



Spotlight Initiative
To eliminate violence
against women and girls

An initiative of the United Nations funded by the European Union



Call for proposals

Empowering Voices, Ending Gender-Based Violence Bridgetown, Barbados.

November 6-8, 2023

Introduction

The **Knowledge Fair “Empowering Voices, Ending Gender-Based Violence”** led by UNDP in the framework of the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme is an innovative and culturally vibrant gathering that aims to tackle Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the Caribbean. Set in Bridgetown, Barbados, from November 6th to 8th, 2023, this knowledge fair brings together a diverse community of stakeholders committed to preventing and responding to GBV and Family Violence (FV). The fair, organized under the auspices of the Spotlight Initiative Caribbean Regional Programme, seeks to foster cooperation, partnerships, and knowledge exchange among governments, civil society, academia, and grassroots communities. Through dynamic discussions, artistic expressions, and interactive sessions, the knowledge fair provides a platform for showcasing successful initiatives, celebrating actors, and promoting cultural and behavioral change. Embracing the concept of “waving”, the fair will pave the way for transformative and sustainable progress towards a Caribbean free from GBV and FV and rooted in gender equality.

The knowledge fair seeks to celebrate the efforts of diverse actors who have contributed to addressing GBV and FV in the Caribbean. The fair's themes and criteria, collaboratively developed with Recipient UN Organizations (RUNOs) prioritize innovation, coordination, intersectionality, cultural relevance, sustainability and replicability. A "Coalition of the Willing," comprising UN Regional Agencies, UN Country Offices, the Spotlight Regional Programme, The Civil Society Regional Reference Group and regional allies: RUNOs, Civil Society Reference Groups, Regional institutions and CSOs working on GBV, Implementing Partners, Academia working on Gender Studies, among others, will curate the program, ensuring a diverse and impactful selection of proposals. The knowledge fair will provide a transformative space for sharing knowledge, fostering networks, and amplifying collective efforts to ending GBV and FV and empower Caribbean voices for lasting change.

The **Knowledge Fair “Empowering Voices, Ending Gender-Based Violence”** is an invitational event aimed at curating a compelling and diverse program of experiences. As we prepare to gather the most impactful initiatives, we are reaching out to invite Caribbean experiences on GBV prevention. The fair seeks

initiatives and context-specific approaches that have demonstrated promise in addressing GBV and FV. Additionally, the Spotlight Regional Programme will identify regional experiences on ending GBV and FV that offer valuable insights and successful interventions. The fair will provide a platform to showcase these carefully selected experiences, promote cross-learning, and amplify the impact of effective strategies.

Themes and types of experiences

The themes for the knowledge fair will be curated by an **Advisory Group**, ensuring that the fair's content reflects the most pressing issues and cutting-edge developments in GBV and FV prevention. The selected themes will guide the focus of the fair and align with the four key pillars¹ of the Spotlight Regional Programme, emphasizing its commitment to addressing GBV root causes.

The submitted experiences should comply the following characteristics:

- ∄ Experiences that are ongoing or launched within the last five years.
- ∄ Framed within at least one of the following areas:
 - ∄ **Experiences in Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls and Gender-Based Violence.** It involves initiatives aimed at proactively stopping acts of violence, encompassing educational programs, cultural interventions, the transformation of societal norms, youth engagement, and collaboration with the private sector.
 - ∄ **Experiences in Responding to Violence Against Women and Girls and Gender-Based Violence.** It pertains to actions and programs addressing the aftermath of violence, including the provision of shelter, institutional capacity strengthening, inter-agency coordination, the delivery of essential services, responses by police, justice, healthcare systems, hotlines, digital support mechanisms, and psycho-emotional assistance for victims reporting incidents.
 - ∄ **Experiences in Repairing the Harm of Violence Against Women and Girls and Gender-Based Violence.** It involves strategies to restore the well-being of survivors, which may include economic and socio-emotional recovery, support for the children of femicide victims, and improvements in the responsiveness of the justice system.

¹ The Regional Programme focuses on four out of the six global pillars: Pillar 2. working to ensure **institutions** are gender responsive; Pillar 3. establishing comprehensive and evidence-based **prevention** programmes aimed at changing social norms and gender stereotypes; Pillar 5. promoting the collection and use of quality, comparable **data** to inform public policy, advocacy, policymaking, and delivery of complimentary services to improve prevention; and Pillar 6. supporting autonomous **women's movements** to influence and monitor policy and to ensure accountability.

- ☒ **Experiences in Legislation, Policies, and Institutional Strengthening for Comprehensive Responses to Violence Against Women and Girls and Gender-Based Violence.** It encompasses efforts to enhance legal frameworks, policies, and the capabilities of organizations and institutions, aiming to create an environment conducive to addressing violence against women and girls effectively.
- ☒ **Data and Innovation in Comprehensive Responses to Violence Against Women and Girls and Gender-Based Violence.** It focuses on innovative approaches and data-driven solutions for tackling violence against women and girls, including data collection, prevalence surveys, prevention strategies, comprehensive response systems, and the incorporation of digital technologies.

Criteria for Selection

The experiences will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

Innovation: Demonstrating novel and creative approaches in GBV prevention, mitigation, or response that challenge traditional methods and offer potential for transformative change.

Coordination Exhibiting effective collaboration and coordination among multiple stakeholders, organizations, and sectors to address GBV comprehensively and holistically.

Intersectionality Recognizing and addressing the intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, considering diverse identities and experiences, and ensuring inclusivity in GBV prevention strategies.

Cultural Relevance Tailoring approaches that can be adopted to the unique cultural contexts and norms of the Caribbean, ensuring that interventions are locally appropriate and resonate with affected communities.

Replicability Providing evidence of successful outcomes and transferable practices that can be adapted and implemented in different settings to scale up GBV prevention efforts.

Sustainability Assessing the potential for long-term continuation and impact of the proposed experience, taking into account factors such as resource availability, community engagement, and scalability.

How to Participate

The Call for Proposals is addressed to a select group of stakeholders, including governments, academic institutions, regional institutions/mechanisms, and civil society organizations. We invite those with successful and/or promising experiences in GBV and FV prevention, mitigation, or response to participate by submitting their initiatives for consideration. The attached form must be completed according to the

guidelines defined in this call and sent to the emails below prior to **11:59 Panama Time, on September 19, 2023**.

Benefits of Participation

Up to 20 proposals will be selected, and 1 to 2 representatives from these experiences will receive the following awards:

- 1. Funded travel and accommodation to attend the Knowledge Fair: Empowering Voices, Ending GBV in Bridgetown, Barbados (November 6-8, 2023).**
- 2. A privileged physical space and dedicated sessions during the fair to present achievements and lessons learned.**
- 3. Opportunities for exchange and agreements with other countries and organizations in the region.**
- 4. Access to networking opportunities with other participants working in the field of GBV.**

By participating in the call for proposals, you will have the opportunity to showcase your impactful work, gain visibility, and contribute to regional efforts to combat GBV and FV.

We look forward to your contributions and active engagement in shaping a knowledge fair that fosters collaboration, celebrates local successes, and advances our collective journey toward a Caribbean free from GBV.

For submissions, please apply using the form: <https://forms.office.com/e/WWeM1jZfUr>

For inquiries or any other assistance, please contact UNDP at sebastian.essayag@undp.org, ana.stefanovic@undp.org and davoreen.gaynor@undp.org
