



Opening Remarks

by

**Honourable Colin E. Jordan M.P.
Minister of Labour, Social Security and Third Sector**

**On the Occasion of the
United Nations' Lighting Ceremony to Commence
16 Days of Activism to End Violence Against Women
and Girls**

November 25th to December 10th, 2022

in collaboration with the

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality
and the Empowerment of Women**

December 1, 2022

5:00 p.m.

Honourable Kirk Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs,

Mr. Didier Trebucq, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean;

Ms. Limya Eltayeb, Resident Representative, UNDP Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean

Ms. Tonni Brodber, Representative, United Nations Women Multi-Country Office, Caribbean;

Ms. Ronelle King, Gender Justice Advocate/ UN Youth Advisory Group Barbados Representative/ Secretary General's Young Leader for the SDGs

Staff of United Nations organisations;

Media Professionals;

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen all;

Good Evening,

It is an honour for me to deliver remarks in support of the United Nation’s 16 days of Activism to End Violence Against Women and Girls under the global theme for this year **“UNiTE! ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS!”**.

As we take note of the theme, we are conscious that the issues regarding the fight to end violence against women and girls have become greater. Our research has shown that even before the COVID-19 Pandemic, ¹violence against women was highly prevalent, with intimate partner violence being the most common form of violence.

²Globally, an estimated 736 million women—almost one in three—have been subjected to physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both at least once in their life (30 per cent of women aged 15 and older). Totally unacceptable in a civilized world.

My Ministry is committed to addressing this extremely serious and vexing issue affecting both women and girls. In September 2022,

¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-SRH-20.04>

² <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/facts-and-figures>

Barbados became the 20th country to ratify the International Labour Organization's Violence and Harassment Convention No. 190.

In reaffirming Government's commitment to end violence and harassment against women, my Ministry has been collaborating with UN Women since early 2021, to design and implement a project which focuses on the elimination of gender-based violence, specifically in the workplace, but by extension the wider community.

The work undertaken through this collaborative effort, has resulted in the development of a toolkit, and other training resources, which were used to complete train-the-trainer workshops for about 30 persons in August and November 2021. A multipartite approach was taken to the development and delivery of the training materials, with participants being drawn from the public and private sectors, trade unions and the third sector.

In our efforts to sensitize and reach a larger segment of the population (especially persons in marginalized groups), it should be noted that through this project, my Ministry is currently working with UN Women to develop advocacy communication tools, which can

be used to further sensitize target groups about the elimination of gender-based violence in the workplace.

My Ministry, which includes portfolio responsibility for the Third Sector, is aware that a multi-faceted response that includes all sectors, segments and agents of the society, is needed for the elimination of gender-based violence and harassment.

In our efforts to raise awareness around the theme for this year – **“UNiTE! ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS!”** – we will be sharing messages from various partners from the Third Sector through our social media platforms.

Government lauds the commitment of the UN organisations, in particular UN Women, in their efforts to keep the issue of the ending violence against women and girls on the ‘front burner’. As a Ministry we will continue to play our part to **“UNiTE! (in) ACTIVISM TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS!”**.

Before I conclude my remarks I must reinforce that UNiTE, as scripted in this year’s global theme, causes us to focus on the “i”. Each of us has a personal responsibility in eliminating this scourge.

I thank you.