



Beijing+25 National Report of Jamaica

Achievements during the period 2014 to date

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE, GENDER, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORT
THE BUREAU OF GENDER AFFAIRS, JAMAICA**

The **top five priorities** for accelerating progress over the past five years

1

Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Gender Equality

2

Equality and non-discrimination under the law and access to justice

3

Women in Power and Decision-making

4

Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls

5

Women's Entrepreneurship and Women's Enterprises

1. Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Gender Equality

- Rebranding Bureau of Women's Affairs as **Bureau of Gender Affairs**
- **Gender Advisory Council** established as an Inter-Sectoral body
 - ✓ the implementation of the **National Policy for Gender Equality (NPGE)** and the **National Strategic Action to Eliminate Gender-based Violence in Jamaica (NSAP-GBV) 2017-2027**
- Developed ***Gender Mainstreaming Manual***
 - ✓ the Public Sector
- Launch of the ***Gender Ambassadors Programme***
 - ✓ secondary and tertiary level students
- Introduction of the ***Gender Equality Seal Programme***
 - ✓ the private sector



2. Equality and non-discrimination under **the law and access to justice**



- **4 pieces of legislation reviewed to reform in line with NPGE**
 - ✓ The Sexual Offences Act
 - ✓ The Offences Against the Person Act
 - ✓ The Domestic Violence Act
 - ✓ The Child Care and Protection Act
- **Jamaica Crime Observatory – Integrated Crime and Violence Information System (JCO - ICVIS) strengthened**
 - ✓ to increase the State’s capacity for evidence-based practice in *monitoring and responding to security and safety concerns*
- **13 Night Courts were made operational**
 - ✓ to increase access to justice services and reduce backlog.
- **Digital recording equipment installed in 19 Parish Courts (78 Courtrooms)**
 - ✓ to mitigate trauma due to interactions with alleged perpetrators.

3. Women in Power and Decision-making

- Parliament reflects an increase in the participation of women **at the highest levels in Jamaica's history.**
 - ✓ Women represent **19 % of the Lower House**; and **18 % of the Cabinet** ; **15 % of State Boards**.
- **First female Minister** were appointed in March 2016
 - ✓ *Minister of Gender affairs*
 - ✓ *Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade*
- **40 % of Ministries** have *female Permanent Secretaries*
- First female **Political Ombudsman** and the first female **Public Defender** appointed



The Honorable Olivia Grange,
Minister of Culture, Gender,
Entertainment and Sport

4. Eliminating Violence against Women and Girls



- A Women's Health Survey 2016
 - ✓ provides the most current and nationally representative prevalence **data on the perception of Violence Against Women**
- Established the Office of the **National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking**
 - ✓ to strengthen the **legislative/regulatory framework** for addressing Trafficking In Persons (TIP)
- Launch of an **Online GBV Platform** in partnership with **UNFPA**
 - ✓ to promote community engagement on awareness raising and to address issues of GBV
- The **Draft Sexual Harassment Bill** and the **Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA)** are being finalized and adoption in Parliament

5. Women's Entrepreneurship and Women's Enterprises

- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries (MICAF) in November 2017
 - ✓ to engage and **support women in business**
 - ✓ to provide technical and capacity building support **to groups representing rural women** to facilitate economic and social empowerment.
- **The UN Women Win-Win: Gender Equality Means Good Business Programme in Jamaica**
 - ✓ supports Private Sector companies to incorporate the Women's Economic Empowerment Principles (WEPEs)
 - ✓ encourages employers to **ensure equal pay for work of equal value**
 - ✓ supports to access to a range of goods & services and to **increase productivity and global competitiveness.**



Other priorities

- ❖ Unpaid care and domestic work / work-family conciliation
- ❖ Gender-responsive **Social Protection Strategy**
- ❖ Poverty Eradication, Agricultural Productivity and Food Security
- ❖ **Digital and Financial Inclusion** for Women
- ❖ Gender-responsive **Disaster Risk Prevention, Reduction and Resilience Building**