



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE CAMPUS, TRINIDAD & TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

TIME TO END THIS VIOLENCE

ST. AUGUSTINE, Trinidad and Tobago-Monday 7, December 2020 – Intimate partner violence (IPV), as a form of gender-based violence (GBV), is unfolding as a troubling phenomenon with cases of physical, emotional and social forms of abuse at the hands of a partner or loved one, and with increasing levels and expressions of vulnerability or risks for women and young girls. In this regard, research for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2012 has shown that one in three women in Latin America and the Caribbean region have experienced IPV at some point in their lives with alarmingly higher numbers in certain regions and countries. Although we are yet to see empirical work on IPV and GBV during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic, we also note, as a case in point, the many reported cases in mainstream media for Trinidad and Tobago, and, the concerns for heightening inequalities and sources of conflict during this period. No doubt, these recent developments threaten many gender-based achievements and advances in our society.

Against this background, we must acknowledge that IPV remains part of a systemic and institutionalized phenomenon that occurs across all settings, socio-economic, religious, and cultural groups and is further complicated by reported cases of abuses within non-heterosexual relationships and by women. It is against such complexities and the changing nature of intimate partner and gender relations that we see a need for greater articulation and interrogation of the issues that perpetuate these forms of violence. More is needed though on how we begin to examine gender and intimate partner relations and in particular relation to public legislation and policing to end intimate partner and gender-based violence.

As a recently formed UWI based research cluster, the IPV-3R-Response Team, we are confident that change is possible through public activism and appropriate policy interventions. We therefore wish to join in the call for ending Intimate Partner and, by extension, gender-based violence. We stand in full support of national and regional bodies, as well as, our academic community and institutional partners, such as the Institute for Gender and Development Studies (IGDS), who have been doing valuable work in this effort. We recognise and support the work of activists, policy makers, and other members of civil society, who stand against such ongoing forms of violence. We also commit ourselves in this fight, to advancing research that both captures the severity of the risk for diverse groups within our population, as well as, to facilitate the expansion of evidence-based interventions that deal with this pernicious problem. We see this as fundamental to our 3R approach which entails (re)visiting, (re)framing and (re)educating-on notions and experiences of intimate partner relations within our societies. In

this context, we call on the public to join in solidarity to raise the level of awareness and action around intimate partner violence for the betterment of our societies.

On behalf of the IPV-3R-Response Team
Department of Behavioural Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences
The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine.

End

About The UWI

For more than 70 years The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has provided service and leadership to the Caribbean region and wider world. The UWI evolved from a university college of London in Jamaica with 33 medical students in 1948 to an internationally respected, regional university with near 50,000 students across five campuses: [Cave Hill](#) in Barbados; Five Islands in Antigua and Barbuda; [Mona](#) in Jamaica, [St. Augustine](#) in Trinidad and Tobago; and an Open Campus. *Times Higher Education* has ranked The UWI among the top 1,258 universities in world for 2019, and the 40 best universities in its Latin America Rankings for 2018 and 2019. The UWI is the only Caribbean-based university to make the prestigious lists.

As part of its robust globalization agenda, The UWI has established partnering centres with universities in North America, Latin America, Asia, and Africa including the [State University of New York \(SUNY\)-UWI Center for Leadership and Sustainable Development](#); the Canada-Caribbean Studies Institute with Brock University; the Strategic Alliance for Hemispheric Development with Universidad de los Andes (UNIANDES); The UWI-China Institute of Information Technology, the University of Lagos (UNILAG)-UWI Institute of African and Diaspora Studies and the Institute for Global African Affairs with the University of Johannesburg (UJ). The UWI offers over 800 certificate, diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate degree options in Food & Agriculture, Engineering, Humanities & Education, Law, Medical Sciences, Science & Technology, Social Sciences and Sport. As the region's premier research academy, The UWI's foremost objective is driving the growth and development of the regional economy. For more, visit www.uwi.edu.

(Please note that the proper name of the university is The University of the West Indies, inclusive of "The")

The Marketing and Communications Office
The University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus • St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago
Telephone: (868) 662-2002 Ext. 82315/82316/82323/82324/82013/82014
Fax: 645-6396/662-3858 email: marketing.communications@sta.uwi.edu