



*The Secretary General's UNiTE Campaign
The Situation of Trinidad and Tobago*



About The Campaign

Launched in 2008, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign is a multi-year effort aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. UNiTE calls on governments, civil society, women's organizations, young people, the private sector, the media and the entire UN system to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of violence against women and girls.

The Issue

Violence against women takes many forms – physical, sexual, psychological and economic. These forms of violence are interrelated and affect women from before birth to old age. Women who experience violence suffer a range of health problems and their ability to participate in public life is diminished. Violence against women harms families and communities across generations and reinforces other violence prevalent in society. Violence against women also impoverishes women, their families, communities and nations. Violence against women is not confined to a specific culture, region or country, or to particular groups of women within a society. The roots of violence against women lie in persistent discrimination against women.

The Costs and Consequences

The costs of violence against women are extremely high. They include the direct costs of services to treat and support abused women and their children and to bring perpetrators to justice. The indirect costs include lost employment and productivity, and the costs in human pain and suffering.

The Unite Goals

- Goal 1:** Adopt and enforce national laws to address and punish all forms of violence against women and girls .
- Goal 2:** Adopt and implement multi-sartorial national action plans
- Goal 3:** Strengthen data collection on the prevalence of violence against women and girls
- Goal 4:** Increase public awareness and social mobilization
- Goal 5:** Address sexual violence in conflict



Violence Against Women in Trinidad and Tobago

Domestic violence is endemic throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Following prolonged advocacy by groups concerned with women and children, a Domestic Violence Act was passed in 1991, and the Domestic Violence Act, 1999, strengthened its provisions. Domestic violence is now firmly in the public domain, and is recognized as a crime and a serious public health concern. Despite greater access to legal redress, this crime is still under re-

Domestic Violence Hotline Cases

Year	Female	Male
2005	1530	463
2006	1554	395
2007	2012	642
2008	1989	576
2009	2133	619

Source: Gender Affairs / www.genderaffairs.tt.com

Police Reported Offences of Rape/Incest/ Sexual Offences

Year	No Reported
2005	744
2006	903
2007	825
2008	670
2009	642

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Police Service

New Counselling Cases of Child Sexual Abuse Received by the Rape Crisis Centres

Year	No. of Calls
2005	49
2006	49
2007	62
2008	60
2009	60

Source: Rape Crisis Centre

Numbers of Murders committed by way of Domestic Violence

Year	Women	Total Murders
2005	14	26
2006	22	31
2007	10	18
2008	19	37
2009	10	19
Total	75	131

Source: Crime and Problem Analysis Branch

Frequently Reported

Sexual Violence: Rape, indecent assault primarily against girls, sexual intercourse primarily against girls <14, sexual intercourse primarily with girls between ages 14-16 years, incest .

Domestic Violence: murder, assault by beating, wounding, threats (to beat, to kill), breach of protection order .

2009 Abuse Reported to the Domestic Violence Hotline

Emotional	Physical	Verbal	Sexual
Incest	Rape	Financial	Threats
Neglect	Isolation	Eviction	Infidelity

Source: Gender Affairs

Adult Domestic Violence Hotline Calls 2009

Abuse	Male	Female
Emotional	382	1730
Physical	60	890
Verbal	143	1276
Sexual	3	106
Incest	1	11
Rape	1	50
Financial	59	546
Threats	89	852
Neglect	101	542
Eviction	25	108

Source: Gender Affairs

Children Domestic Violence Hotline Calls 2009

Abuse	Male	Female
Emotional	231	397
Physical	95	163
Verbal	131	211
Sexual	12	91
Incest	3	26
Rape	0	35
Financial	48	51
Threats	39	80
Neglect	133	200
Eviction	19	22

Access to Justice

Attrition at the stage of reporting sexual or domestic violence to the police is not known and there has been no analysis of the contributing factors. But it is possible that a significant number of women are not accessing justice after the crime has been committed.

Domestic Violence Applications

A significant number of women make applications for Protection Orders. However, attrition at this stage is not known i.e. the number of women who wish to apply for a Protection Order but are unable or reluctant to do so.

Applications for Protection Orders at Family Court

Year	No. of Applications
2005-2006	389
2006-2007	442
2007-2008	489
2008-2009	583

Breach of Protection Orders

Police reports on breaches of protection orders showed an overall steep increase of 388% from 2004 to 2009 with decreases observed for the years 2005 and 2006. The figures represent a steep increase in the number of breaches reported but comprise a relatively small percentage of the total number of orders granted. This is based on the number of protection orders granted in 2002/2003 which was 1979.

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Annual Reports of the Judiciary

Police Cases Reported (R) and Solved (S)

Year	Rape R/S	Incest R/S	GSA R/S	SI<14 R/S	SI 1416 R/S	S. Ind. R/S
2003	317/177	55/55	80/74	76/67	107/87	50/39
2004	305/171	10/9	60/46	87/68	97/81	41/22
2005	334/158	53/49	65/41	157/131	76/65	25/20
2006	259/110	43/37	145/111	265/226	180/154	43/32
2007	301/128	42/33	112/83	139/110	151/111	37/26
2008	236/100	60/53	130/93	94/83	111/79	28/18
2009	231/71	64/52	98/47	84/54	159/95	17/10

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Police Service



Detention Rates

Sexual offences: Relatively high for incest (80-100 %), grievous sexual assault (50-82%), serious indecency <14 years (64-88 %) and serious indecency between 14-16 years (60- 86%) suggesting that the majority of perpetrators may be known to the victims who are primarily young girls. Detection rate is less for rape. It ranges from 30.7 to 56 %. This applies to victims 16 years and over and 'stranger rape' commonly occurs.

Cases of Incest Received By the Rape Crisis Centres

Year	Number of Cases
2000	43
2001	31
2002	24
2003	39
2004	20
2005	16
2006	20
2007	13
2008	30
2009	6

Source: Rape Crisis Centre

Conviction Rates

Sexual Offences: Very low: 1-3 % over 2003 to 2009 (police statistics). Central Statistical Office data for earlier years are also very low

2008/2009: 24 cases under Sexual Offences Act disposed of in High Court suggesting a high attrition rate between reports and the point of entry in the judicial process. Note: The number of cases disposed of in a year does not relate to the number of cases filed in that particular year but trends can be discerned from the data.

Offences Committed as a Result of Domestic Violence

OFFENCES	2005	2006	3007	2008	2009
Assault & Beating	491	421	545	859	568
Threats	379	498	437	422	405
Sexual Abuse	53	43	42	67	64
Wounding	7	12	34	61	36

Source: Crime and Problem Analysis Branch

Looking to the Future

The continuing high levels of domestic violence clearly indicate that responses must seek to change cultural attitudes, consistent with the goal of gender equality. The eradication of domestic violence can only be accomplished through an expanded and integrated approach, which must ensure:

- A. a redefinition of masculinity away from control over women and
- B. the creation of economic options for women

Source: The Trinidad and Tobago National Human Development Report 2003 (unpublished)

Women's and Men's Participation in the labour Force

Indicator	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
No of women as % of the labour Force	38.6	37.9	38.3	38.2	38.4
No. of women as % of the labour force	61.4	62.1	61.7	67.8	61.6
Female unemployment rate	21.0	19.4	18.8	16.8	15.2
Male unemployment rate	13.2	12.3	11.3	10.9	10.2

Source: Central Statistical office of Trinidad and Tobago 2000 Census.



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