

***PORT OF SPAIN PLAN OF ACTION***

**Mindful** of the CARICOM Declaration on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons of 2011

**Mindful also** that many of the illegal guns apprehended in this region originate from outside of the region

**Recalling** the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution, as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

**Recalling also** the Importance of the UN Programme of Action Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

**Recalling further** the Outcome Document from the Third Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action from June 2018 which highlights the important necessity of engaging women decision-makers more fully in addressing the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

**Taking note** of Article 7 (4) of the Arms Trade Treaty requiring States Parties not to export arms to countries where they may be used to commit acts of Gender Based Violence

**Aware** of the alarming and growing rate of gun-related deaths and other violent acts involving firearms across the CARICOM region, and the disproportionate impact on women and children

**Aware also** of the complex nature and multiple, socio-economic reasons that can also lead to acts of armed violence and the importance, therefore, of taking an holistic, over-arching approach in seeking to address this challenge

***We, Parliamentarians from Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago:***

1. **Call on** all countries engaged in the export of arms to this region to take immediate, urgent steps to better regulate such exports
2. **Call also on** all countries outside the region from whose territories arms are sent to private citizens and companies in this region to take immediate, urgent steps to better regulate and control such transactions
3. **Decide** to explore taking one or more of the following steps in our respective countries to seek to mitigate the devastating impact of the illicit trade in small arms and weapons:
  - **Encourage** our respective Governments to submit regular National Reports to the United Nations on Implementation of the UN Programme of Action Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons
  - **Review** existing national legislation to ensure adequacy of level of implementation of Arms Trade Treaty and also encourage national authorities to comply with reporting requirements arising under this Treaty
  - **Review also** existing domestic national firearms legislation to ensure its adequacy in addressing current national security challenges
  - **Encourage** female legislators in our respective parliaments to become more involved in addressing national security issues, including by joining relevant parliamentary committees
  - **Encourage also** our respective Governments to raise awareness of the importance surrounding gun violence through increased public and academic education awareness programs, including for early childhood education
  - **Promote awareness** of the importance of engaging more female decision-makers in this area through engagement with constituents and/or through appropriate media outlets
  - **Undertake**, as a group, to continue to stay in contact with each other, individually and/or collectively, in order to share relevant new developments and information on initiatives we have taken
  - **Agree** to seek to keep PGA informed of any and all initiatives that we may be in a position to take to address the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in the next 6 months

*Done this 27th Day of September, 2019*

