



GENERATION EQUALITY **IMPACT STORY**



## PROMOTING GENDER-SENSITIVE ADJUDICATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

**FEMINIST MOVEMENTS AND LEADERSHIP** is the focus of one of the six Generation Equality Action Coalitions, the innovative, multi-stakeholder initiative convened by UN Women that is mobilizing governments, civil society, international organizations and the private sector to deliver tangible impact on gender equality and women and girls' human rights by 2026. Ahead of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris (30 June - 2 July 2021), when the Action Coalitions' plans will be officially launched, this special edition of the [Impact Stories series](#) will include six briefs focused on each of the Action Coalitions' themes.

"What keeps me going? The many women and girls who still need help," says Justice Lisa Ramsumair-Hinds. "I am a part of the solution from within [the justice system]."

Justice Ramsumair-Hinds, a judge in Trinidad and Tobago, is a champion for gender-sensitive adjudication, raising awareness and sharing her knowledge around the world. "I grew increasingly frustrated by the culture of adjournments," recalls Justice Ramsumair-Hinds of her return to her home country of Trinidad and Tobago after beginning her career as a prosecutor in Jamaica. "Time, effort and resources were wasted at the expense of liberties, with little emphasis on social justice."

**Photo above:** Since 2015, Justice Lisa Ramsumair-Hinds has been working with judicial colleagues, UN Women and other partners to enhance gender-sensitive adjudication in the Caribbean.



The **Generation Equality Forum** is a milestone global event to advance action and investment for gender equality convened by UN Women and co-chaired by the governments of France and Mexico in partnership with civil society and youth.

The Forum kicked off in [Mexico City from 29 to 31 March 2021](#), and will culminate in [Paris from 30 June to 2 July 2021](#), when heads of State and Government, international organizations, civil society, the private sector and youth organizations will gather to launch the **Global Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality**. Structured around **six Action Coalitions**, the plan will include concrete commitments and intergenerational, multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance gender equality over the next five years.



**Register** for the Paris Forum at: <https://forumgenerationegalite.fr>

**Learn more** about the **Action Coalitions** and its leaders at: <https://forum.generationequality.org/>

**#ActForEqual!** for **#GenerationEquality**

In 2007, she was sworn in as a magistrate and, after a decade in the summary courts, became a judge in 2017. She is inspired to change the system from within noting that: “Women and girls have out-performed their male counterparts at every level of education [in Trinidad and Tobago]. At present, 66 per cent of our magistrates and 77 per cent of our High Court judges are women. Yet, for all the gains in academic circles and judicial appointments, society still labours under toxic manifestations of patriarchy.”

For example, even with a progressive Domestic Violence Act, Trinidad and Tobago has very high intimate partner violence prevalence rates, with 44 per cent of women in Trinidad and Tobago experiencing abuse in their lifetimes. “Until we demand a genuine end to gender-based violence, we will keep advising girls to avoid ‘allowing’ themselves to become victims of rape, instead of making their attackers accountable,” says Justice Ramsumair-Hinds.

Since 2015, Justice Ramsumair-Hinds has been actively involved in a collaboration between UN Women and the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) under the Caribbean Court of Justice’s (CCJ) Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening (JURIST) project, funded by the Government of Canada. The project focuses on institutional capacity-building and judicial accountability for the eradication of gender-based violence through the CCJ.

“One major accomplishment was the development of a draft ‘Gender Protocol for Judicial Officers’ which was handed over to regional chief justices,” says Justice Ramsumair-Hinds. The protocol provides guided questions for judicial officers to help them recognize and eliminate gender biases and to strive for gender equality in the adjudication process. “Since then, three out of four regional judiciaries have launched their individualized Gender Protocols.”

Justice Ramsumair-Hinds also participated in a UN Women/CAJO regional train-the-trainer programme on gender-sensitive adjudication and has since been facilitating sessions in Trinidad and Tobago and in other parts of the Caribbean. The training strengthens the ability of judicial officers to identify gendered impediments to access to justice. For

## PARTNERS FOR CHANGE

The JURIST project is a multi-year (2014-2023) regional Caribbean judicial reform initiative implemented by the **Caribbean Court of Justice** with funding from the **Government of Canada**. **UN Women** supported in the development of gender-responsive court policies, including gender protocols for the judiciary, gender-sensitive training for judicial officers and public education programmes. The project phase in **Trinidad and Tobago** took place from 2016-2019 in partnership with the **Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers** and the **Trinidad and Tobago Judicial Education Institute**. Currently, the project is being implemented in **Antigua and Barbuda** and **Guyana**.

example, they teach judicial officers how to ensure that the cross-examination of a victim of sexual violence does not re-victimize the victim, and when adjudicating a domestic violence case, selecting a date of adjournment when the woman survivor can attend, since women often have limited sources of income and cannot easily sacrifice a day’s wages or find childcare arrangements.

In addition, through UN Women, Justice Ramsumair-Hinds has partnered with judicial officers and other stakeholders in Nigeria to support the development of their own gender protocols.

“The Gender protocols developed in Trinidad and Tobago, Belize and Guyana through the CCJ Jurist Project were a critical step,” said Tonni Brodber, UN Women Representative of the Caribbean Multi-Country Office. “It meant collaborating with judges to develop tools by them and for them to best address issues of gender inequality and gender-based violence while highlighting and providing better practices to address the ways in which gender biases and inequalities obstruct justice.”

As **Action Coalitions leaders**, **Canada, Malawi, The Netherlands, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Women Political Leaders (WPL), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Open Society Foundations (OSF), CREA, EuroCentralAsian Lesbian\* Community, Gender Links, International Women’s Development Agency, Asamblea Nacional Política de Mujeres Indígenas (ANPMI), Women Enabled International, Marijan, Young Feminist Europe and Gucci** will commit to ensure that feminist leaders, movements and organizations are fully resourced and supported.