

# Gender-based Violence in the Eastern Caribbean:

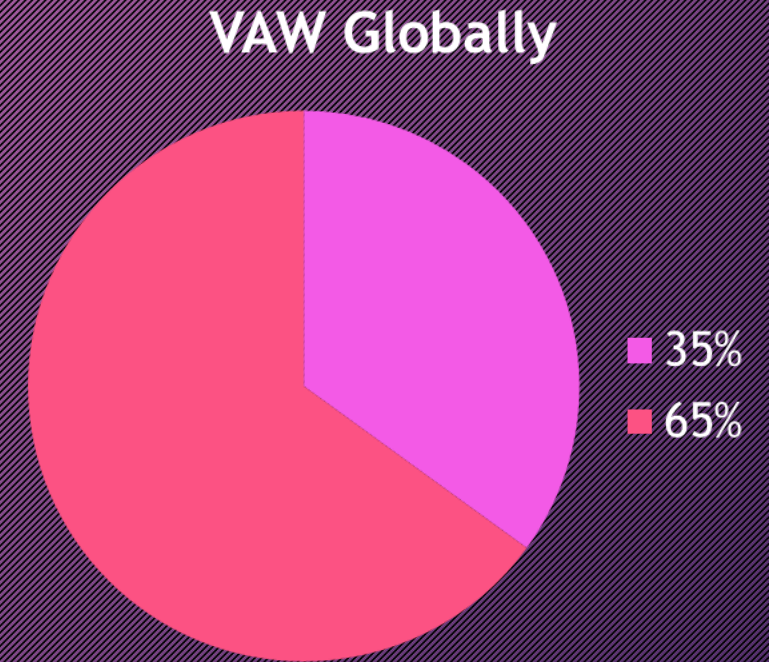
## Culture and Contradictions

By Melissa Boissiere



# Global Phenomenon

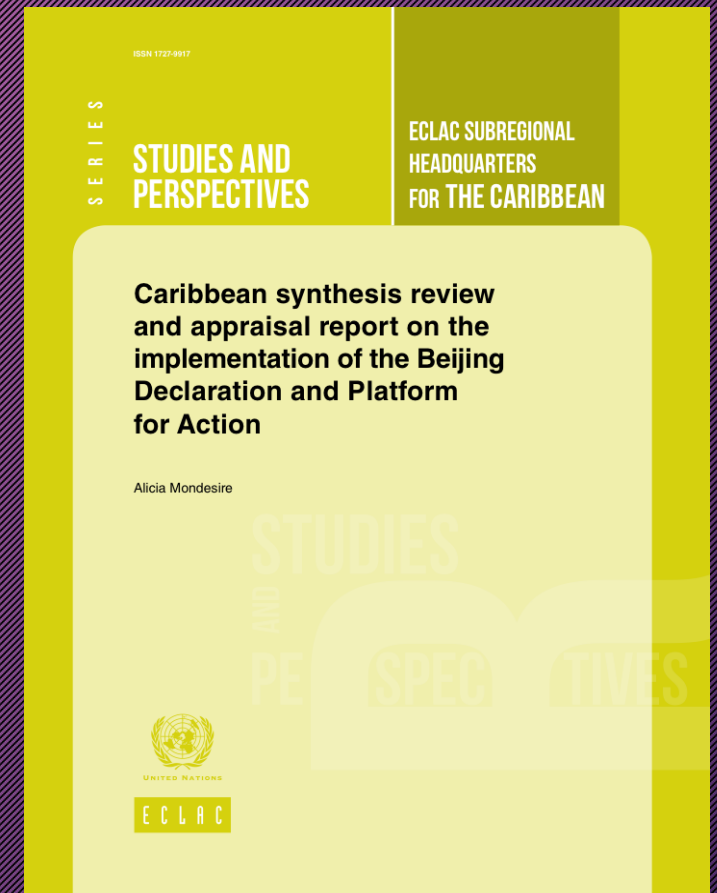
- 35% of women worldwide
  - Experience physical and/or sexual violence in their lifetime
- In most cases violence is perpetrated by male intimate partners
- Up to 70% of women experience violence from an intimate partner





# The Caribbean

- Domestic Violence affects 1 in 3 women
- 3 Caribbean countries in top 10 globally in which rape cases were reported
- Women in the Caribbean experience some of the highest levels of violence worldwide
- Incidents of violence were said to be increasing





# 1993 UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women

- Article 1
  - The term ‘violence against women’ means “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.



# Belem do Para Convention

## Definition of violence against women:

Any conduct based on gender, which causes death or physical injury, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, whether in the public or private sphere

- Adopted in 1994, Belem do Para, Brazil
  - Entered into force in 1995



# CEDAW (Committee)

## General Comment 19

- Considers that the definition of discrimination against women in Article 1 of the CEDAW (Convention) includes gender-based violence described as “violence which is directed against a women because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately”



IV. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED BY  
THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF  
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

*Eleventh session (1992)*<sup>77</sup>

*General recommendation No. 19: Violence against women*

**Background**

1. Gender-based violence is a form of discrimination that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedoms on a basis of equality with men.
2. In 1989, the Committee recommended that States should include in their reports information on violence and on measures introduced to deal with it (General recommendation 12, Eighth session).
3. At its tenth session in 1990, it was decided to allocate part of the eleventh session to a discussion and study on article 1 and other articles of the Convention relating to violence towards women and the sexual harassment and exploitation of women. That subject was chosen in anticipation of the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, convened by the General Assembly by its resolution 45/133 of 18 December 1990.
4. The Committee concluded that not all the reports of States parties adequately reflected the close connection between discrimination against women, gender-based violence, and violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The full implementation of the Convention required States to take positive measures to eliminate all forms of violence against women.
5. The Committee suggested to States parties that in reviewing their laws and policies, and in reporting under the Convention, they should have regard to the following comments of the Committee concerning gender-based violence.

**General comments**

6. The Convention in article 1 defines discrimination against women. The definition of discrimination includes gender-based violence, that is, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. Gender-based violence may breach specific provisions of the Convention, regardless of whether these provisions expressly mention violence.
7. Gender-based violence, which impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms under general international law or under human rights conventions, is discrimination within the meaning of article 1 of the Convention. These rights and freedoms include:

<sup>77</sup> Continued in document A/47/36.



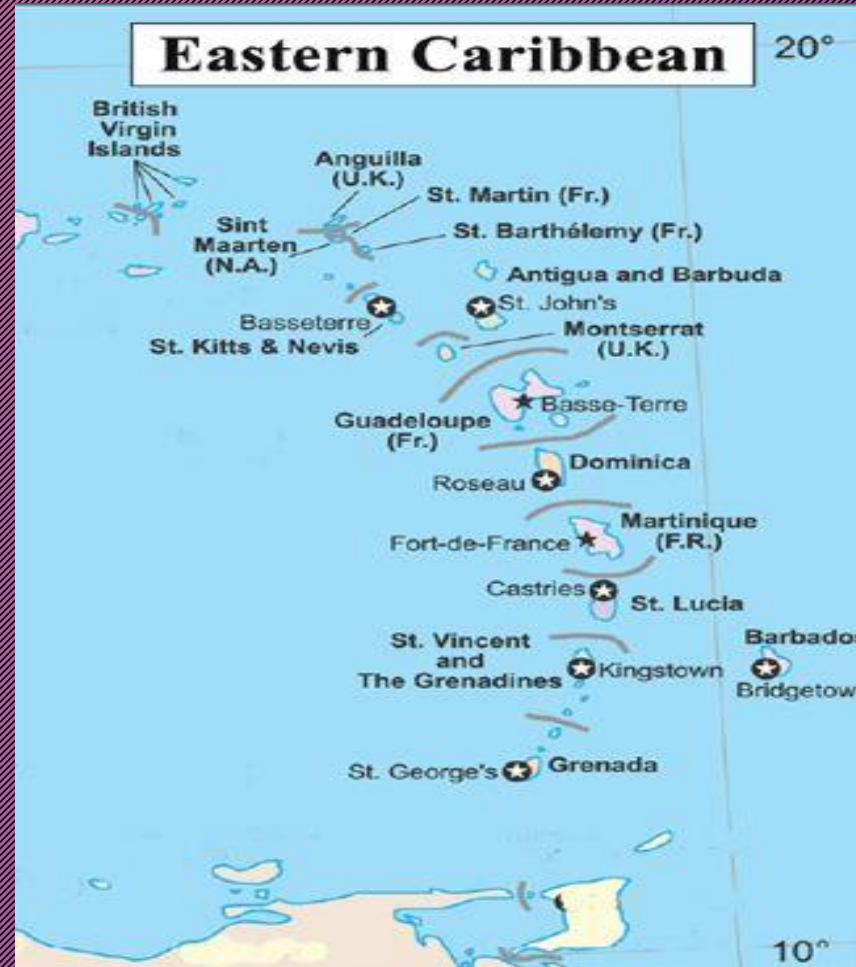
# CEDAW GENERAL COMMENT 35 (2017)

- Violence against Women:
  - rooted in gender-related factors such as:
    - the ideology of men's entitlement and privilege over women
    - social norms regarding masculinity
    - the need to assert male control or power, enforce gender roles, or prevent, discourage or punish what is considered to be unacceptable female behavior.
  - These factors also contribute to the explicit or implicit social acceptance of gender-based violence against women, often still considered a private matter, and to the widespread impunity for it.

(Paragraph 19)



# Organization of Eastern Caribbean States





# OECS STATES

## ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA



## DOMINICA



## GRENADA





# OECS STATES

ST. KITTS AND  
NEVIS



ST. LUCIA



ST. VINCENT  
AND THE  
GRENADINES





# INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENTS



Organization of  
American States

187 countries have ratified CEDAW  
7 have not

Iran

Sudan

and The United States

South  
Sudan

Somalia

2 small Pacific Islands  
( Palau and Tonga)





# States Parties to Conventions

Country	CEDAW Convention (UN) (Year of ratification or accession)	Belem do Para Convention (OAS)  (Year of ratification or accession)
Antigua and Barbuda	1989	1998
Dominica	1980	1995
Grenada	1980	2000
St. Kitts and Nevis	1985	1995
St. Lucia	1982	1995
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	1981	1996



# Women's Rights - Progress



EDUCATION

EMPLOYMENT

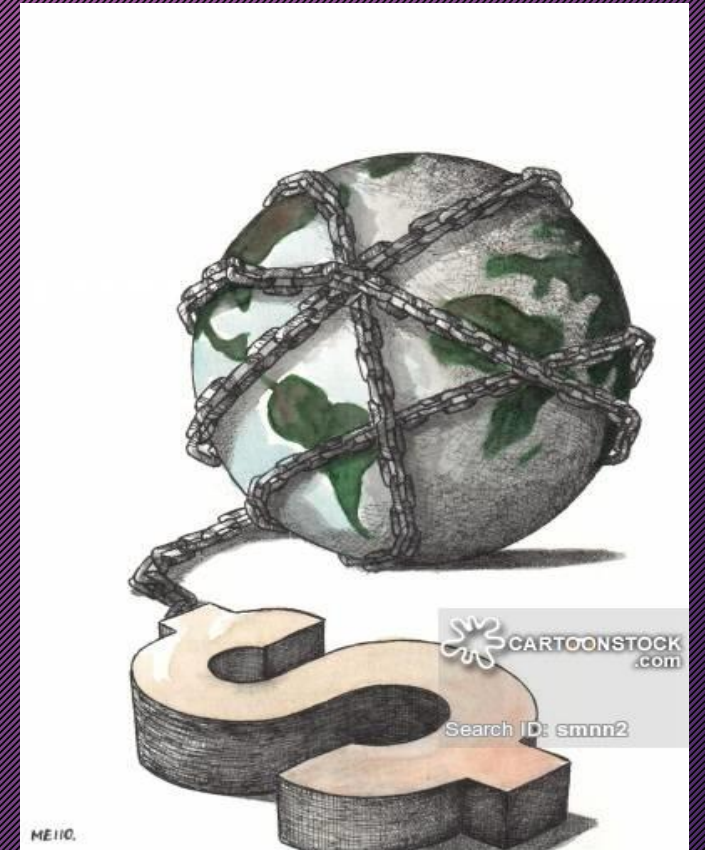


LEADERSHIP  
AND DECISION-  
MAKING





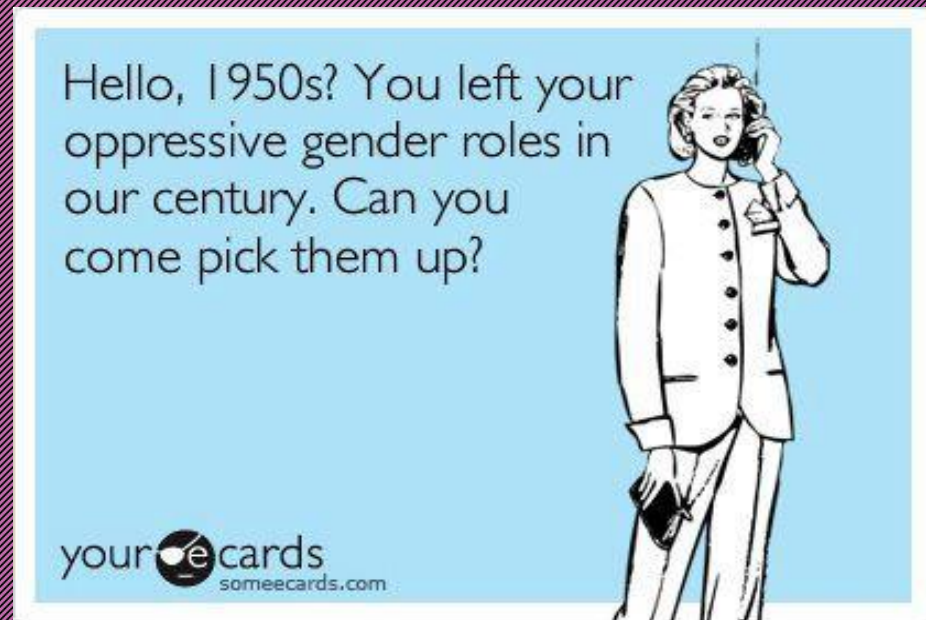
# Violence Against Women





# Gender Ideologies

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## ***Traditional Gender Stereotypes.***

### ***Feminine.***

***Not aggressive.  
Dependent.  
Easily influenced.  
Submissive.  
Passive.  
Home-oriented.  
Easily hurt emotionally.  
Indecisive.  
Talkative.  
Gentle.  
Sensitive to other's feelings.  
Very desirous of security.  
Cries a lot.  
Emotional.  
Verbal.  
Kind.  
Tactful.  
Nurturing.***

### ***Masculine.***

***Aggressive.  
Independent.  
Not easily influenced.  
Dominant.  
Active.  
Worldly.  
Not easily hurt emotionally.  
Decisive.  
Not at all talkative.  
Tough.  
Less sensitive to other's feelings.  
Not very desirous of security.  
Rarely cries.  
Logical.  
Analytical.  
Cruel.  
Blunt.  
Not nurturing.***



# OECS STATES





# CONCLUSIONS

- Violence against women and girls remains pervasive
- Focus has been on the material advancements of women
- Lack of focus on ideological dimensions of relations between men and women
  - Solutions are multifaceted
- Fundamental part of solution involves tackling root causes, such as traditional gender ideologies and their consequences