

## WOMEN'S VOICE AND LEADERSHIP - CARIBBEAN

Advancing women's and LGBTIQ rights and gender equality in the Caribbean

Women's Voice and Leadership - Caribbean (WVL-Caribbean) is a five-year (2019-2024), CAD \$4.8 million project supported by the Government of Canada—aimed at advancing women's rights and gender equality in Jamaica, Belize, Guyana and other Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)—as part of Global Affairs Canada's Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) Program.

The project is supporting the capacity, leadership, and agendas of grassroots women's rights organizations (WROs) and lesbian, bisexual, trans, intersex and queer (LBTIQ) groups in advancing their own solutions to improve women's rights and gender equality in the Caribbean region. To this end, the project is providing WROs and LBTIQ groups with four key mutually reinforcing types of support:



### Multi-Year Funding

Multi-year grants provide core funding to WROs and LBTIQ groups to enable them to implement their own programs and advocacy based on their own agendas and priorities.



### Responsive Funding

Responsive funding is separate but complementary to multi-year funding and is available to multi-year grantees, either independently or in collaboration with other non-WVL funded groups, to enhance the delivery of their program and advocacy initiatives.



### Capacity-Building

Capacity-building is a key project component that responds to self-identified immediate needs of WROs and LBTIQ groups—contributing to their future sustainability.



### Network and Alliance Building

Network and alliance-building is another crucial project component as it aims to amplify the voices of WROs and LBTIQ groups—allowing for broader collective action.

## Implementing Partners

WVL-Caribbean is being implemented by the Equality Fund—a groundbreaking partnership combining feminist philanthropy, grantmaking and investing—in partnership with the Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice (Astraea)—the only philanthropic organization working exclusively to advance LBTIQ human rights around the world. Both organizations share a rich history deeply embedded in feminist movements globally, including in the Caribbean, and have been exclusively investing in grassroots organizations for over 40 years, improving women's and LBTIQ human rights with innovative solutions.

## Caribbean Advisory Group

WVL-Caribbean is being supported by a Caribbean Advisory Group, which provides high-level support and advice on the main project components. The WVL-Caribbean Advisory Group is comprised of an outstanding group of feminist leaders from across the Caribbean—coming from different backgrounds and generations and with different perspectives, but united by their shared passion and interest in advancing women's and LBTIQ rights and gender equality in the Caribbean.



- Antigua and Barbuda
- Belize
- Dominica
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Jamaica
- Saint Lucia
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- Suriname

## Objectives

WVL-Caribbean aims to increase the enjoyment of human rights by women, girls, and trans people who are most affected by discrimination, poverty and violence and to advance gender equality in the Caribbean. This ultimate outcome will be achieved by:

- Improving the management and sustainability of WROs and LGBTIQ groups in the Caribbean, particularly those representing vulnerable and marginalized women and girls;
- Enhancing the delivery of programming and advocacy by WROs and LGBTIQ groups to advance gender equality in the Caribbean; and
- Increasing the effectiveness of national and sub-national women's and LGBTIQ rights platforms, networks and alliances to affect gender-sensitive policy change and policy implementation in the Caribbean.

## Areas of Intervention

WVL-Caribbean has been co-designed by and for WROs and LGBTIQ groups in the Caribbean. As a result of this shared building and collective ownership, the project is primarily supporting those grassroots WROs and LGBTIQ groups working at the intersections of the following broad thematic areas:

- Economic Justice
- Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
- Feminist Leadership and Movement-building
- Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Rights
- Climate Change

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