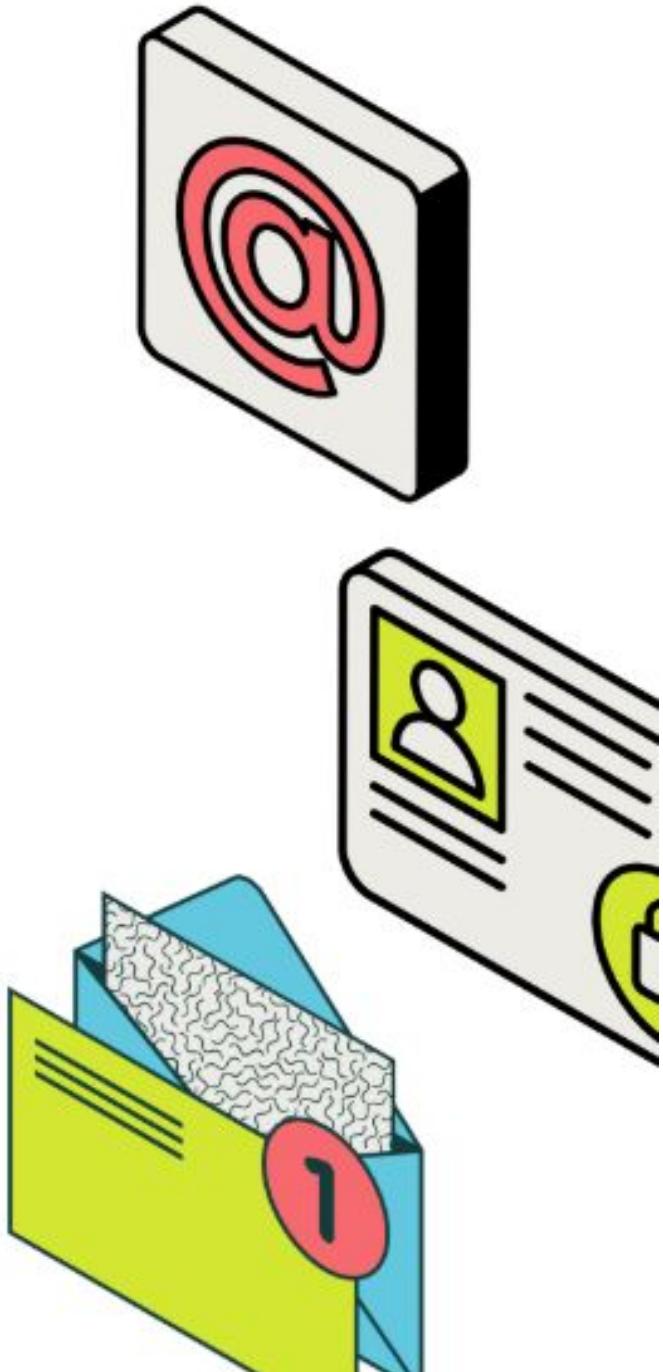
Date: January 21st, 2026

Prepared by: Senator Brittney Galvez (Belize)



Introduction

- 58% of young women and girls globally have experienced online harassment on social media (UNESCO, 2023).
- 62.1% of persons in the Caribbean reported having experienced themselves or knowing someone who has experienced TFGBV (UNESCO, 2025).
- This form of violence is often directed at women who challenge gender norms and patriarchal power structures (UN Women, 2024).
- TFGBV is designed to silence, intimidate, and push women out of leadership.



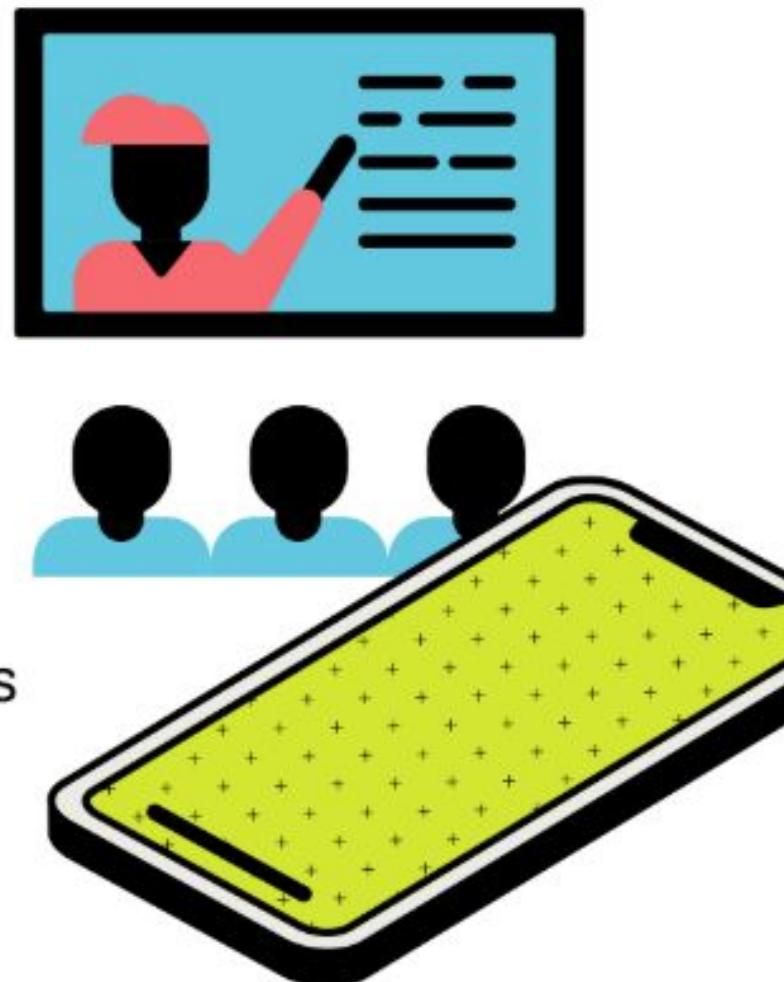
Why Education and Awareness Are Critical:

- TFGBV is often normalised and dismissed as “online noise”.
- Through education and awareness-raising, we can help to:
 - Increase understanding of TFGBV.
 - Empower individuals with skills to critically and safely engage online.
 - Promotes visibility of the issue.
 - Challenges the social norms, culture, and attitudes that allow it to persist.
 - Foster safety and solidarity.



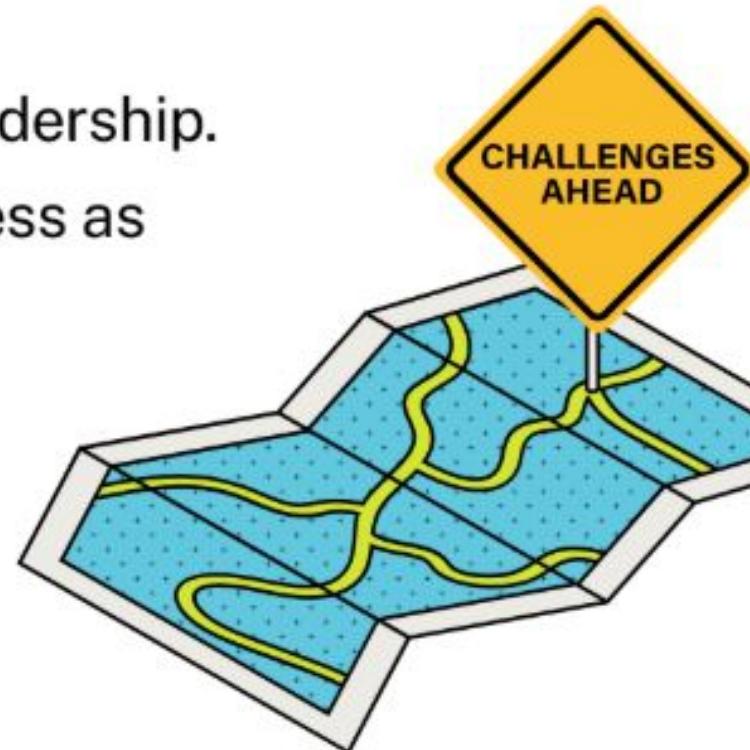
The Role of Parliamentarians in Public Education on TFGBV

- Shift public perception.
- Model respectful digital behaviour.
- Encourage digital safety among supporters and followers online.
- Address TFGBV through Parliamentary means.
- Collaborate with key partners to support continuous public education.
- Use our collective voices to amplify the message.



Challenges Faced by Parliamentarians in Addressing TFGBV

- Women in public life are profoundly targeted by TFGBV.
- Risk of retaliation or escalation of abuse.
- Political backlash or accusations of being unfit for leadership.
- Digital violence is not treated with the same seriousness as other forms of violence.
- Emotional toll, including psychological distress, anxiety, and fear.
- Laws have not caught up to the growing risks.



Strategies to Respond to These Challenges



- Document abusive content
- Report harmful behaviour
- Strengthen digital safety practices

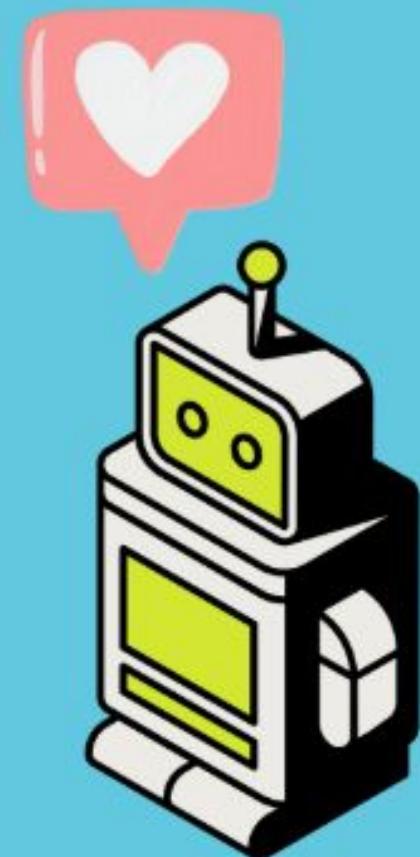


- Enhance cross-party solidarity
- Strengthen institutional safeguards



- Capacity Building
- Strengthening policies and legislation to ensure digital safety

Thank you.





Lunch
12:30 – 13:45



Working session:

Developing tools to support action by women leaders



Plenary discussion on working session outputs

Evaluations



Closing