



***Join us for a panel discussion at the United Nations!
Combating Mass Incarceration, Improving Systemic
Justice and Policing:
Impact on Women and Marginalized Communities in
Latin America and the Caribbean***

**Tuesday March 14, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters Building
New York, NY, 10017
UN Security Check in is at 5:30pm Sharp**

Keynote speaker:

- H.E. Mrs. Janet Camilo, Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic

Panel moderator:

- Ms. Gabriela Ramírez-Vargas, John Jay College, Assistant Director, Ronald H. Brown Program

Speakers:

- H.E. Dr. Henry Leonard Mac-Donald, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nation & HeForShe Campaign Ambassador for the Advancement of Women;
- Ms. Roxana Reyes, Deputy Attorney General for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic;
- Ms. Maria Dolores Fernos, Attorney, Associate Professor, InterAmerican University School of Law - Former Women's Advocate, Puerto Rico Government;
- Dr. Jodie Roue, Associate Professor, Director and Project Investigator at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York
- Dr. William Ramírez, Attorney, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union & Adjunct Professor at the InterAmerican University School of Law
- Ms. Nora Vargas-Acosta, Attorney, Clinical Professor, University of Puerto Rico School of Law
- Ms. Michelle Leung, Associate Producer at VICE Media

Aim of the event: The current review theme for CSW 61 focuses on the challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls. This CSW 61 high level side event will focus on how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can accomplish Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work by addressing pressing social issues currently subjugating women and marginalized groups in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The panel will provide emphasis on LAC diasporas and the fight to eliminate obstacles to the economic empowerment of women. It will focus on SDG5 (which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), and SDG 16 (which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels).

To attend please RSVP by March 9, 2017 at arthur@globalfoundationdd.org

Background information:

Most violence is perpetrated by intimate partners. This trend is extracted from data compiled from surveys conducted between 2005 and 2015, in 52 countries, (including only one developed country) which indicates that 21 per cent of girls and women aged between 15 and 49 experienced physical and/or sexual violence at the hands of an intimate partner in the previous 12 months. Estimates on the risks of violence experienced by women with disabilities, women from ethnic minorities and among women above the age of 50 are not yet included, owing to data limitations. Additionally, human trafficking disproportionately affects women and girls, since 70 per cent of all victims detected worldwide are female. These render women and girls unable to work, contribute to their self-sustainability, the workforce, the family unit, and the global market, thereby affecting us all. It also disadvantages women from full participation in society which in many cases includes educational institutions which directly minimizes their exposure to the instructions necessary to learn about the changing market needs. On campus rape and rape culture in our LAC communities have drastically increased causing women protests. Such violent acts often remain unpunished causing a culture of impunity and deter women from full participation as citizens in the workforce and society. This is an issue women in the LAC region and its diaspora have been subject to and the affect is compounded when gender is intersected by factors including race, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, to name some areas.

Additionally, as a global society, we have become increasingly aware of the need to improve our policing and incarceration policies and rise of said rates, especially as it pertains to women and marginalized groups. The truth lies in the numbers, as mass incarceration becomes a global endemic that disparately compounds the violence suffered by marginalized groups, especially women. It is also heavily correlated and often a result of unconstitutional policing and a criminal justice system in need of reform. Per the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "at any one time more than 10 MILLION people around the world are being held in prison and other places of detention and only about 1/3 of them are held in connection with a violent crime" and more than 700,000 are women, "a number that's growing far more quickly than the general prison population." In the US, 65 MILLION people have an arrest record and experience the "civil death" of discrimination by employers and landlords, and whoever else conducts a background check (US Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor in *Utah v. Strieff*, October Term, 2015). A grand majority of these are people from the LAC diaspora. SDG16 looks to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. In his report on the progress towards this goal, the UN Secretary General once again states that progress with respect to the rule of law and access to justice is mixed. He highlights that, globally, the proportion of people held in detention without sentencing decreased slightly, from 32 per cent of total detainees in 2003-2005 to 30 per cent in 2012-2014.

These issues will be addressed on this panel with recommendations on how to improve the safety for all persons in such situations. This panel will also contextualize the SDGs as they pertain to policing and mass incarceration, discuss methods adopted to improve the situations of human beings who have been disparately impacted by such policies, and propose recommendations in line with the MDGs and the SDGs. The experts will provide research studies and data along with recommendations and best practices.

Program:

Opening Remarks by Ms. Gabriela Ramírez Vargas (Moderator) John Jay College, Assistant Director, Ronald H. Brown Program <i>Duration: 5 minutes</i>	6.30PM
Keynote Address by H.E. Mrs. Janet Camilo Minister of Women of the Dominican Republic <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	6.35PM
Remarks by H.E. Dr. Henry Leonard Mac-Donald Ambassador & Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Suriname to the United Nations & HeForShe Campaign Ambassador for the Advancement of Women <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	6.45PM
Remarks by Ms. Roxana Reyes Deputy Attorney General for Women's Affairs of the Dominican Republic <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	6.55PM
Remarks by Ms. Maria Dolores Fernos Attorney, Associate Professor, InterAmerican University School of Law - Former Women's Advocate, Puerto Rico Government <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	7.05PM
Remarks by Dr. Jodie Roue Associate Professor, Director and Project Investigator at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	7.15PM
Remarks by Dr. William Ramírez Attorney, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union & Adjunct Professor at the InterAmerican University School of Law <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	7.25PM
Remarks by Ms. Nora Vargas-Acosta Attorney, Clinical Professor, University of Puerto Rico School of Law <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	7.35PM
Remarks by Ms. Michelle Leung Associate Producer at VICE Media <i>Duration: 10 minutes</i>	7.45PM
Thanks by Moderator and transition to Q&A with the audience <i>Duration: 30 minutes</i>	7.55PM
Wrap up session (concluding remarks by speakers) & thanks to all speakers, sponsors and attendees by Moderator <i>Duration: 5 minutes</i>	8.25PM

Focus of speaker remarks:

- **H.E. Mrs. Janet Camilo** will discuss the extensive work her office has done to promote women's economic empowerment and to eradicate violence against women and girls.
- **H.E. Dr. Henry Leonard Mac-Donald** will provide an overview of the efforts made at the United Nations to include the active participation of men in the eradication of violence against women as well as the inclusion of women as equitable partners in our global society.
- **Ms. Roxana Reyes** will give a comprehensive presentation of the laws of the Dominican Republic that protect women against violence/domestic violence/femicide. She will also review some recent data & statistics on domestic violence, as well as what institutions and services are in place to assist women before providing her recommendations & solutions on this issue. *Relates to SDG 5.*
- **Ms. Maria Dolores Fernos**, will discuss the history of the development of the first domestic violence law in the LAC region, the creation of the Women's Advocate Office (WA Office), looking at its powers and her role. She will then discuss what is happening now with the law and the WA Office, providing recent statistics on domestic violence, recommendations and solutions. *Relates to SDG 5.*
- **Dr. Jodie Roure**, will open the issues of vulnerable populations and promoting systemic justice, with a focus on women as vulnerable populations in prisons. She will discuss the ACLU-PR prison project, the inclusion of Dominican communities in PR, provide statistics, and finally propose solutions and recommendations. *Relates to SDG 16.*
- **Dr. William Ramírez** will discuss cases that the ACLU-PR has taken on gender, the Dominican community cases as marginalized groups, discuss police reform specifically regarding gender, propose solutions and recommendations. *Relates to SDG 15.*
- **Ms. Nora Vargas-Acosta** will discuss her clinical cases and issues of inclusion and gender, legislative change, provide legal analysis, and discuss her visit to the IACHR in D.C. with proposed recommendations and solutions. *Relates to SDG 5 and 15*
- **Ms. Michelle Leung** will focus on Brazil and the issue of rape. She will examine the importance of women using a platform that wasn't meant to carry their message (such as the Olympics), as a vital way to bring awareness and attention to the issues of violence against women in Brazil. She will discuss the importance for international bodies to further progress on this issue, using the Maria de Penha case as an example. Ms. Leung will focus on awareness raising campaigns, and ways to support data gathering on these issues (i.e. supporting technological means that allows women to report violence and abuse). *Relates to SDG 5.*