



**DATE:** October 20<sup>th</sup> 2010

**TIME:** 12:00 noon

**PLACE:** Institute for Gender & Development Studies (IGDS) Seminar Room

**PRESENTATION:** Women in Politics: Exploring Her Space in Local Government, Processes, Challenges and Tradeoffs

Women comprise over half of the world's population and contributes to two thirds of the worlds work yet they remain under-represented in political office and their voices are not often heard nor reflected in policies that govern them. Local government is the first point of contact for government services, yet this is one of the least understood levels of governance, as it relates to scope and the implications for women as active participants in the political process.

While the activities of municipal governments affect both men and women their applications differ. Women are not actively involved in municipal politics, although they are specifically affected by decisions concerning their socio-economic condition, housing, the reconciliation of work with family responsibilities, safety, health, transportation, education and recreation.

This session will look at the need to have the full and equal participation of women in the political process at the local level. It will also examine the challenges to this and suggest some ways in which this can be achieved.

**PRESENTER:** SABRINA MOWLAH-BAKSH

Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh has over twenty five years experience in community projects with a focus on women's empowerment. She worked with the World Council of Churches for ten years as a Project Officer for women youth development. In 1999, she became an elected Councillor in the San Fernando City Corporation and served in that capacity for seven years. She is a founding member of the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) which is in existence for ten years. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. She also holds certificates in Local Government Studies and Social Work from the St. Augustine campus and Mona Campus in Jamaica.

Sabrina Mowlah-Baksh is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of the World Conference of Mayors Inc. responsible for Women's affairs. She has served as an Executive member of the Trinidad and Tobago Local Government Association (TTALGA) and the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA). She has travelled extensively to represent these organizations at Conferences and Workshops. More recently she was part of a team to introduce courses in Civic Responsibility and Engagement on behalf of NIHERST for the University of Trinidad and Tobago. She is at present, part of a team from Auburn University in the U.S. piloting projects in Haiti.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WALK WITH YOUR LUNCH.

**DESSERT WILL BE SERVED!**