



Spotlight Initiative Grenada
Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG)
Terms of Reference (TOR)

Background and Objective

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an egregious human rights violation that cuts across all countries and cultures. It hinders the achievement of women and girls' human rights and their abilities to live and love and reach their full potential in safety and dignity. Eliminating VAWG and achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is, therefore, a pre-requisite to achieving the 2030 Agenda.

In September 2017, the United Nations (UN) and the European Union (EU) launched the Spotlight Initiative -- a global partnership to eliminate all forms of VAWG. Backed by a financial investment of EUR 500 million, the Initiative will operate in five regions (Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific) and respond to all forms of VAWG, with a particular focus in specific regions on domestic and family violence, sexual and gender-based violence and harmful practices, femicide, trafficking in human beings and sexual and economic (labour) exploitation. In line with the 2030 Agenda, the Initiative will fully integrate the principle of 'leaving no one behind' and adopt a multi-stakeholder approach.

For decades women's movements have been at the forefront of the fight to eliminate violence and harmful practices against women and girls across the globe. Their expertise spans all the Outcomes of the Spotlight Initiative's comprehensive Theory of Change -- supporting the implementation of laws, policies and interventions in order to prohibit, prevent and sanction all forms of VAWG; tackling impunity; ensuring timely, adequate and high-quality multi-sectoral services for survivors; educating women and girls on their rights, as well as men and boys on the harmful consequences of traditional notions of masculinity; addressing social and cultural norms that perpetuate and enable discrimination; ensuring accurate, reliable and meaningful data on all forms of VAWG; and building alliances, movements and solidarity across the world to eliminate VAWG and advance progress on gender equality and women's empowerment more broadly.

The Spotlight Initiative intends to work closely with women's movements and relevant human rights-based civil society organizations on the design and implementation of the Initiative and its Country Programmes in a mutually supportive and reinforcing way, deploying and building upon their vast knowledge and experience, developed at global, regional, national and community levels.

To this end the Initiative will establish a Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG) in Grenada as an institutional mechanism to harness civil society expertise. The CS-NRG will have a dual responsibility — as advisors to the Spotlight Initiative and as advocates and partners for the realization of its objectives.





Mandate of the CS-NRG:

The meaningful engagement of women's rights groups and relevant civil society organisations, including those representing victims and survivors of violence and groups facing intersecting forms of discrimination (rural women and girls, adolescent mothers, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS, women and girls living with disabilities, LGBTQI persons, etc.), is a key principle of the Spotlight Initiative.

In line with this, a **Civil Society National Reference Group (CS-NRG)** will be established as an institutional mechanism to bring in civil society participation and expertise. The CS-NRG would serve a dual function — to advise the Spotlight Country Programme for Grenada and to advocate and partner for the realization of its objectives. Meetings will be held on a quarterly or as-needed basis. Members of the Civil Society National Reference Group will serve in their individual capacities on an unpaid volunteer basis.

Roles and responsibilities of the CS-NRG are broadly as follows:

- Provide advice on the overall strategic direction of the Spotlight Initiative's Country Programme in Grenada on cutting-edge national policy issues on eliminating VAWG and HP
- Provide advice and perspectives on current eliminating VAWG and HP-related issues where the Spotlight Initiative's advocacy, leadership and support to civil society advocacy is important
- Partner on high-level advocacy and communications as well as political dialogue, including by supporting visibility and promotion of the Initiative's goals at the national level
- Support efforts at dissemination of the messages of the Spotlight Initiative on eliminating VAWG and HP to the public, from the national to the community level, especially to marginalized groups, youth and the media
- Provide advice on ongoing interventions, possibilities for scaling up the Spotlight Country Programme in Grenada
- Serve as an interactive space and open forum for dialogue between the Spotlight Initiative and women's rights organisations, groups and networks working on eliminating VAWG and HP, including on global, regional, national and local developments, trends and risks related to such work
- Engage in broader consultations with groups and networks, especially at the local and grassroots levels, at regular intervals to update them and solicit input on the performance of the Spotlight Country Programme in Grenada and for advocacy, research, learning and action
- Provide feedback (including via an annual monitoring report) on the Spotlight Country Programme's implementation as well as advice on addressing challenges
- Periodically connect with the global and regional Civil Society Reference Groups to share knowledge and lessons learnt as well as develop solutions to common challenges, with a view to supporting the achievement of the Initiative's results



In addition to advising the National Multi-Stakeholder Committee of the Initiative, the CS-NRG will have a close working relationship with the Spotlight programme team in Grenada to ensure its systematic engagement in providing technical advice and informing programming on addressing VAWG, including for the most marginalized groups facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, which is key to responding to Agenda 2030's *'leaving no one behind'* imperative.

Composition:

The Civil Society National Reference Group should be a strategic and substantive network of persons with diverse experience, expertise and perspectives in the priority areas of the Spotlight Initiative. It will be composed as follows:

- The group will consist of maximum of 15 persons, selected through an open selection process.
- All persons included in the CS-NRG should have expertise and experience in the area of addressing violence against women and girls. The criteria is listed below.
- Membership in the CS-NRG will not positively or negatively prejudice the respective individual's organization in accessing Spotlight Initiative funds
- CS-NRG members join the group in their individual capacities and not as representatives of their organizations