

## EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCES. PRESENTATIONS BY THE STATES

**THEMATIC FOCUS: TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE ADOPTION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD: "BUILDING PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENTS"**

**WORKING GROUP 2: MEANS OF COORDINATION AND PLANNING FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN.**



### Antigua and Barbuda

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### Introduction

The nation of Antigua and Barbuda ratified the convention on the Rights of the Child in 1993. It also ratified the optional protocol to the Convention on the sale of children, Child prostitution and pornography on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2002, and the convention concerning the prohibition and immediate Action for the Elimination on the Worst forms of child Labor on the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2002.

### **Coordinating mechanism**

- Juvenile Act
- The national child protection policy and unit
- The National Child Protection reform Committee
- The National youth policy/youth Director
- The youth intervention unit(Within the police force)
- Trafficking in persons act of 2010/committee

### **Education**

- Government owned day care and pre-schools
- Primary and secondary education from age 5yrs to 18yrs
- Each secondary school student and teacher receive a free laptop and free internet service
- It centers in schools
- Mobile IT buses for those schools without internet centers and these also serve the community

NIÑEZ Y ADOLESCENCIA: CONSTRUYENDO AMBIENTES DE PAZ

CONFERENCIA ESPECIALIZADA INTERAMERICANA DE LA OEA

CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE: BUILDING ENVIRONMENTS OF PEACE

OAS SPECIALIZED INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE

INFÂNCIA E ADOLESCÊNCIA: CONSTRUINDO AMBIENTES DE PAZ

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L'ENFANCE ET L' ADOLESCENCE: EN CONSTRUISANT ENVIRONNEMENTS DE PAIX

CONFÉRENCE SPÉCIALISÉE INTERAMÉRICAINNE DE L' OEA

### ***Education continues***

- Hot lunches served at school
- Free school uniforms for all students enrolled in schools

### ***Health***

- Free accessible health care for children up to age 16 years and up to 21 years if enrolled in a tertiary institution
- Reproductive health clinics for adolescent girls, with or without parental accompaniment

### ***Progress made***

- Increase in positive attitudes towards the rights of the child, mainly due to awareness raising campaign "breaking the Silence".
- This program has been introduced by the Ministry of Social Transformation as a tool to bring awareness and acceptance to the citizenry. Schools, NGO's FBO'S have all taken part in this campaign.
- It has been used in our local Queen shows as a platform for the contestants.

### ***Directorate of Gender Affairs***

- National Strategic Action Plan to end Gender based Violence
- Crisis Center in progress
- Legal reform
- National data-base for GB SV statistics
- Awareness Campaign/programs with schools, young men and boys and girls
- Training programs for school counselors

### ***Experience***

- There are local laws which protects children from all forms of exploitation and drug use, but the laws are not always enforced.
- Inadequate /lack of facilities to care for children who are exploited or abused
- Inadequate financial (budgeted) resources
- Lack of adequately trained human resources
- All child protection agencies are not within the same Ministry
- More public education is needed on the Rights of the Child. Children need to be taught their rights
- Teenage pregnancy under age 16 years most cases are not reported although mandated by law.