

<p><i>Does the criminal code punish marital sexual violence?</i></p>	<p><u>Legislation or Regulations</u></p> <p>No specific legislation or inclusion in legislation</p>	<p><u>Provisions made under the law</u></p> <p>- none</p>	<p><u>Comments where appropriate</u></p> <p>Although this formed part of discussion during development of Protection Against Domestic Violence Act specific provisions were not made in this piece of legislation</p>
<p><i>Are there penalties for public officials who fail to enforce laws against violence?</i></p> <p><i>If so What are they?</i></p>	<p>Sexual Offences Act</p>	<p>Entry by officer with warrant and if need be by force</p>	<p>No comments</p>
	<p>Protection Against Domestic Violence Act</p>	<p>Explicitly stated duty of a police officer is to always respond to an allegedly report of domestic violence whether by victim or other</p> <p>Empowers entry by law officer with warrant if need be by force and also powers of entry as provided by Criminal law and Procedure act where their reasonable belief that failure to act immediately could result Power of arrest where an order is in force</p>	<p>Although not certain of the redress for non response by the police; however this would indicate failure of duty and therefore disciplinary action would be in order</p> <p>If there is complaint that force of entry by police officer was unwarranted, the compliant will be investigated and if proven as being unwarranted the law makes provision for disciplinary action to be taken</p>
<p><i>Do the standard in force provide for compensation of women who are victims of violence?</i></p>		<p>No knowledge/indication of this provision</p>	<p>Therefore no comments necessary.</p>

Permanent Mission

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of Dominica

2. Has a national strategy or plan of action been adopted on prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women?

	Existing programmes/Strategy	Agency	Comment
Is there a National Strategy or plan of action for prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women, if so which agency is responsible	No formal national action plan	Not in existence	However Action/interventions towards Violence Against Women forms part of programme of the Women's Bureau and Women's organizations and other key institutions like the police with a high level of collaboration This forms part of the mandate of the Bureau
Are there integrated intersectoral strategies for prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women? If so which agencies are involved? Is strategy evaluated, what is the time frame for evaluation and what are the results?	A project just started in December 2005 "An Integrated, Multi Sectoral Approach for improved Implementation of Existing Laws, Policies, plans of actions to address Violence Against Women and girls"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Women's Bureau ▪ Social Welfare Division ▪ Police Department ▪ Legal Aid Clinic ▪ Monitoring Committee for the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) ▪ Dominica National Council of Women (Main Executing org.) ▪ National Youth Council ▪ Faith Based Organizations 	There is keen interest and commitment by all partners involved Since implementation of the project has just started there has not been any evaluation. However evaluation and monitoring is built into the project.
How are strategies linked at the provincial and municipal level?	The above stated project seeks to include the relevant authorities	Collaborates with City Councils, Village Councils, Local Government Department	Church, youth and women organizations at the community level and the local authority will be involved in activities; besides part of the project requires community support and all inclusive approach is to be utilized

3. Has a National Mechanism been set up to follow up on implementation of the Convention of Belem do Para

There is no specific mechanism put in place for the Monitoring of this convention per se. However the Women's Bureau/ Government machinery through its research and programming integrates related issues and with the support of the CEDAW Committee plays a monitoring role. There is need though for more conscious, systematic monitoring. This is expected to be one of the outcomes of the afore-mentioned project entitled: "An Integrated, Multi Sectoral Approach for improved Implementation of Existing Laws, Policies, Plans of actions to address Violence Against Women & girls"

<i>Are there any legal provisions for compulsory assistance and re-education of violent men?</i>	Protection Against domestic violence (2001) Act	The Court on making an order under this act recommend either or both parties to participate in counselling of such nature as the court may specify	It is not clear whether this is implemented or enforced
<i>Is there any legal or administrative position that makes a permanent training on gender issues for public officials compulsory?</i>	Not in existence at this time	Not applicable	It is expected that when once the National Policy on Gender Equity and Equality and the Gender Mainstreaming Plan are implemented this will take effect.

Note 1: OECS Family Law Reform and Domestic Violence Initiative as well as a report on CEDAW points to some for legislation that needs reform and for enactment of new laws such as for Sexual Harassment

Note 2: Women's Bureau Initiatives: i) Planned research during this year hopes to highlight the gaps in the legal and judicial system as regards violence against women and ii) proposed Gender Mainstreaming approach to be implemented should help in more systematic integration of gender across sectors iii) Women's Bureau through its sensitization and training programme reaches public officials

Note 3: Police officers are represented on intersectoral committee for a just started project to more effectively deal with issues of Violence against women and girls and also on the Monitoring Committee for the MDG's to ensure the integration of gender

PART TWO: ACCESS TO JUSTICE

of Dominica

1) Is there a prompt, regulated proceeding to protect women who are victims of violence and to punish assailants?

<p>With which authority should complaints be filed?</p>	<p>Cases of violence against women are filed with the Police Department</p>	
<p>Are these offices responsible adequate for caseloads</p>	<p>Generally adequate</p>	<p>Adequate and prompt response in terms of: 1) Geographic coverage: Geographical location of various police stations in districts across the island facilitates response to cases of violence against women 2) Incidence of Violence: Office capacity/man power of each police station is adequate to respond to cases of violence against women</p>
<p>On average what is the time lag between the receipt of a complaint and the adoption of special measures to protect the physical and psychological integrity and property of women who are victims of violence?</p>	<p>Based on the geographical location of the various Police Stations which is within easy reach elapse of time should be less maximum of thirty (30) minutes</p>	<p>3) Time lag between complaint and measures taken: As stated the police has power of entry without a warrant in case of crisis situation and since police stations are located within district maximum elapse of time to reach any area is about half an hour; barring limited transport facility which remains a challenge, accordingly immediate action should be taken.</p>
		<p>There has been some indication that prompt action is not always taken</p>

<p><i>Are there police stations and other specialized services focussing on women's issues, that have protocols on victim's assistance in their languages</i></p>	<p>Special section responsible for cases of Domestic Violence and child abuse within the police department</p>	<p>Reports suggest need to strengthen through sensitization and training</p>
<p><i>Are there measures to ensure the safety of women who are victims of violence, their families and witnesses?</i></p>	<p>What are they? Legal system Crisis Mechanism run by Dominica National Council of Women (DNCW) Social Welfare Unit for Child Abuse deals with violence of adolescent girls</p>	<p>Comments: While the (DNCW) Crisis Mechanism exists improvement/strengthened capacity is needed, increased partnership between the police and DNCW assists the process</p>
<p><i>Do women who are victims of violence have access to pro bono legal assistance?</i></p>	<p>Government established Legal Aid Clinic established in 2003 Previously by the Women's Bureau Legal Aid Attachment</p>	<p>Women's Bureau has also made simple a set a set of booklets with laws pertaining to women and family to facilitate understanding by ordinary persons for guidance in decision making as regards application of the law - circulated to women centres, other relevant agencies and available at the Bureau</p>
<p><i>Is the creation encouraged of groups of professionals to provide assistance to women who are victims of violence in order to pursue relevant procedures</i></p>	<p>DNCW gets legal support and financial assistance for women victims from some female lawyers in the country; although not as an organised group WB: part voluntary legal aid for women</p>	<p>There may be need to access greater and more organised support in this regard through the Bar Association</p>
<p><i>Are there models of intervention for women assailants?</i></p>	<p>Not aware of any such model</p>	<p>No comments</p>

Part Three: National Budget

of Dominica

<p>1) Are there appropriations in the national and local budgets to finance anti-violence measures?</p>	<p>Not specific to Violence Against women</p>	<p>Part of the mandate of the Women's Bureau is geared at the eradication of violence against women, as such a reasonable amount of its budget appropriations covers awareness and training. This is supported by donor project funds.</p>
<p>2) Are there appropriations in the national and local budgets to finance training programmes to prevent Violence Against women?</p> <p>Indicate annual investment.</p>	<p>No specific head in budget as related to Violence against women but forms part of budget on overall training and sensitization on gender issues</p> <p>Also projects funded by donor agency</p>	<p>e.g. An amount of EC\$77,688 was spent over the last one and a half year for a project entitled "Integration of life skills within the school curriculum: A Vehicle In The Mitigation Of Gender Based Violence"</p> <p>Through this project 4,250 secondary & junior secondary school first to third form students were reached through over about 40 students workshops and retreat, 44 teachers reached through two training workshops and one retreat, more than 150 parents reached through meetings/sessions and retreat.</p>
<p>3) Are there appropriations in the national and local budgets to finance awareness raising programmes on Violence against women?</p> <p>Indicate annual investment</p>	<p>Yes, forms part of annual budget</p> <p>Also supported by project funds from donor agency</p> <p>EC\$8,000.00</p>	<p>In addition the Bureau spends annually approximately \$3500 annually on observance of Day to Reject Violence Against Women with activities targeting both specific target groups and the general public</p> <p>The Bureau spends approximately EC\$12,000 on its weekly/fortnightly Radio programmes, T.V programmes and newsletters with about 25% of that amount to bring focus on issues of Violence Against women</p> <p>Grant funds in amt. of EC\$264,000 has been approved for an integrated, multi-sectoral approach to addressing violence against women. Through this project approx. 100 key agents will be trained to benefit all victims & the general public (2yrs</p>

3) Is there a system of support designed to serve the immediate needs of victims of violence

<p><i>Are there free emergency hotlines to provide advice to women who are victims of violence? Are such hotlines available all over the country?</i></p>	<p>DNCW Hotline not fully operational at this time</p> <p>A small but special system within the police department to facilitate quick response</p>	<p>Comments: DNCW Hotline service in dire need of support</p>
<p><i>Are there shelters to care for women victims of violence and their children? If so are they public or private or both?</i></p> <p><i>Is the geographic distribution of shelters appropriate bearing in mind the number of complaints of violence received?</i></p>	<p>A halfway house centrally located dealing with immediate crisis operated by the Dominica National Council of Women (NGO)</p>	<p>This is under resourced and in dire need of funds Provisions made under upcoming project to assist (in part) the strengthening of this mechanism and to provide added support at the community level</p>
<p><i>Is the creation of self-help groups for women victims of violence encouraged?</i></p>	<p>Yes as indicated below</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p><i>What type of free family guidance and counselling services are available in the country?</i></p>	<p>Women's Bureau, Social Welfare Dept. and DNCW provide counselling/referral services</p> <p>At the Community level members of church based organizations have been trained to provide guidance and counselling DNCW trained persons at zone level</p>	<p>A core of professionals has been recently trained in mitigation skills with a view to providing this service to women and families</p>
<p><i>What types of rehabilitation programmes are implemented for women violence victims?</i></p> <p><i>Any other support systems in place</i></p>	<p>Not aware of any such programme</p>	<p>No added comments</p>
<p><i>Are there social programmes that provide appropriate services to assist the basic needs of women victims of violence</i></p>	<p>Some Social Welfare support for women and children who are under-privileged but not specific to women victims of violence</p>	<p>In view of the relationship of economic dependence to gender based violence, the Women's Bureau through its skills training programme seeks for economic empowerment of disadvantaged women</p>

PART FOUR: INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

1) *Are statistics collected on judicial proceedings, trials and sentences arising from complaints of violence Against women?*

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Data of complaints collected, however only recently fully computerised and in process of compilation of data, therefore some data is not readily available in required form

		Comments/attachments
<i>How many complaints of violence against women were lodged last year?</i>	Data of police case files to include violence against girls: 139 cases of violence and girls (last available data 2003 as noted in attachment)	Refer to attachment on cases of violence Against women provided for further insight.
<i>How many arrests of violence against women were lodged last year?</i>	Not available	Not available
<i>How many trials were held in the last three years in connection with violence against women?</i>	Available for last year court records on domestic violence 51 cases brought before the court for domestic violence in last reporting period July 2004- August 2005, 49 female complainants 39 cases already processed and 12 pending hearing	No attachments/comments
<i>How many police officers and administrative staff are assigned to protection of women victims and survivors of violence?</i>	At Police headquarters 3 officers assigned to deal with such cases, other officers of the police and court do so along with other duties	No attachments or comments

2) Are Studies carried out and statistics collected on assistance provided to women who are victims of violence?

How many calls received on emergency hotlines?	Unable to obtain available data at the time
How many shelters and with what capacity are they available in the country?	ONE centrally located halfway house for temporary shelter(1-3 days at times of crisis) centrally located in city
What % is privately/publicly owned?	Above shelter run by Dominica National Council Of Women (Women Umbrella Org.)
What % of hospital admission is the result of Violence against women?	Data not available

3) Are studies carried out and statistics collected on deaths of women caused by violence

How many women have been victims of homicide or femicide?	Data from police records as available:
Provide data from prior times to the convention	1997: 2 female victims 1998: 3 female victims 1999: 1 female victim 2001 -2002: 0 female victim 2003: 1 female victim 2004: 1 female victim
How many reported cases have ended in homicide or femicide of the woman who lodged the complaint?	Data not available
How many cases of femicide have led to convictions of perpetrators?	All cases prosecuted