

# Grenada Country Report

Presented by  
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## 1. PREFACE

The State Grenada, which includes the islands of Grenada, Carriacou and Petit of Martinique, is a tri-island state of 133 square miles. It is located on the southern end of the chain of islands called the Lesser Antilles, approximately 90 miles off Trinidad. The estimated population at the end of 1999 was 101,000.

### 1.1 Institute

The Division of Social Services is a relevant Department in the Ministry of Housing, Social Services, Culture and Cooperatives.

### 1.2 Mission

To seek to treat as well as to prevent social problems; to assist clients in solving their problems; to ensure that the dignity of each client is upheld, thus promoting healthy, balance individuals and families and a strong society.

### 1.3 Vision

To become known for our responsiveness to social injustices, and for efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of services to bring about better quality of life for our clients.

## 2.. INTRODUCTION

In the state of Grenada, Commercial Sexual Exploitation is not a problem but Government is cognizant that Grenada, being a tourist destination and with the expansion of the industry, can provide opportunities for such notorious activity.

There is legislation to protect the child from child labor, child trafficking and sexual abuse.

What we are faced with is the problem of Non-Commercial Sexual Exploitation that of child abuse and incest.

## 3. LEGISLATION

Disparities between the ages for children; to work- fourteen years, give sexual consent- sixteen years and to exercise democratic rights- eighteen years, had been a major concern among persons in our community. In response, a review of the Children and Family Laws was done during the year 2001. The report has not yet reached the Ministry of Social Services.

### 3.1 Child Labor

Section eight (8) of the Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Act Chapter 90 of the laws of Grenada, prohibits the employment of children below the age of fourteen (14) years in any undertaking or work whatsoever, whether industrial or otherwise out side of school hours and in any occupation likely to cause injuries to his/her life.

### 3.2 Child Trafficking

Sections 188 & 189 of the Criminal Code prohibit the abduction of persons and children. The Adoption Act chapter 3, section 18 prohibits the giving and receiving of money for adoption procedures except with sanction of the court.

### 3.3 Abuse and Neglect

Chapter 76, sections 182-187 and 191-194 provide protection for the child from specific kinds of abuse; sexual abuse and exploitation. A perpetrator can be sentenced for up to fifteen years in prison.

## **4. NON COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION**

The problem of Non Commercial Sexual Exploitation (child Abuse and Incest) is prevalent in our society. In an effort to reduce the problem and protect the rights of children, the Government and Child-related organizations have collaborated their efforts, viz:

1. Establishing the National Coalition on the Rights of the Child- Nov/93
2. Passing the Grenada Adoption (Amendment) Acts 10/96
3. Passing the Child Protection Act 17/98
4. Developing a Foster Care Program and starting a Women Centre
5. Setting up a Cabinet Appointed Child Committee- Feb/01
6. Commissioning a Child Abuse Twenty-four Hour Hot Line- Oct/01

### 4.1. National Coalition on the Right of the Child

The National Coalition on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) was established by a Cabinet Conclusion in 1993. It has been given the mandate to ensure that the principles and provision of the Convention on the Rights of the Child are disseminated at all level in the society.

Through the influence of the NCRC the Grenada Adoption Board and the Child Welfare Authority were established by legislation. The NCRC acts as the vehicle for education and public awareness on all child related issues. For the past three years and more so

during 2001, the NCRC has been proactive in the fight against sexual exploitation and views this as their main area of priority. The Coalition has been highly recognized as the watchdog for children in Grenada.

### 4.2 The Adoption of Children in Grenada

#### 4.2.1 The Adoption Board

The Grenada Adoption Board was established in November 1994 following the passage of the Adoption (Amended) Act in 1994 (Appendix 1). This was in response to reports that children from the OECS, Grenada being a member, were illegally adopted outside of the region.

Prior to the setting up of the Grenada Adoption Board there was no system for investigation and monitoring. Statistics from the Registrar of Births and Deaths revealed that between 1990-1995 there were one hundred and fifty-two (152) adoptions of which one hundred and seven (107) were foreign and forty-five (45) were local.

The Board is under the aegis of the Division of Social Services and meets at least once every month.

#### 4.2.2 Functions of the Grenada Adoption Board

Section 5A, sub-section 5 lists the functions of the Board, which includes, inter alia:

- ❖ To review all applications for the adoption of the children in Grenada;
- ❖ To help ensure that adoption is in the best interest of every child whose adoption is sought;
- ❖ To help ensure that children are adopted by applicants who are not Grenadians and who live outside Grenada, only after

all attempts to secure adoption by applicants who are Grenadians or who live in Grenada have failed and only on very sound arrangements.

In collaboration with the Grenada Bureau of Standards the C.W.A. has developed a Policy, Procedure and Standards document aimed at licensing all homes (Appendix 3).

#### 4.2.3 Applications for Adoption for the period January 1999 October 2001

January – December 1999

Reviewed	Forty-four (44)
Recommended	Eighteen (18)
Deferred	Twenty-six (26)

January – December 2000

Reviewed	Twenty-one (21)
Recommended	Seventeen (17)
Deferred	Four (4)

January –October 2001

Reviewed	Twenty-one (21)
Recommended	Eleven (11)
Deferred	One (1)
Pending	Nine (9)

Source Grenada Adoption Board

### 4.3 CHILD PROTECTION

#### 4.3.1 Child Welfare Authority

The Child Protection Act (Appendix 2) was passed in 1998 to protect children at risk and children in care institutions. The Act gave rise to the establishment of the Child Welfare Authority (CWA).

The Authority works in collaboration with the Division of Social Services in the investigation, placement and supervision of children.

The CWA has since reviewed all children's homes in Grenada and have been placing children according to age and capacity.

4.3.2 Statistics of Children in Institutions as of October 5, 2001

Name of the Home	Type of accommodation	Capacity	Age Range	Present Occu-pancy	Gender	
					B	G
Queen Elizabeth	Orphans & abused boys & girls	15	10-18	18	13	5
Dorothy Hopkin	Physically and Mentally Challenged	35	0-18	34	15	19
Tufton Hall	Juvenile Delinquent boys	15	7-12	11	11	0
Bel Air	Abused boys & girls	40	0-18	34	11	23
Bacolet	Juvenile Delinquent boys & girls	20	12-18	11	3	8

Total- one hundred and eight (108)

Source Child Welfare Authority

4.3.3 Procedure for Placement and or Supervision

The Division of Social Services investigates the matter.

The case if indicated is then referred to the Child Welfare Authority for removal and placement. After assessment the Authority does one of the following:

1. Apply to the court for a Supervisory Order by which the Social Worker will supervise the child while in the care of his/her parents of guardian.

4.4.2 Program for Adolescent Mothers (PAM)

The compulsory age for school in Grenada is fourteen years. There is no law prohibiting a teen mother from reentering the formal school system.

Efforts by the Division of Social Services and the NCRC have been made to place teen mothers back into the academic main stream but due to our small population and being a Christian society, the users of the service ostracize a young girl and refer to her as "bad influence".

In response to the problem the National Coalition on the Rights of the Child (NCRC) and the Grenada Save the Children Agency (GRENSAVE) started a Women Centre; Program for Adolescent Mothers (PAM). This centre was established in April 1995 with a capacity for 40 young women.

The centre offers counseling, training in employable skills, parenting, continuing education courses at CXC, GCE and primary school leaving levels.

Since opening, P.A.M. has served over 230 young women in the day and outreach programs. It has had about 1% repeat rate.

#### 4.5 Child Abuse/Incest Campaign

The problem of child abuse and incest has become a growing concern for all.

Over the past three years the nation has been on a public campaign aimed at sensitization and information. The collaborative work was done through Government, Child Related Non Government Agencies, and Child Advocate Groups, e.g., church, popular theatre and parent teacher association, viz:

- ❖ Popular Theatre "Prison Without Walls" "Tell Some One", and "Oliver's Plight/Cry"
- ❖ Television and radio programs in the form of drama, panel discussions, call-in program.
- ❖ Island wide motorcade
- ❖ Child Abuse handbook
- ❖ Public discussions aimed at information and recommendations
- ❖ Distribution of pamphlets

- ❖ Conduct workshops with stakeholders and children
- ❖ Meeting with Cabinet
- ❖ Meeting with the Minister, Permanent Secretary and Chief Welfare Officer for Social Services

#### 4.4 Child Protection Committee

In response to the growing incidence of violence in the society, and in particular against children, Cabinet has set up a Child Protection Committee in February 2001 which comprised two Government Ministers-Minister for Social Services and Minister for Gender Affairs and the Attorney General.

##### 4.4.1 The Terms of Reference of the Committee

The terms and conditions of the Committee included an investigation of the nature and scope of crimes committed against children and a review of the existing institutional, legal and regulatory framework for addressing the issue.

##### 4.4.2 Objective of the Committee

To provide the government with an overview of the extent of abuse/violence against children, the structure and mechanism that are available and the possible initiatives which can be taken to effectively address the problem.

##### 4.4.3 Methodology

The committee started its mission on February 2001 and concluded on May 2001. Consultation and meetings were held with various stakeholders including interest groups and individuals involved in matter related to the Rights of the Child. The information, analysis and findings were presented in a

press conference in October 2001 during the declaration of Child Month.

#### 4.5 Child Abuse Hotline

Acting on one of the recommendations of the Cabinet Appointed Child Protection Committee, a twenty-four hour hotline was commissioned by the Ministry in October 2001. A protocol for investigation was developed and the child abuse register has been reactivated.

#### 4.6 Conclusion

The Government has sited the problem of Children Sexual Exploitation as a serious one hence the appointment of the Child Protection Committee whose recommendations will be used as a guide to enhance the delivery of services.

Priority areas are:

- ❖ Family counseling
- ❖ On going training for persons in the Social Services
- ❖ Setting up of a data collection (networking) system
  
- ❖ A protocol for reporting abuse cases
  
- ❖ Revising the establishment of a Family Court
  
- ❖ Appointment of a legal person to be assigned to deal specifically with childcare issues in the appropriate Ministry.
  
- ❖ Establishing one Department to deal with Family Matters
  
- ❖ A review of the Social Services Provision in Grenada was completed in 2001 and was submitted to relevant authority. The analysis will invite much discussion among stakeholders.