



# 3<sup>RD</sup> DEVAKI JAIN LECTURE

By

**Violet Eudine Barriteau, PhD, GCM**

*Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal*

*The University of the West Indies*

*Cave Hill Campus*

**St Anne's College  
Oxford University**

**May 16, 2019**



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# Dr Devaki Jain



**International record of empowering  
women in the Global South**



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## **The Naming Ceremony of the Nita Barrow Unit of the Institute for Gender and Development Studies**

**Left to Right: Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Ms Nanette Hope, Dr Jeannine Comma,  
Professor V Eudine Barriteau, Ms Sybil Barrow, Ms Lesley Barrow, Mr Anthony Barrow**





**Dame Ruth Nita Barrow, GCMG, DA  
Convenor, NGO Forum on Women, Nairobi, 1985  
First Woman Governor General of Barbados, 1990-1995**





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**Dr Devaki Jain**

**Dr Jain stated, “the ethic of the women’s movement is inclusive of difference, and respect for democracy” and called for collective transformative actions, “to roll back the overwhelming force of the current paradigm of development.” [Devaki Jain 2000:4-5]**



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**“I welcome changes in Caribbean gender systems will occur in the pores of society, not between the pages of journals, let us ensure we do not relegate feminist activism to . . . some episodic phenomenon, that is anachronistic, post-feminist and seemingly out of place in the Caribbean’s contemporary.”**

**[Barriteau 2019: 15]**





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# New Generation of Caribbean Feminists



**Tonya Haynes**  
Founder - Code  
Red for Gender  
Justice,  
CatchaFyah, A  
Caribbean  
Feminist Network



**Ronelle King**  
Founder: Life in  
Leggings



**Latoya Nugent**  
Co-founder:  
Tamborine Army



**Stephanie Leitch:**  
Founder and  
Director of  
WOMANTRA





# Coming Into Our Own? Women and Power in the Caribbean

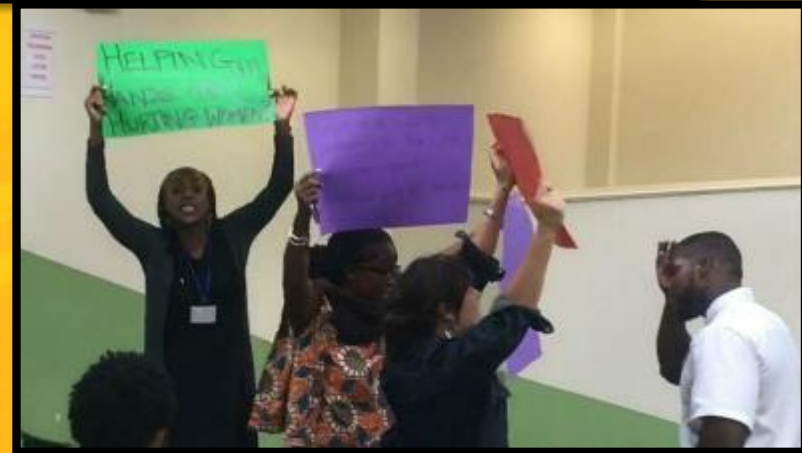






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# Politics of Engagement Have Changed





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# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Women Caribbean Leaders



**Hon. Mia Mottley, QC,  
MP  
Prime Minister of  
Barbados, 2018-present**



**Her Excellency Paula-  
Mae Weekes, ORTT  
President of Trinidad  
& Tobago, 2018-  
present**



**The Most Hon. Portia  
Simpson Miller, QC, MP  
Prime Minister of  
Jamaica, 2006-2007 &  
2012-2016**



**Hon. Kamla Persad-  
Bissessar, PBS, SC, MP  
Prime Minister of Trinidad  
and Tobago, 2010-2015;  
Leader of the Opposition,  
2015-present**



**Dame Louise Lake-Tack,  
GCMG DStJ  
Governor General of  
Antigua and Barbuda,  
2007-2014**



**Hon. Paula Cox, CBE  
Premier of Bermuda,  
2010-2012**



**Dame Sandra Mason,  
GCMG, DA, QC  
Governor General of  
Barbados, 2017-present**



**Dame C. Pearlette  
Louisy GCSL, GCMG  
Governor General of  
St. Lucia, 1997-2017**



**Dame Cécile La  
Grenade, GCMG, OBE  
Governor General of  
Grenada, 2013-present**



# Working Women: Social and Economic Realities



## **Caribbean Women's Movement in Retreat Since the 1990s**

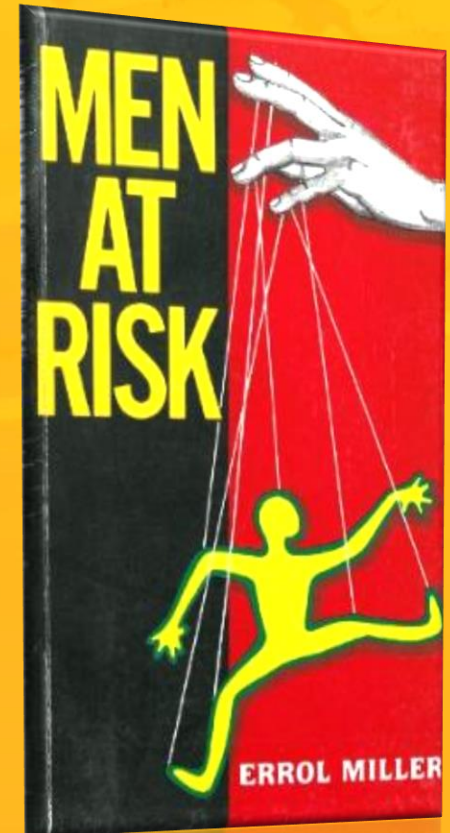
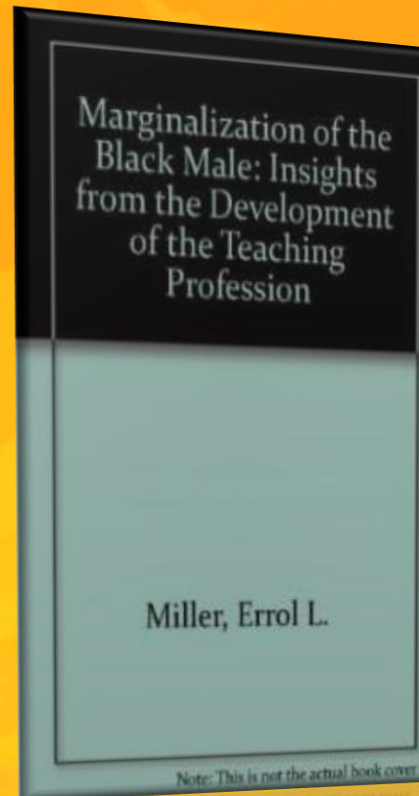
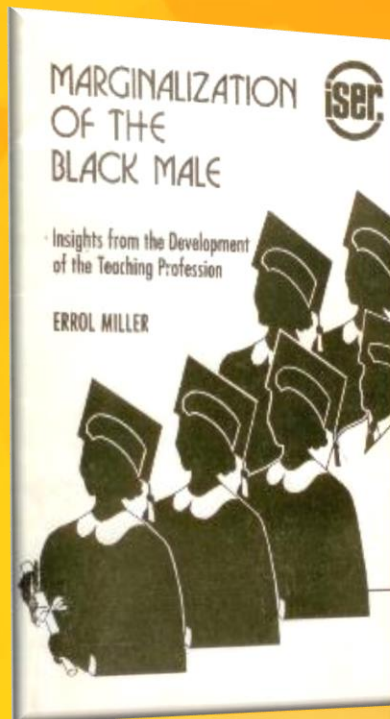
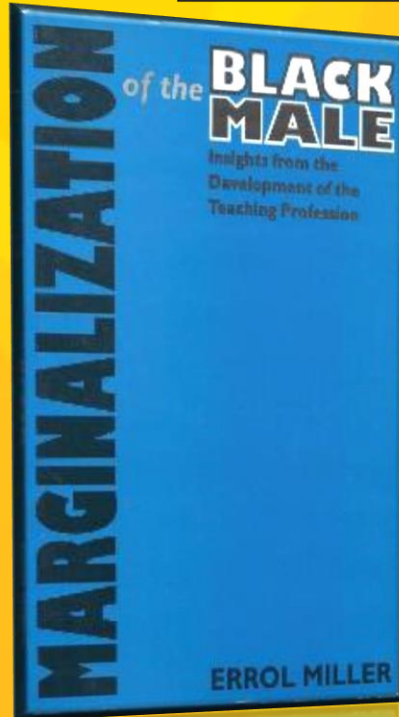
**For two decades post Beijing, Caribbean feminists were accused of marginalising Black men and working to place men in crisis. Commentators cautioned that the gains that women were making were creating disadvantages for men.  
[Barriteau 2003]**





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# Widespread Argument: Men Are In Crisis







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**Are Women Activists finally coming to terms with Power, autonomy, financial power, confidence to occupy and control cultural, economic, political and social spaces?**



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- 1. Are women activists deploying resources of confidence and organisational strategies to challenge and change multiple and diverse conditions of inequality?**
- 2. Why does the intersection of women and power matter in a region where commentators have long argued that Caribbean women are all powerful?**

# **Popular Stereotypes Glorify the Struggles of Caribbean Women**

**“The myth of the miracle worker obscures how gender relations are constructed to exploit the capacity of women to cope. . .By doing so they conceal how the state counts on women to fill the gaps when macro-economic policy produces a severely reduced public sector and further rationing of economic resources”  
(Barriteau 1994: 159).**





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# The Caribbean

A geo-political, physical  
and psychic space that  
functions simultaneously  
as a global way station  
and a destination that  
originated in mercantilist,  
capitalist expansion and  
exploitation. The region is  
in itself diasporic even as  
it contributes to  
Caribbean diasporas.





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# Amalgamation of Arrivals and Departures







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# Indigenous People of the Caribbean

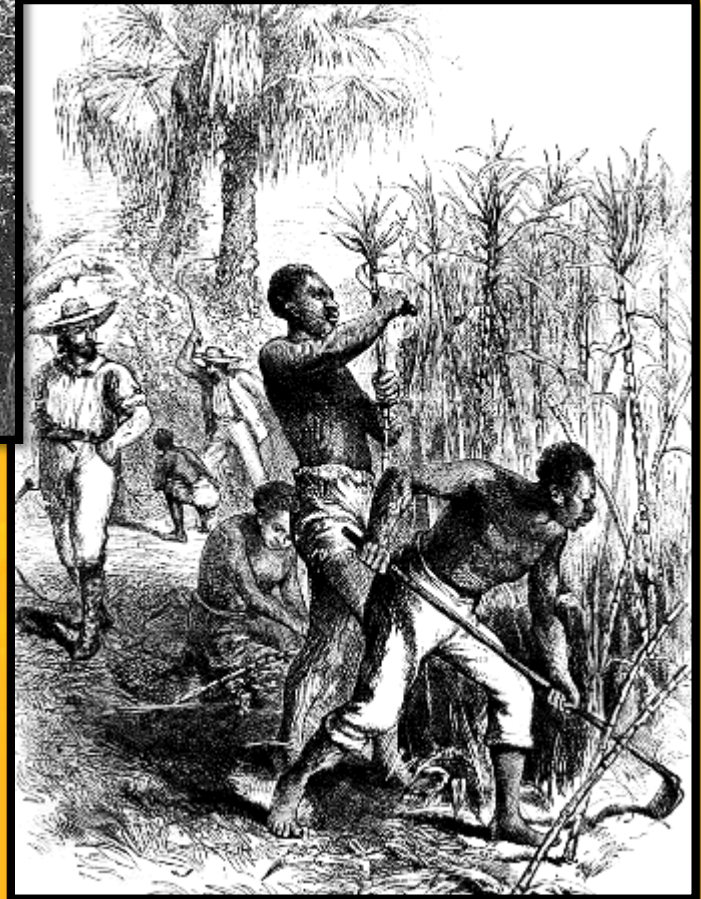
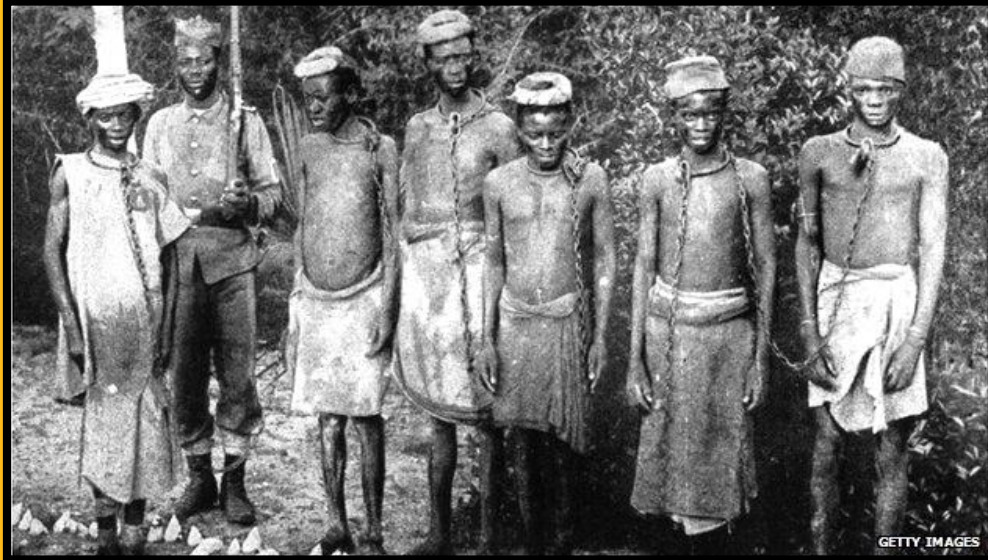






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# Enslaved Africans in the Caribbean







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# Arrival of Indentured Indians



A Social History of Post-Migrant Indians  
in Trinidad from 1917 to 1947:

A Gender Perspective



Jean-ette Singh Centre, St. Joseph, Trinidad, B. W. I.

Patricia Mohammed



# **Factors Shaping the Contours of Caribbean Societies**

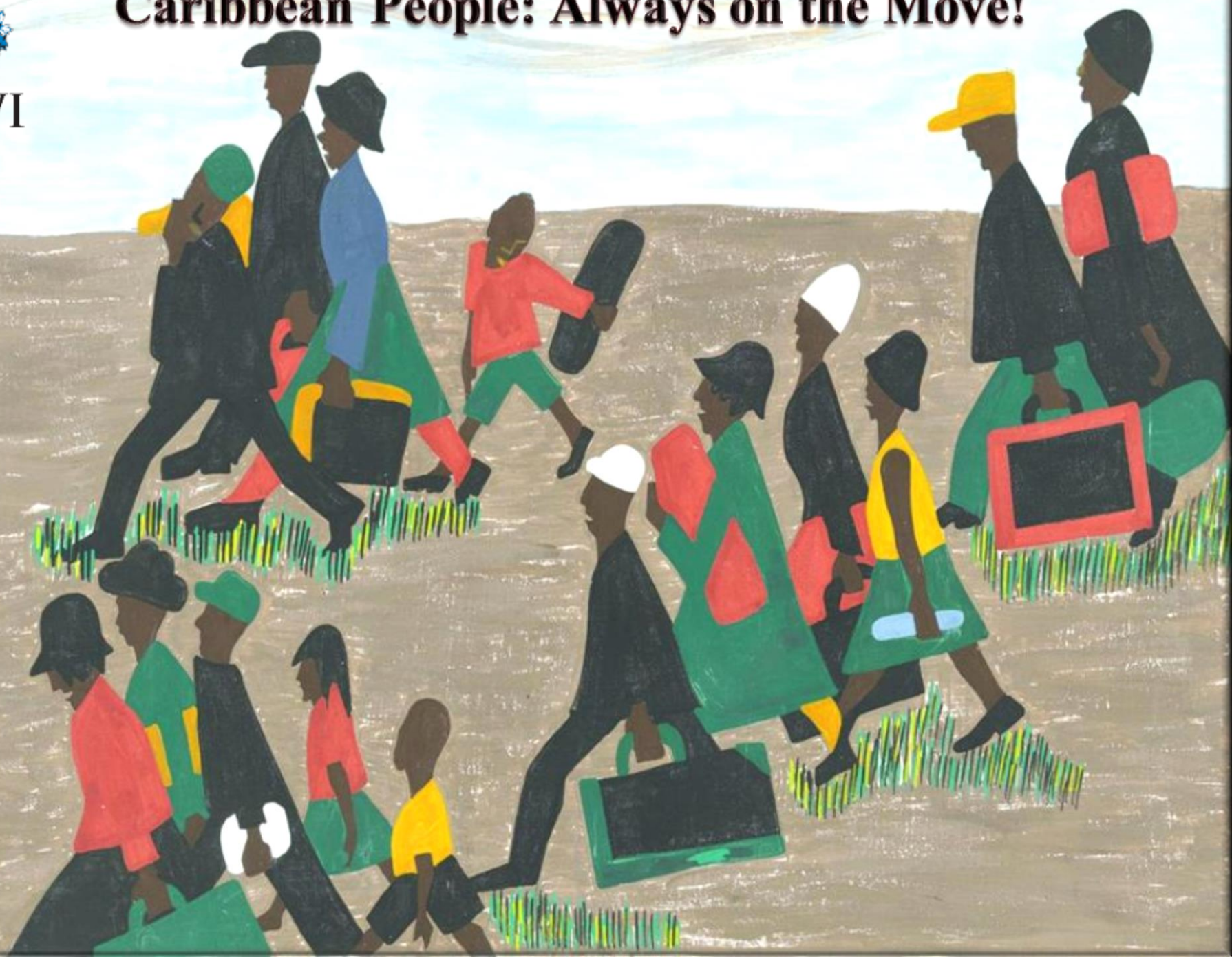
- 1. The precarious state of many Caribbean economies.**
- 2. The region - characterised by declining birth rates and slow population growth.**
- 3. The average regional rate of growth has been one of the lowest, eclipsed by only the 1980s.**
- 4. The post Columbian Caribbean was forced into global, political-economic, production space.**



# Caribbean People: Always on the Move!



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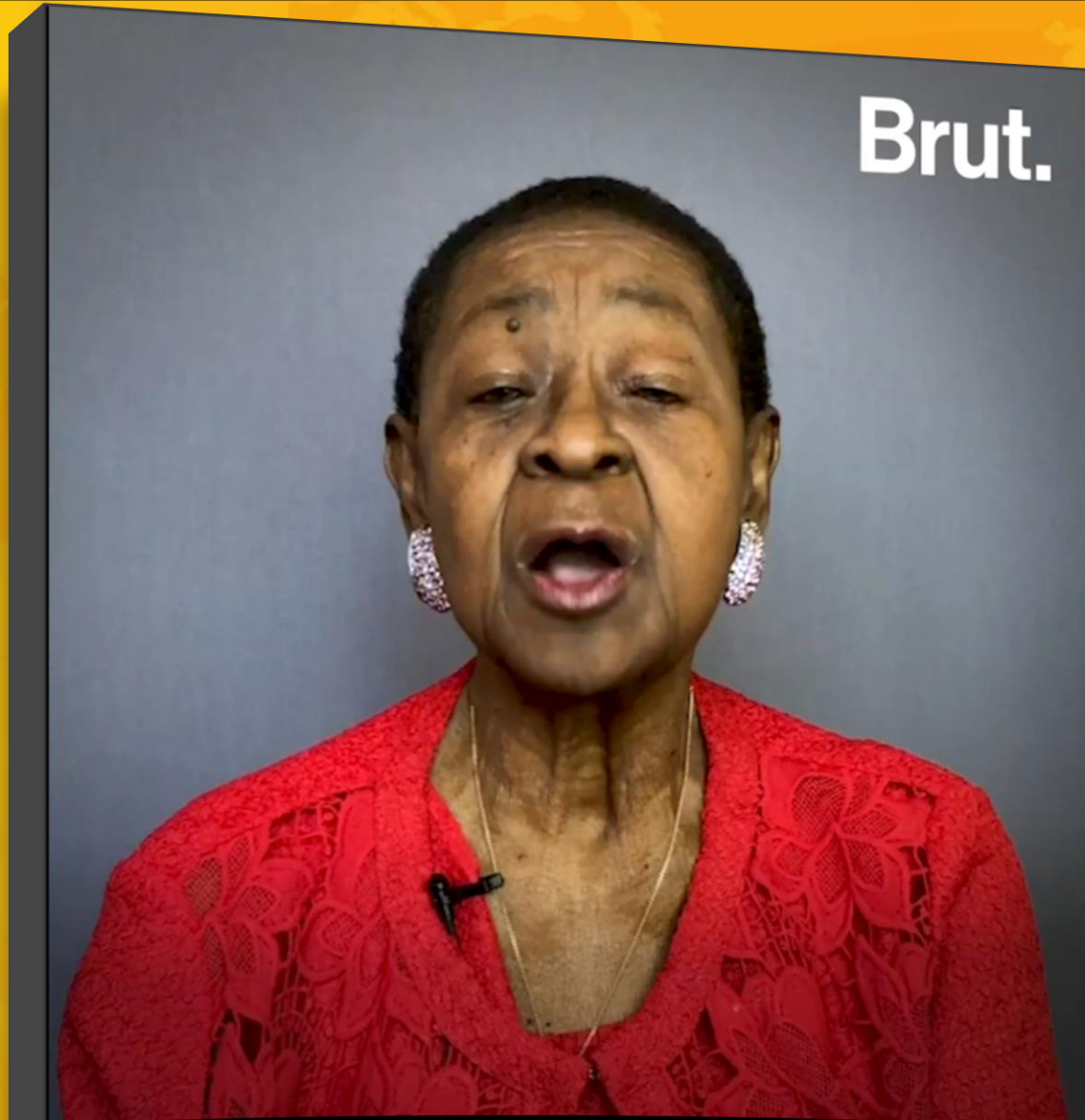
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# 'Windrush' - From Importation to Deportation: A Continuing Journey





## Calypso Rose: Fighting Sexism and Women's Exploitation

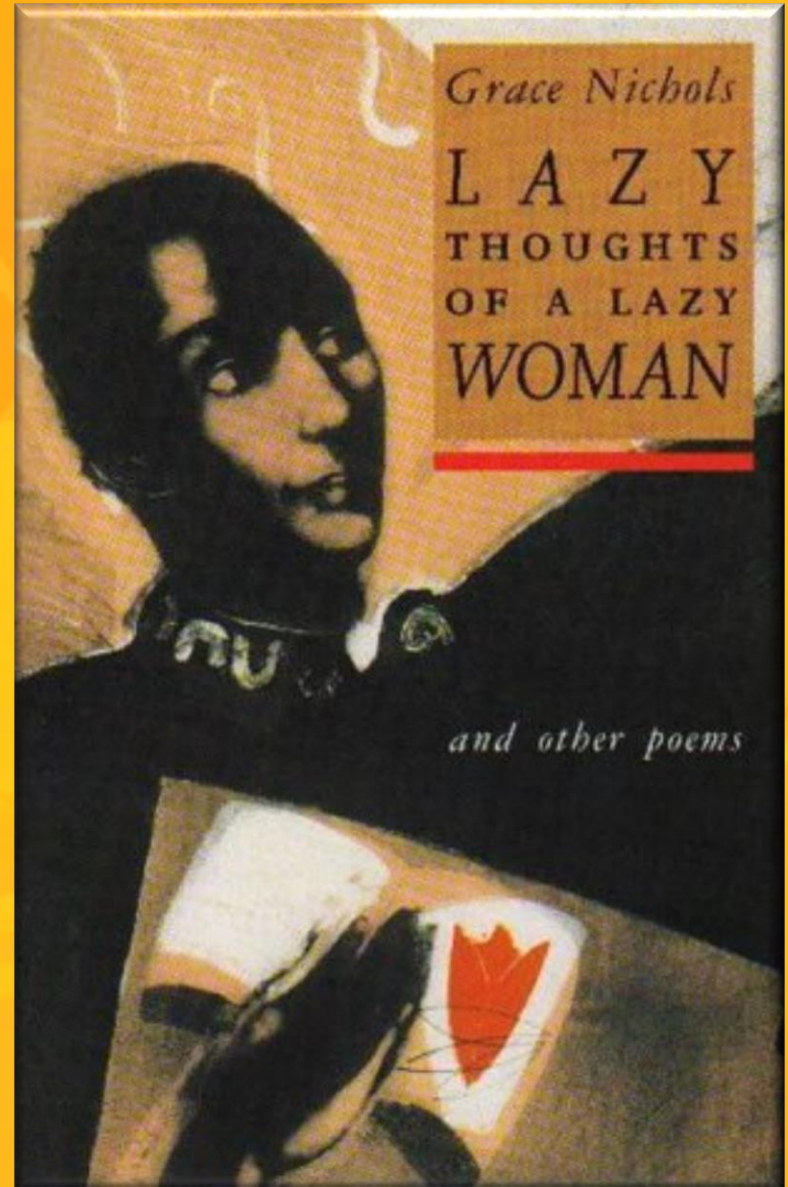




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**Grace Nicholls –  
Guyanese Poet**







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# Regional Campaigns to End Sexual Violence



**INTENSE TALK:** President of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence Roberta Clarke speaks with Attorney General Faris Al Rawi yesterday at a Special Select Committee (Senate) hearing on the Sexual Offenders Amendment Bill in Port of Spain. PHOTO BY AYANNA KINSALE



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# Caribbean LGBTQ March



July 21, 2018





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# New Women's/Feminist Groups in the Caribbean: 2003 - Present

Organisations/Groups	Key Contact(s)	Country	Year
Code Red for Gender Justice	Tonya Haynes	Barbados	2010
Life in Leggings	Ronelle King	Barbados Multi-country network	2016
Womantra	Stephanie Leitch	Trinidad and Tobago	2011
Tambourine Army	Latoya Nugent, Nadeen Spence, Taitu Heron	Jamaica	2016
POWA	Michele Irving	Belize	2003
Girl POWA	Michele Irving	Belize	2011
CatchAFyah Caribbean Feminist Network	Tonya Haynes	Barbados Multi-country	2012
We Change	Latoya Nugent	Jamaica	2016
Walking into Walls	Patrice Daniel	Barbados	2012



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# **New Women's Groups – Networks in the Caribbean**

**Walking Into Walls**

**Girl Powa**

**Life in Leggings**

**We Change**

**Powa**

**Womantra**

**Code Red for  
Gender Justice**

**Tambourine  
Army**



# Life in Leggings: Feminist Activist Network



**Ms Ronelle King - Founder: Life in Leggings Movement**



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# Life in Leggings: Consciousness-Raising







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# Life in Leggings: Regional Marches





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## **Life in Leggings - Regional Marches in:**

- **Barbados**
- **Bahamas**
- **Dominica**
- **Guyana**
- **Jamaica**
- **Trinidad and Tobago**



# Ronelle King Receives Award from Queen Elizabeth II





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# The Tambourine Army



**L to R: Latoya Nugent, Nadeen Spence (IGDS PhD student) and Taitu Heron founded the Tambourine Army to fight gender-based violence**





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# The Tambourine Army



**“We believe you, if you decide to come forward, we believe you, we will provide the support that you need and if we can’t provide it, we will point you to the entities, or agencies or the individuals who can give you the support that is needed”  
(Gleaner 2018).**

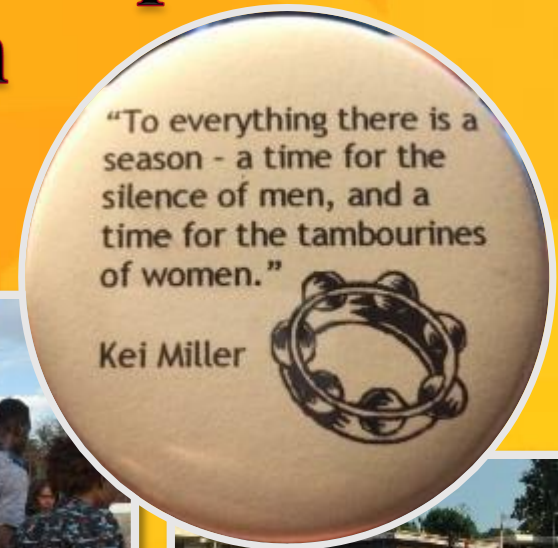
**Latoya Nugent, Co-founder of the Tambourine Army**





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# The Tambourine Army Participated in Regional March







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# The Tambourine Army



**Latoya Nugent, Co-founder of the Tambourine Army**



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## **Latoya Nugent Released From Jail**

**Tambourine Army co-founder Latoya  
Nugent leaves the Kingston and St  
Andrew Parish Court a free woman.**





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# **WOMANTRA – Committed to Ending Sexual Violence**



**Stephanie Leitch: Founder and Director - 2011**



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# Stop Using the Language of the Victim-Blaming Rape Culture



Photo: WOMANTRA Co-director, Amanda McIntyre.





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# Womantra Protests Gender-Based Violence



Japanese pannist Asami Nagakiya was strangled. The police are treating her death as a murder.





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# Womantra Marches in Port of Spain





# Womantra Celebrates International Women's Day



DemandBetter  
WDTT2019  
UKinTT  
IGDS



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# Cyberfeminisms



**Caribbean cyberfeminisms are diverse, heterogenous and polyvocal whose networks may be simultaneously national, regional, global, transnational and diasporic” (Haynes 2016: 1).**

**Dr Tonya Haynes, Lecturer in Gender and Development Studies; Feminist Activist; Founder - Code Red for Gender Justice, CatchaFyah, A Caribbean Feminist Network  
Seminal Article, "Mapping Caribbean Cyberfeminisms".**



[illegible]

# Social and Print Media Campaigns



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# Free Latoya!

#StandingWithStella



## Regional and International Statements of Solidarity





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# Caribbean Cyberfeminisms

**Haynes classified their various campaigns and activities to include:**

- **Successful online petitions and protests against predatory advertising**
- **Crowdfunding for community based projects**
- **Girls' empowerment**
- **Blogging for women's empowerment and consciousness raising**
- **Addressing LGBT sexualities and survival**
- **Privileging women's voices on social issues**
- **Mounting anti rape, anti-violence campaigns**
- **Addressing climate change and environmental concerns**



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# Caribbean Cyberfeminisms

**Haynes classified their various campaigns and activities to include:**

- **Embodiment**
- **Transgender identities**
- **Skin colour and racism**
- **Gender and sexuality**
- **Challenging heteronormativity**
- **Tackling perverse, derogatory advertising about women, and mounting fashion blogs promoting women's positive acceptance of their bodies (Haynes 2016:3-4).**



# **Sexual Sovereignty Paramount**

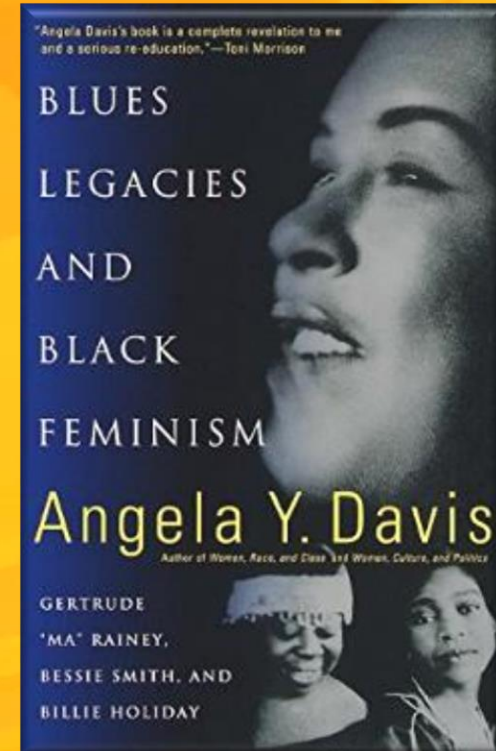
**The work of these courageous groups of feminists says women's sexual sovereignty is paramount.**

**They are putting their lives and well-being on the line to guard it.**



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# Professor Angela Davis – Feminist Scholar



**Sovereignty in sexual matters  
marked an important divide  
between life during slavery  
and life after (Davis 1998:4).**





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## **Recent Activism Does Not Examine Economic Issues**

**The one issue uniting older and more recent groups is combatting gender based violence.**

**Why has mobilization and action around economic adversity fallen off the radar for women's groups?**



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# Female Labour Force Participation Rates in Select Caribbean Countries in 2018

Country	Total Labour Force	Female Labour Force as a Percentage of Total Labour Force
Antigua and Barbuda	-	-
Bahamas	236,343	46.6
Barbados	152,289	50.06
Belize	177,289	40.1
Dominica	-	-
Grenada	-	-
Guyana	321,095	35.64
Jamaica	1,503,754	45.6
St Kitts/Nevis	-	-
St Lucia	99,276	45.9
St Vincent	57,928	41.2
Trinidad and Tobago	660,786	42.5

Source: Moore et al, 2019





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# Red Thread Collective



**Andaiye**  
**Founder of Red Thread**





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# Red Thread Collective Demonstration





# **Red Thread Collective**

**Red Thread has three priorities, including protection and justice for women in violent situations. Letter to the Editor – Starbroek News, August 7, 2013 [Karen deSouza]**

- 1. Protection and justice for women and children in violent situations**
- 2. A living income for unwaged and low waged women**
- 3. Increased visibility and voice for grass roots women.**



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# Conclusion

**Two themes unite these new feminist groups:**

- 1. Cyberfeminist strategies**
- 2. A strong emphasis on sexual sovereignty**





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# Girl Powa: Belize





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# Conclusion

**The restlessness and mobility that define the Caribbean is very evident in the latest manifestations of the Caribbean women's movement. They have upended old women's movement paradigms, created exciting and effective feminist interventions, and are frontally assaulting resilient, patriarchal inequalities.**





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# Powa: Belize



## New Activism Has Shaken the Status Quo





