

# STRENGTHENING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Training programme for legal practitioners in the executive and judicial branches in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Background

In Latin America and the Caribbean, impunity is a significant concern in cases of gender-based violence (GBV). Gender stereotypes entrenched in the justice system often result in poorly conducted investigations or case dismissals, leading to survivor frustration, ineffective law enforcement and public distrust in the criminal justice system. Moreover, the insensitivity of justice practitioners can retraumatise survivors, deterring them from seeking justice.

- 95% of reported GBV cases do not result in a sentence (Institute for Comparative Studies in Criminal and Social Sciences – INECIP 2020)
- 64% of the population distrust the police, and 75% distrust justice institutions (Latinobarometer 2020)



Addressing these issues which disproportionately affect women and diverse individuals, is crucial to ensuring a fair and just legal system for all.

The GIZ International Services project Latin America and Caribbean Initiative to Promote Stability, Democracy and the Rules-Based International Order (LAK-FSDRIO), commissioned by the German Federal Foreign Office, developed a practical training programme in collaboration with the regional Justice Studies Center of the Americas (JSCA), an agency of the Inter-American system.



### The training programme

The **target audience** is legal practitioners in the executive and judicial branches in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The **goals** of the programme are to:

- Empower survivors of GBV by promoting the standard operating procedures that legal practitioners should apply when addressing survivors' needs
- Prevent poor investigations based on sexist preconceptions about women and LGBTIQ+ individuals
- Shift perspectives and promote equal rights and opportunities within the justice system and society

The training programme uses a **mixture of learning methods**, including self-directed and self-paced study and story-based and web-based learning. It is offered in **two different formats**: purely online or blended learning, which combines online learning with face-to-face practical training.

**The online format** comprises six online courses, each requiring up to eight hours of screen time. They can be completed and certified as individual courses or as part of the full programme.

**The blended learning format** requires eight hours of screen time per course and approximately twelve on-site hours. The programme includes:

- Five online courses to strengthen prosecution skills within the criminal justice process
- Interactive activities such as role-playing and decision-making exercises to reflect on internalised gender norms
- A practice-based module that examines a fictitious case of intersectional discrimination involving gender, racial, migrant and educational disparities
- Resources providing the didactical concept to guide practical work on the online content using the fictitious case in face-to-face-sessions



Call for participation in the online training programme on social media  
© JSCA



Closing ceremony of the training course held in the Dominican Republic  
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The training programme has been completed by around 1,000 justice practitioners.

## Collaborating institutions

The Federal Foreign Office and German embassies in the region offer the training programme to interested local institutions. JSCA hosts the courses on its virtual campus, hires tutors and certifies the participants who complete the programme.

The training programme was developed by various GIZ teams in cooperation with JSCA, external consultants (GOPA and Common Sense) and specialised e-learning companies from Chile (TDCLA and Digitalizado) who provided the digital support to put the courses online.

## Related websites:

Promotional video of the online training programme  
GIZ Project website of LAK-FSDRIO

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