WAND & UNFPA back International Women’s Day activities

Projects in Barbados, Dominica, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines received support from WAND and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) for International Women’s Day activities in March.

In Barbados

WAND and UNFPA backed the Bureau of Women’s Affairs in its staging of an inter-generational dialogue “A Society for all Ages”. The dialogue brought together about 100 participants, from adolescents to young and middle aged adults and retirees, to address issues such as family and community relationships between and across generational groups; strategic planning to ensure equality and equity across the generations, and an inter-generational perspective on adolescent sexual and reproductive behaviour patterns and the impact on society. A report and plan of action from the dialogue is to be presented to the National Committee for the International Year of Older persons and the Bureau of Women’s Affairs of the Ministry of Social Transformation.

In Dominica

Support was provided for the Dominica National Council of Women in its coordination of a series of events under the theme “Youth - Facing the Challenges of Responsible Adulthood” with particular reference to the female youth. Over the period March 1-8, DNCW worked with the National Youth Council, the Ministry of Community Development - Youth Division, the Planned Parenthood Association, the Social Centre, media organisations and trade unions in producing newspaper articles, call-in radio programmes, radio and TV discussions and sponsoring special focus church services and rallies.

In St Vincent and the Grenadines

WAND and UNFPA supported Marion House in hosting a workshop on parenting as one module of the “Young Parents Empowerment Programme”. The programme seeks to address issues and challenges facing young parents and is intended to improve parenting skills of young women and men through workshops, practical activity and counselling sessions. The general objective is increase self-confidence and self-esteem and to enable young parents to exercise more control over their social situation, leading to greater interest and responsibility for the development of their children.
There was obviously earnest participation across age lines at IWD events which had WAND/UNFPA support.

WAND elected to WACC regional executive committee

WAND was represented at the annual assembly of the World Association for Christian Communication - Caribe, held in Haiti, March 23-27. At this meeting, members were updated on WACC’s work in the wider Caribbean, which is largely media related. WAND was elected to the regional executive committee, the main body that carries out the WACC’s mandate between annual assemblies. The WACC has been supporting WAND’s work since 1996.

Baha’i women bring together women across faiths to discuss gender issues

WAND collaborated with the Baha’i Women of Barbados and the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) in hosting a workshop, “Women Speaking Across faiths: Reflection and Action”, in March. The two-day workshop at the CCC conference room, was intended as a celebration of women and the young girl. It was attended by about 40 women from different faiths and the NGO community, who discussed matters such as Religion and Sexuality, Spirituality and Self Reflection, Faith and (feminine) Intuition, and Encounters Between Youth and Wisdom.

CGDS convenes critical conference

WAND acknowledges the Centre for Gender and Development Studies at the Cave Hill Campus of the UWI for hosting a one-day conference in June, which has implications for the direction of women and gender studies in the UWI. The conference under the theme “Theoretical Approaches to Gender in the Caribbean: Interdisciplinary Perspectives”, explored the broad areas of “Feminist Theorising and New Epistemologies”, “Gender and the Law”, “Gender, Literature and Popular Culture” and “Gender and History”. Panel presentations were made by leading academics from disciplines within the UWI community.

First draft of Health Tips ready

The first draft of a health tips booklet to be published by WAND is now complete. The booklet aims to help women to better understand their bodies as well as to examine health issues to which women are vulnerable. The Pan American Health Organization is providing technical assistance to WAND in the preparation of the booklet which will be distributed to communities in which WAND’s development projects have been implemented, family planning associations and national libraries in the territories in which WAND works.

Thanks Marion; see you soon

Special thanks to Marion Bernard-Amos for acting in the Tutor/Coordinator position while Dr Judith Soares was on three months study and travel leave during April - June.

WAND Notes

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