



**NECESSARY CHANGES TO THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT:  
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**PUBLICFORUM**

Friday 24 November 2017 | 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Lecture Room One, Institute of International Relations, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad and Tobago  
Seating starts at 9:30 AM

**IGDS in Partnership with the EOC presents**

**Necessary Changes to the Domestic Violence Act:  
Recommendations for Ending Violence Against Women**

Public Forum & Launch of 16 Days of Activism

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

(seating begins at 9:30am)

**Institute of International Relations, Lecture Room One**

The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus

Join us to review the EOC's recommendations for changes to the Domestic Violence Act that can transform and improve the existing legal system and discuss how it can be used to end violence against women. All civil society organisations, NGOs, community activists, media, public officials, law makers, and all those concerned about violence against women are encouraged to participate in this important discussion.

This Public Forum will launch our 16 Days of Activism on Ending Gender Based Violence. Our goal is to engage with civil society organisations, researchers, activists, and others in a conversation about these recommendations and provide an opportunity to ask questions and discuss suggestions for change and action. We will launch a letter writing campaign for change to the Attorney General by signing letters of support for the EOC's recommendations. This event will also offer a space to share the ongoing work of the IGDS in terms of its outreach activities and research projects on ending gender based violence in Trinidad and Tobago.

**RSVP Sexual Cultures of Justice:** [sexualcultureofjustice@gmail.com](mailto:sexualcultureofjustice@gmail.com)

For more information contact IGDS Tel: 662 2002 Ext 83573/83577 | Email: [igds@sta.uwi.edu](mailto:igds@sta.uwi.edu)

[Website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Directions](#) | [Flickr](#) | [YouTube](#)



**The Domestic Violence Act Chap 45:56 is a progressive piece of legislation but there is need to amend the Act or enforce its provisions to zero tolerance to provide further protection for victims and higher efficiency in enforcement.**

**10 proposed legislative and policy amendments to the Domestic Violence Act were developed by the EOC.**

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

#changeDVact #sexualcultureofjustice #endviolenceagainstwomen #16DaysofActivism

1. Remove the **perpetrator** from the home **not the victim** (Amend Sec 23(1) and 23(A) of the Domestic Violence Act Chap 45:56 (the DV Act).
2. Police **must** respond to **all** complaints (see Sec. 21 of the DV Act).
3. Amend definition of **cohabitant** to include **same-sex relationships** (Sec. 3).
4. Police **must charge** for **assaults** and other crimes committed in domestic situations (Sec. 25(1)), and for **breaches** of Protection Order (see Sec. 20).
5. **No bail** for persons charged with breaches of Protection Order (Sec. 27(1)).
6. Provide **network of support** to persons who have a protection order – observers must have a **duty to report** (new section).
7. Create intervention for perpetrators **threatening to kill** (new section).
8. Create **inter agency protocols** between police, magistrates, prosecutors, social workers and shelters (new section).
9. Create **mandatory programs** for victims and **perpetrators** (see Sec. 6(1) (c) (VIII)).
10. Resuscitate **Police Domestic Violence Register** (Sec. 21(2))