

# Situation Analysis of Women and Men in Suriname: Human Rights

## KEY GEI HUMAN RIGHTS MESSAGES

- As Suriname has not conducted a national survey to measure the prevalence of violence against women, there are no data available to measure CARICOM GEI 48<sup>1</sup> and 49<sup>2</sup>; or SDG indicators<sup>3</sup> 5.2.1 and 5.2.2.
- Data from the Department for Criminal Information Service (DCIV) between 2010-2015 show that reports received on gender-based violence and in particular domestic violence has not declined despite the ratification of the Belém do Pará Convention in 2002 and the adoption of the law with regard to combating domestic violence in 2009. The majority of persons who report as victims of domestic violence are still women. In particular reports on physical violence have increased in the age-group 21-40 years. Unfortunately, the registered data have not been specified to indicate intimate partner violence.
- Since the ratification of the CEDAW in 1993, Suriname has adopted several national laws in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

## DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN

By ratifying CEDAW, Suriname has the obligation to take measures against all forms of discrimination against women and thus, all discriminatory rules in both public and private sectors must be removed by adjusting national legislation. Government and NGOs are working together at the national level to tailor the legislation as much as possible. The Ministry of Home Affairs, and in particular the BGA, is responsible for the implementation and monitoring of CEDAW.

Suriname has worked or adjusted the following national legislation since the ratification of the CEDAW (CEDAW report, 2014):

- Revision of the Criminal Code with regard to the trade in women and minors in 2006.
- Revision of the Criminal Code with regard to sexual crimes in 2009.
- Bill against Stalking in 2012: according to this law preventive measures can be taken by the public prosecutor to protect a possible victim.

There is also a draft bill on paid maternity leave, prepared by the Ministry of Labour. This has been submitted for review to the Labour Advisory Board and the Ministry of Justice and Police.

<sup>1</sup> GEI 48: Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by an intimate partner

<sup>2</sup> GEI 49: Proportion of women aged 15-49 subjected to physical or sexual violence in the last 12 months by persons other than an intimate partner

<sup>3</sup> SDG indicators 5.2.1 en 5.2.2 :

**5.2.1** Proportion of ever-partnered women and

girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age

**5.2.2** Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence



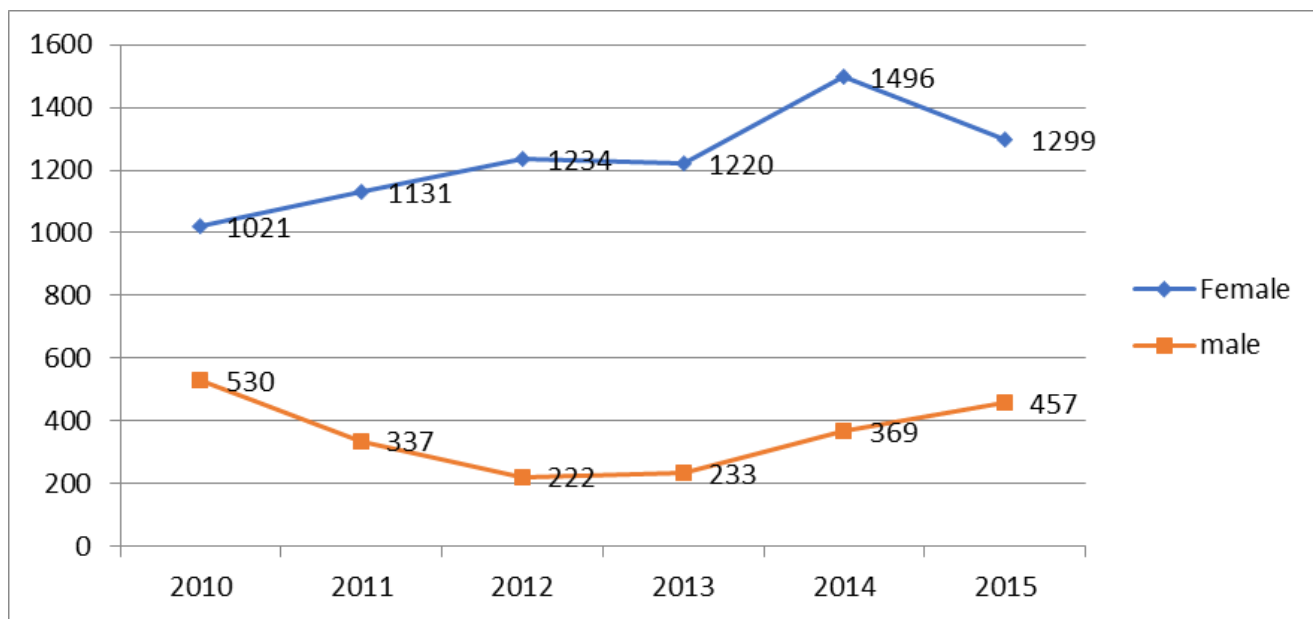
## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Data of the Department for Criminal Information Service (DCIV) indicate that the majority of persons who report as victims of violence are women. After ratifying the Belém do Pará Convention in 2002, the law to combat, punish and eliminate violence against women was enacted in 2009 at the national level. Data from DCIV from 2010 through 2014 show a growth in reports of physical violence against women, particularly battery/ maltreatment of women in the age-group 21- 40 years. It has also been shown that sexual harassment such as assault, sexual abuse, rape and attempt to rape is the most common among girls in the age-group 11 -20 years.

Below mentioned figure shows the registered cases of domestic violence in the period 2010-2015 in the age group 0-80 years and older. The increased number of domestic violence from 2013 for both men and women is striking. In 2015, the number of registered cases of domestic violence against women decreased, but that does not necessarily mean that violence itself has declined.



Victims of Domestic Violence by sex, 2010-2015 (Reported Cases)



Source: Corps Police Suriname, Department for Criminal Information Service (DCIV), July 2016

Developed and printed by © BGA, 2018