



**Spotlight Initiative**  
To eliminate violence  
against women and girls

Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations:



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1 October 2021

## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate release*

### **Civil Society partners welcome the launch of the Caribbean Observatory for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

UNFPA, through the Spotlight Initiative (SI) and in collaboration with the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation and the European Union, launched the Caribbean Observatory on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) on September 30, 2021.

The SRHR Observatory contributes to regional cooperation to prevent and respond to family violence in the Caribbean. The observatory will advocate for strengthened policy and programmatic linkages between family violence and sexual and reproductive health and rights, which will improve coverage, access to, and uptake of both sexual and reproductive health and gender-based violence services. It will also provide timely and independent analysis and advocacy for change of harmful social norms across the Caribbean.

The launch of this SRHR Observatory was attended by over 150 people and included the participation of Ms. Alison Drayton, Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the Caribbean and Mr. Luís Maia, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM.

Presentations were also delivered by Ms. Davina Gayle-Williams, SRHR Programme Analyst at UNFPA, Rev. Patricia Sheerattan-Bisnauth, Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Family Planning Affiliation (CFPA), and Ms. Eugenia Lopez Uribe, Regional Director of the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF).

The CFPA will be hosting the SRHR Observatory utilising its strong regional presence of 12 island Member Associations, 6 Associate Member Associations in the Caribbean, and four (4) partner Family Planning Associations (FPAs), which are leading SRHR focused civil society organizations in the Caribbean.

The Spotlight Initiative is a global multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. It seeks to ensure that women and girls realise their full potential in a violence-free, gender-responsive and inclusive way.

UNFPA, as the Sexual and reproductive Health and Rights agency of the United Nations, is a critical partner in advancing SRHR and is committed to continuously providing support to CFPA and all other partners to ensure that the Caribbean Observatory executes its functions effectively during the Spotlight Initiative and beyond.

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