

Inter-American Regional Information System on Violence against Women

FOURTH MULTILATERAL EVALUATION ROUND · MESECVI

COUNTRY

Belize

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

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1 Identification

COUNTRY

Belize

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

AUTHORITY

National Women's Commission

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

No demographic data

2 Legislation

Structure

Ind. 65

Incorporation of the concept of gender-based violence according to the Convention definition, in violence legislation, both in the public and private sphere.

Year	Regulation Name	Enforcement Date	Geographic Scope	Private Concept	Public Concept	Sources
2018	Domestic Violence Act Chapter 178 (October 6, 2008)	01/01/2008	National	Yes	Yes	https://www.agm.gov.bz/ · Ongoing consultations for 2024 revision

Year	Regulation Name	Enforcement Date	Geographic Scope	Private Concept	Public Concept	Sources
2024	Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (2024)	01/03/2024	National	Yes	Yes	https://www.agm.gov.bz/
2024	Marriage Act	01/01/2024	National	No	No	https://www.agm.gov.bz/
2018	Marriage Person Protection Act	31/12/2000	National	No	No	belizejudiciary.org (cap175) · Under revision, included in Families Bill 2024
2018	FACA (Families and Children Act)	31/12/2000	National	Yes	No	belizejudiciary.org (cap173) · Revised version in Families Bill (under consultation)
2018	Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act	31/01/2013	National	Yes	Yes	https://www.agm.gov.bz/
2020	Revised Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act	31/12/2020	National	Yes	Yes	https://www.agm.gov.bz/
2018	Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSEC)	01/01/2013	National	Yes	Yes	https://www.agm.gov.bz/
2020	Revised Edition: Commercial Sexual Exploitation	31/12/2020	National	Yes	Yes	agm.gov.bz (Cap 108.2)
2018	Criminal Code Revised 2011	31/12/2011	National	Yes	Yes	https://www.agm.gov.bz/
2018	Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2017	29/03/2017	National	Yes	Yes	nationalassembly.gov.bz (Act No. 22 of 2017)
2023	Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2023	27/07/2023	National	Yes	Yes	nationalassembly.gov.bz (Act No. 34 of 2023)
2020	Criminal Code Revised Edition 2020	31/12/2020	National	Yes	Yes	agm.gov.bz (Cap 101)
2024	Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2024	08/04/2024	National	Yes	Yes	agm.gov.bz (Act No. 08 of 2024)
2020	Domestic Violence Act Chapter 178, Revised Edition 2020	31/12/2020	National	Yes	Yes	belizejudiciary.org (cap178)
2020	Cybercrime Act Revised Edition 2020	31/12/2020	National	Yes	Yes	agm.gov.bz (Cap 106.01)
2022	Senior Courts Act (Divorce)	15/11/2022	National	No	No	https://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Act-No-27-of-2022-Senior-Courts-Act-2022..pdf · Original was the supreme judiciary act; it also replace the court of appeals act (Divorce Proceedings)
2024	FAMILIES BILL, 2025	31/12/2024	National	Yes	Yes	https://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Families-Bill-2025.pdf · Currently under consultation.

Ind. 250

Existence of legislation that criminalizes violence against women based on gender: psychological; physical; sexual in its various forms; patrimonial; economic; institutional; in politics; symbolic, online, trafficking, forced prostitution; sexual harassment at work, education and health facilities, rape and sexual violence within marriage and civil unions, armed conflicts, other types of violence (specify) and others in violence legislation.

Record 1

YEAR

2018

REGULATION NAME

MARRIED PERSONS (PROTECTION) ACT CHAPTER 175 REVISED EDITION 2000

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2000

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

NO DATA

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Intrafamily, Other types of violence

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

N/A

SOURCE

<https://www.belizejudiciary.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/cap175-married-persons-protection-act.pdf>

Record 2

YEAR

2018

REGULATION NAME

Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/01/2013

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Trafficking, Forced Prostitution (per Rome Statute)

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"An Act in Belize's legal framework aimed at criminalizing and deterring human trafficking, with weighty prison sentences to match the severity of these offences."

SOURCE

<https://www.agm.gov.bz/>

Record 3

YEAR

2018

REGULATION NAME

CRIMINAL CODE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2017

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Statutory Amendment

ENFORCEMENT DATE

29/03/2017

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

NO DATA

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Institutional, Other types of violence

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"Act No. 22 of 2017 – Criminal Code (Amendment) Act updates Belize's Criminal Code by introducing parole eligibility for life sentences after a minimum term, allowing certain offences to be tried summarily, and adjusting penalties for arson. It aims to modernize sentencing and improve prosecutorial efficiency."

SOURCE

<https://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Act-No.-22-of-2017-Criminal-Code-Amendment-Act-2017.pdf>

Record 4

YEAR

2024

REGULATION NAME

CRIMINAL CODE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2024

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Statutory Amendment

ENFORCEMENT DATE

08/04/2024

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

NO DATA

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Psychological, Institutional

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"The Criminal Code (Amendment) Act, 2024 updates Belize's Criminal Code to broaden the definition of aggravated assault aimed to strengthen protections for public officers and ensure the integrity of criminal investigations."

SOURCE

https://www.agm.gov.bz/uploads/laws/67fe774f19e3a_Act_No._08_of_2024__Criminal_Code_Amendment__No._2__Act__2024.pdf

Record 5

YEAR

2020

REGULATION NAME

Revised Edition: Commerical Sexual Exploitation

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2020

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Sexual, Psychological, Online, Trafficking, Forced Prostitution (per Rome Statute), Other types of violence

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"This Act criminalizes a range of exploitative acts involving children—such as child prostitution, facilitation, procurement, pornography, trafficking, sex tourism, and related offenses—imposing stringent penalties (up to life imprisonment for repeat convictions). It also mandates protective provisions for victims, including restitution, immunity from prosecution, privacy safeguards, victim support, and extra-territorial jurisdiction"

SOURCE

https://www.agm.gov.bz/uploads/laws/63976d192f5f1_Cap_108.2_Commercial_Sexual_Exploitation_of_Children__Prohibition__Act.pdf

Record 6

YEAR

2018

REGULATION NAME

FACA (Families and Children Act)

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2000

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Intrafamily, Online, Trafficking, Other types of violence

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"The Act establishes legal frameworks for parental responsibility, guardianship, custody, adoption, and child maintenance, while embedding the principle that decisions must favor a child's best interests."

SOURCE

<https://www.belizejudiciary.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/cap173-Families-and-children-act.pdf>

Record 7

YEAR

2023

REGULATION NAME

Pilot Project Report - Sexual Offences Court

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Judicial Report

ENFORCEMENT DATE

19/06/2023

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Sexual, Psychological, Intrafamily, Institutional, Trafficking, Sexual harassment at work, educational or health institutions, Rape, sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"This judicial report details the 2023 pilot project of a specialized Sexual Offences Court conducted in Belize by Justice Antoinette Moore and it outlines the objectives, operational framework, challenges, case outcomes, and comprehensive recommendations for institutionalizing a permanent SO Court. The report addresses access to justice, delays in sexual offence trials, trauma-informed approaches, and systemic reforms in handling gender-based violence cases."

SOURCE

<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>

Record 8**YEAR**

2022

REGULATION NAME

SENIOR COURTS ACT, 2022

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

15/11/2022

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Institutional

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

N/A

SOURCE<https://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Act-No-27-of-2022-Senior-Courts-Act-2022..pdf>**Record 9****YEAR**

2020

REGULATION NAME

CRIMINAL CODE REVISED EDITION 2020

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2020

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Intrafamily, Institutional, Online, Trafficking, Sexual harassment at work, educational or health institutions, Rape, sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions, Other types of violence

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"The Criminal Code Act (Cap. 101) identifies the substantive criminal law of Belize, defining offences, criminal responsibility, and general principles of liability."

SOURCEhttps://agm.gov.bz/uploads/laws/639762f72be2e_Cap_101_Criminal_Code_Act.pdf

Record 10**YEAR**

2024

REGULATION NAME

Anti-Sexual Harassment Act (2024)

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

01/03/2024

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Institutional, Sexual harassment at work, educational or health institutions, Rape, sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"The Anti-Sexual Harassment Bill, 2024 is a proposed law in Belize that aims to replace outdated legislation and provide stronger protections against sexual harassment."

SOURCE

<https://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Act-No.-29-of-2024-Anti-Sexual-Harassment-Act-2024.pdf>

Record 11**YEAR**

2020

REGULATION NAME

Cybercrime Act Revised Edition 2020

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2020

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Sexual, Psychological, Online, Symbolic, Other types of violence

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"The Cybercrime Act is primary legislation enacted to combat technology-related crimes, with strong emphasis on protecting individuals, especially women and girls from gender-based online abuse. It criminalizes offences such as cyberstalking, online harassment, non-consensual sharing of intimate images ("revenge porn"), child grooming, and other digital violations that disproportionately affect women and vulnerable groups."

SOURCE

https://www.agm.gov.bz/uploads/laws/63976d192f056_CAP_106.01_Cybercrime_Act.pdf

Record 12**YEAR**

2020

REGULATION NAME

Domestic Violence Act Chapter 178 (December 31, 2020)

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2020

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Intrafamily, Rape, sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"The Domestic Violence Act provides legal mechanisms to protect individuals from abuse within domestic settings. It authorizes the issuance of protection and occupation orders to prevent further harm. The Act ensures swift judicial intervention to safeguard victims' rights and safety."

SOURCEhttps://www.agm.gov.bz/uploads/laws/6474ebf5285a3_Cap_178s_Domestic_Violence_Order.pdf**Record 13****YEAR**

2023

REGULATION NAME

CRIMINAL CODE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2023

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Statutory Amendment

ENFORCEMENT DATE

27/07/2023

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Rape, sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

N/A

SOURCE<https://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Act-No.-34-of-2023-Criminal-Code-Amendment-Act-2023.pdf>

Record 14**YEAR**

2020

REGULATION NAME

COMMERCIAL SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN (PROHIBITION) ACT CHAPTER 108:02

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2020

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

NO DATA

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Sexual, Psychological, Online, Trafficking, Forced Prostitution (per Rome Statute), Other types of violence

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

"The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (Prohibition) Act, Cap. 108:02 criminalizes all forms of commercial sexual exploitation involving children, including prostitution, pornography, trafficking, and sex tourism. It imposes strict penalties, including life imprisonment for repeat offenders, and provides protective measures such as victim restitution, privacy safeguards, and immunity from prosecution. The Act ensures both national and extra-territorial jurisdiction to combat these offences comprehensively."

SOURCEhttps://www.agm.gov.bz/uploads/laws/63976d192f5f1_Cap_108.2_Commercial_Sexual_Exploitation_of_Children_Prohibition_Act.pdf**Record 15****YEAR**

2018

REGULATION NAME

CRIMINAL CODE Revised 2011

TYPE OF INSTRUMENT

Primary Legislation

ENFORCEMENT DATE

31/12/2011

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual

NUMBER AND ARTICLE TEXT

N/A

SOURCE<https://www.agm.gov.bz/>

Special legislation that considers the differentiated impact or aggravates the crimes of violence committed against women girls and adolescents; adults and seniors; from ethnic diversity; rural; with disabilities; pregnant; of low socioeconomic status; with diverse sexual orientations; for their gender identity; with migrant status or victims of armed conflicts, refugees or displaced; deprived of their liberty.

NO DATA

Legislation that explicitly bans the use of conciliation, mediation, probation, application of the criteria of opportunity, commutation of sentence or other methods intended to extra-judicially resolve cases of violence against women

NO DATA

Legislation that criminalizes Femicide/Feminicide in both the public and private spheres; the violent death of women, whether it was incorporated as an autonomous crime or as an aggravating circumstance of homicide due to the circumstances of the crime or the relationship with the aggressor.

NO DATA

Ind. 246

Specific legislation that includes the legal interruption of pregnancy for therapeutic, eugenic reasons or for rape and/or incest, or the decriminalization of abortion, including administrative resolutions, health care and/or sexual violence protocols.

Year	Rule Name	Date	Scope	Causes	Source
2020	Chapter 112 of the Criminal Code of the Laws of Belize - Medical termination of pregnancy	31/12/2020	National	Eugenic	agm.gov.bz (Cap 101 Criminal Code Act)
2020	Chapter 112 of the Criminal Code of the Laws of Belize - Medical termination of pregnancy	31/12/2020	NO DATA	NO DATA	agm.gov.bz (Cap 101 Criminal Code Act)

Ind. 59

Existence of spaces, mechanisms and tools with recognition and legal status for inter-institutional coordination between public entities and civil society organizations in function of the promotion and protection of the right to a life free of violence for women.

INDICATOR RECORD YEAR

2024

SPACE/ENTITY NAME

National Women's Commission

RULE NAME

National Women's Commission Act

ENFORCEMENT DATE

24/02/2024

BEGIN DATE

31/12/1982

SCOPE OF COMPETENCES

Gender Equality, Equity & Women Empowerment

US\$ BUDGET

105,000

SOURCES

<https://www.agm.gov.bz/>

Record 1**YEAR**

2018

INSTITUTION

Ministry of Human Development (Women's Department)

PROTOCOL

Protocol for Multi-Sectoral Response to Sexual Violence

PUBLICATION DATE

01/12/2011

SCOPE OF OPERATION

NO DATA

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Sexual

PURPOSE

"It is the purpose of the multi-sectoral response set out in this protocol to facilitate collaboration amongst the Ministry of Human Development and Social Transformation through its Women's Department, the Ministry of Police and Public Safety, the Ministry of Health and the Ombudsman's Office to provide protection, treatment and support for survivors of sexual violence so as to reduce their trauma and facilitate their recuperation."

SOURCE<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>

Record 2**YEAR**

2020

INSTITUTION

Belize Police Department

PROTOCOL

Police Act, Chapter 138, Revised Edition 2020, Showing the Subsidiary Laws as at 31st December, 2020

PUBLICATION DATE

31/12/2020

SCOPE OF OPERATION

Police personnel

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Intrafamily, Sexual harassment at work/educational/health facilities, Rape/sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions, All

PURPOSE

"Meant to guide responses to violence against women (VAW), mainly domestic and gender-based violence."

SOURCE

agm.gov.bz (Cap 138 Police Regulations)

Ind. 129**Existence of assistance protocols for the implementation of the different assistance and support services for women victims or survivors of violence in: shelters, legal advice services, psychological support (individual, group, family), telephone support, health care, job training guidance, training in human rights****YEAR**

2024

INSTITUTION

NGO's such as Haven House, Mary Open Doors, and House of Dorcas

PROTOCOL

N/A

PUBLICATION DATE

01/06/2025

SERVICE AREA

Shelters, Legal Advice, Psychological Support, Telephone Support, Health Care

TYPE OF VIOLENCE

Physical, Sexual, Psychological, Intrafamily, Rape/sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions

PURPOSE

"Aimed at facilitating services in terms of Protection Services for Survivors"

SOURCE<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>

Process

Number of state offices, secretariats or agencies specializing in violence against women.

NO DATA

Existence of systematic education, training and awareness processes for public sector officials on the legal tools for sanctioning, protecting and promoting women's rights.

NO DATA

Ind. 131

Existence of administrative bodies to file complaints regarding violence against women in: educational institutions, public or private health centers, work environment, matters of violence against women in the political sphere, on social networks and virtual media, in public or private social media

YEAR

2024

INSTITUTION

Belize Police Department

AREA OF SERVICE

No information

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

NUMBER OF INSTANCES

3,113

LEGISLATION

Domestic Violence Act, Chapter 178, Revised Edition 2000

SOURCE

<https://www.belizejudiciary.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/cap178-domestic-violence-act.pdf>

Result

Violence rate based on surveys: number of girls and women who declare having been victims of any form of violence.

NO DATA

Maternal Mortality rate in girls and adolescents from 10 to 19 years old on a national level.

NO DATA

Number of registered marriages in which one or both contracting parties were under 18 years of age according to surveys or administrative records, disaggregated by sex.

NO DATA

Ind. 267 Proportion of underage girls (under 18 years of age) who have suffered sexual violence

Year	Institution	Report Geo. Scope	Geo. Scope	Age Group	Total Victims	Aggressor Type	Residence Area	Ethnicity	Source
2018	Belize Crime Observatory	National/Federal	National	0-19	109	Relatives	Urban	Belizean	https://www.bing.com/search?q=belize+crime+observatory
2019	Belize Crime Observatory	National/Federal	National	0-19	130	Relatives	Urban	Belizean	https://www.bing.com/search?q=belize+crime+observatory
2020	Belize Crime Observatory	National/Federal	National	0-19	96	Relatives	Urban	Belizean	https://www.bing.com/search?q=belize+crime+observatory
2021	Belize Crime Observatory	National/Federal	National	0-19	83	Relatives	Urban	Belizean	https://www.bing.com/search?q=belize+crime+observatory
2022	Belize Crime Observatory	National/Federal	National	0-19	102	Relatives	Urban	Belizean	https://www.bing.com/search?q=belize+crime+observatory
2023	Belize Crime Observatory	National/Federal	National	0-19	80	Relatives	Urban	NO DATA	https://www.bing.com/search?q=belize+crime+observatory

Pregnancy, childbirth, interruptions and abortions rate in girls and adolescents (10-19 years of age) on a national level.

NO DATA

Monitoring reports on the knowledge, understanding and application of protocols and specific regulations on women's rights.

NO DATA

General observations

YEAR
2024
OBSERVATIONS
"Accessibility of services to rural communities, indigenous, PWDs, LGBTQ+"

Structure

Ind. 186

Name of the National Plan/Policy/Action/Strategy for the prevention, assistance and eradication of violence against girls and adolescents, adult women and older adults in its various manifestations. Scope and characteristics

Record 1

YEAR

2024

PLAN/POLICY

Revised National Gender Policy (2024-2030)

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

National Women's Commission

SCOPE

National

GROUP OF WOMEN

Girls and Adolescents, Rural, Women with Disabilities, All of the above

TYPE OF POLICY

NO DATA

SOURCE

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/604665626bb4328821a62cb8/6621343271f094ed0496381e_2024NationalGenderPolicy.pdf

DESCRIPTION

"The National Gender Policy (2024-2030) builds on the achievements of the 2013 Policy. It focuses on the gaps and areas for further action in each of the six areas of health, education, wealth and employment creation, gender-based violence, women in power and decision making and organizational systems strengthening. This Policy begins with a preamble that sets out the national, international instruments that guide Belize's aspiration of achieving gender equity and equality and ending discrimination against women and girls. The Policy also identifies key gender related concepts and definitions as well as human rights-oriented principles that shape Policy interventions. The Policy sets out the overarching goal to be achieved as well as individual goals, outcomes and outputs for each of the six thematic priority areas of the Policy."

Record 2**YEAR**

2018

PLAN/POLICY

The National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan: A Multisectoral Plan to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence in Belize 2017-2020

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

National Women's Commission & Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation

SCOPE

National (assumed)

GROUP OF WOMEN

All of the above

TYPE OF POLICY

National Plan

SOURCE

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/604665626bb4328821a62cb8/60b52905f862f460df551c17_National%20Gender%20Based%20Violence%20Action%20Plan%202017-2020_%20reduced.pdf

DESCRIPTION

"A Multisectoral Plan to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence in Belize 2017-2020"

Record 3**YEAR**

2022

PLAN/POLICY

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Referral Pathways

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

National Women's Commission

SCOPE

National

GROUP OF WOMEN

Girls and Adolescents, All of the above

TYPE OF POLICY

National Plan

SOURCEhttps://cdn.prod.website-files.com/604665626bb4328821a62cb8/60d0f909600d88c9d8a7e2c2_GB%20Referral%20Pathway%20Belize.pdf**DESCRIPTION**

"This document provides instructions for trained case workers and social workers in Belize to report gender-based violence, along with phone numbers of clinics, hotlines, and other support services for women and victims of GBV."

Record 4**YEAR**

2018

PLAN/POLICY

Practitioners' Guide to the Public Assistance Scheme

INSTITUTION

Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation

INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED

Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation

SCOPE

National

GROUP OF WOMEN

All of the above

TYPE OF POLICY

National Plan, Policy

SOURCE<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>**DESCRIPTION**

"The Public Assistance Scheme is a key component of the wider family of social safety net schemes managed by the Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation. The national scheme is administered by the Department of Human Services', Family Support Services and offers emergency, medium- and long-term in-kind benefits to eligible individuals and/or families. Even though administered by the Department of Human Services', the Public Assistance Scheme may be accessed by the other Departments of the Ministry, i.e. Women's Department and Community Rehabilitation Department. The Public Assistance Scheme is opened to all Belizeans who find themselves in crises/unfavourable circumstances caused by the onset of a personal shock and who require emergency and/or longer-term assistance to stabilize, prevent further crisis and re-establish normalcy. In-kind assistance includes: Burial/Pauper Burial; Education; Fire; Food; Medical; Housing; and Legal."

Ind. 184**Structural or temporary assistance measures for violence against women within the framework of measures to stop the spread of COVID-19****YEAR**

2025

POLICY

Maturity Assessment Adaptive Social Protection

PUBLICATION DATE

03/08/2025

INSTITUTE DEVELOP POLICY

"This assessment applies the Inter-American Development Bank's Maturity Model to Belize's Social Protection System"

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

DIFFUSION MECHANISMS

Press

DESCRIPTION

"Adaptive Social Protection focuses on strengthening social protection systems to better respond to large-scale shocks such as natural disasters, health crises, and economic disruptions. In recent years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, countries across Latin America and the Caribbean have adapted existing programs to support vulnerable populations in times of crisis. This report examines Belize's Social Protection System using the Inter-American Development Bank's Maturity Model to assess its capacity to respond to shocks and to identify key strengths, gaps, and priority areas for building a more adaptive and resilient system."

SOURCE<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>**Incorporation of the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence in the national plans of other sectors such as Security, Education, Health, Labor, Migration, and Refugee and Asylum Sectors**

NO DATA

Number of facilities that provide care and psychological support before, during, and after the legal process

NO DATA

Process

Ind. 191

Existence of support networks at the local level (community, national, regional) for the emergency assistance and follow up of the violence against women problematic. – Established mechanisms for inter-institutional communication and coordination. - Number and type of institutions (public, private, nature of the institutional activities) that make up the support network.

Record 1

YEAR

2023

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

NETWORK

National Gender and Gender-Based Violence Committee (NGGBVC)

SCOPE

NO DATA

PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Judiciary, Ministry of Human Development, Ministry of Health, Police Dept., Ministry of Education

PRIVATE INSTITUTION

UN Rep/IPA

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

The Office of the Ombudsman, National Women's Commission, Family Support and Gender Affairs Department, Department of Youth Services, NCFC

SOURCE

<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>

SERVICE DESCRIPTION

"The NGGBVC is responsible for the efficient and effective implementation of the National Gender Policy (NGP) and the National Gender Based Violence Plan of Action (NGBVPoA). Using an integrated, multifaceted, multi-sectoral response to address all forms of gender issues with respect to the five priority areas of Health, Education, Wealth and Employment, Power and Decision-making, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as documented in the NGP."

BUDGET

"The NGGBVC does not have a dedicated standalone budget; its operations are supported through the National Women's Commission's budget and in-kind contributions from member agencies."

DIALOGUE MECHANISMS

"The NGGBVC itself, through its structured bi-monthly multi-sectoral meetings and subcommittee reporting framework."

Record 2**YEAR**

2023

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

NETWORK

District Gender and Gender-Based Violence Committee (DGGBVC)

SCOPE

National

PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Police Department, Health Department, Education Department, Magistracy, Local Government

PRIVATE INSTITUTION

Human Rights Representative / Advocate

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

Family Support and Gender Affairs Department, Human Services Department, Department of Youth Services, NGO Representative, Community Based Organizations

SOURCE<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>**SERVICE DESCRIPTION**

"The DGGBVC is a district-level, multi-sectoral technical committee responsible for supporting the implementation of the National Gender Policy (NGP) and the National Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (NGBVAP)."

BUDGET

"The DGGBVC does not have a dedicated standalone budget. Its operations are supported through the National Women's Commission and relevant district agencies."

DIALOGUE MECHANISMS

"The DGGBVC functions as a district-level multi-sector dialogue mechanism through its quarterly meetings and inter-agency coordination platform."

Record 3**YEAR**

2021

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

NETWORK

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Referral Pathways

SCOPE

National

PUBLIC INSTITUTION

Police Department, Medical Services

PRIVATE INSTITUTION

N/A

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION

Family Support and Gender Affairs Department, Belize Family Life Association, Child Protection Services

SOURCE<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>**SERVICE DESCRIPTION**

"Gives detailed step by step procedures to follow when a survivor of GBV tells an individual, and how that individual is supposed to respond."

BUDGET

"N/A - Services provided to a survivor from different sectors (Medical, Police, Psychosocial, Legal, Health etc.)"

DIALOGUE MECHANISMS

"Referral pathway in assisting trained case workers / social workers on how to deal with a survivor of GBV."

Number of male and female officers disaggregated by sex who receive complaints of violence victims.

NO DATA

Number of shelters, homes or other forms of housing care for women victims of violence

NO DATA

Number of users assisted in the various services for: girls and adolescents; adult women and older women victims of violence.

NO DATA

Result**Number of public institutions with specific units regarding women created and in operation; with assigned budget and; with a running budget.**

NO DATA

Rate of women cared for in the integral assistance services during COVID-19 in proportion to the prior year before the pandemic.

NO DATA

Ind. 201 Population rate of women cared for in shelters, shelters and reception rates with respect to the total number of requests for reception by the affected women or by the established protection bodies.

Year	Name of Instance	Shelter Name	Requests	Women Received	Source/Note
2022	Domestic Violence (DV) & Human Trafficking (HT)	The House of Dorcas	3	3	N/A - Information Shared from Safe House Directly. Moreover, as it relates to Children, for the year of 2022, 2 children were also admitted along with the 3 women that accessed the shelters.
2023	Domestic Violence (DV) & Human Trafficking (HT)	The House of Dorcas	3	3	N/A - Information Shared from Safe House Directly. Moreover, as it relates to Children, for the year of 2023, 5 children were also admitted along with the 3 women that accessed the shelters.
2024	Domestic Violence (DV) & Human Trafficking (HT)	The House of Dorcas	3	3	N/A - Information Shared from Safe House Directly. Moreover, as it relates to Children, for the year of 2024, 2 children were also admitted along with the 3 women that accessed the shelters.
2025	Domestic Violence (DV) & Human Trafficking (HT)	The House of Dorcas	6	6	N/A - Information Shared from Safe House Directly. Moreover, as it relates to Children, for the year of 2025, 13 children were also admitted along with the 6 women that accessed the shelters.

General observations

NO DATA

Structure

Ind. 136 Existence of specialized care agencies on Violence against Women and Girls

Record 1

YEAR

2018

INSTITUTION

National Women's Commission

TYPE OF BODY

Special Body

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

RULE

National Women's Commission Act, 2024

BODY NAME

National Women's Commission

SOURCE

<https://www.nwcbelize.org/about/about-us>

Record 2

YEAR

2018

INSTITUTION

Family Support and Gender Affairs Department

TYPE OF BODY

Office

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

RULE

Belize Public Service Regulations 2014

BODY NAME

Family Support and Gender Affairs Department

SOURCE

<https://psubelize.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/BPSR2014.pdf>

Existence of specialized investigative bodies on Violence against Women and Girls

YEAR
2018
INSTITUTION
Gender-Based Violence Response and Investigative Unit (GVRIU)
TYPE OF BODY
Office, Special Prosecutor's Unit
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE
National
RULE
Police Act, Chapter 138, Revised Edition 2020, Showing the Subsidiary Laws as at 31st December, 2020
BODY NAME
Gender-Based Violence Response and Investigative Unit (GVRIU)
SOURCE
https://www.agm.gov.bz/uploads/laws/63f516152f6fc_Cap_138_Police_Regulations_1.pdf

Ind. 245

Existence of courts specialized in Violence against Women and Girls

YEAR
2023
COURT NAME
Sexual Offences Court – High Court of Belize
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE
National
LAW
Not applicable – Judicial Pilot Project Report
NAME OF INSTANCE ORGANISM
High Court of Belize
SOURCE
https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library

Ind. 140

Existence of criminal investigation protocols on crimes of violence against women, femicide and violent deaths of women, with a gender perspective

YEAR

2018

INSTITUTION

Women's Department (updated to Families Support and Gender Affairs Department)

PROTOCOL

Protocols for Multi-Sectoral Response to Sexual Violence

PUBLICATION DATE

01/12/2011

TYPE OF PROTOCOL

NO DATA

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

SOURCE

<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>

Existence of unilateral divorce

NO DATA

Existence of legislation on protective measures, at the request of the victim or third parties or on an ex-officio basis, before and during administrative and/or judicial proceedings

Record 1

YEAR

2020

RULE

Belize Domestic Violence Act Chapter 178, Revised Edition 2020

PUBLICATION DATE

31/12/2020

EFFECTIVE DATE

31/12/2020

TYPE OF BODY

Office

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

PROTECTION MEASURES

"This Act may be cited as the Domestic Violence Act."

SOURCE

<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>

Record 2**YEAR**

2024

RULE

Belize: Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence (Prohibition) Bill, 2024

PUBLICATION DATE

01/04/2024

EFFECTIVE DATE

01/12/2025

TYPE OF BODY

Office

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

PROTECTION MEASURES

"BILL for AN ACT to recognise the right of all persons to live free of domestic violence and intimate partner violence; to expand the powers of the court to make orders to support survivors; to increase accessibility to justice services; to fulfil Belize's commitments under International Conventions for all persons to live free of violence; to repeal the Domestic Violence Act, Chapter 178 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

SOURCE<https://www.nwcbelize.org/resources/e-library>

Existence of actions for constitutional relief (protection, custody), relevant for the defense of women and girls rights.

NO DATA

Ind. 12 **Existence of nationwide toll-free telephone lines for women victims of violence.****INDICATOR RECORD YEAR**

2020

LINE NUMBER

0800 A WAY OUT / 0800 292 96 88

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

FUNCTIONS/COMPETENCES

National Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Helplines

LEGAL BASIS

"Established through a government-level initiative by the National Women's Commission in partnership with the Belize Police Department"

FINANCING SOURCE

NO DATA

SOURCES

<https://www.nwcbelize.org/post/nwc-partners-with-belize-police-department-to-launch-gender-based-violence-hotline>

Ind. 14 **Existence of public comprehensive legal representation services, either public or state supported, specialized in the protection of the right to a life without violence.****YEAR**

2018

SERVICE NAME

National Women's Commission

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

National

LEGAL BASIS

"Government advisory body on women's issues."

FUNCTIONS/COMPETENCES

"National Women's Commission of Belize (NWC) serves as an advisory body to the Government on issues relating to women."

FINANCING SOURCE

Mixed

SOURCE

<https://www.nwcbelize.org/about/about-us>

Existence of free and comprehensive legal services for girls, adolescents, adult women, senior women, rural, and that cares for interculturality, accordingly with the legislation in force.

NO DATA

Process

Existing training processes on women's rights for the personnel of the Courts of Justice and the Public Prosecutor's Office (judges, prosecutors, public defenders, lawyers and legal operators, police, administrative authorities related to the assistance of the complaint, and workers of national machineries), coverage, topics, and scope.

NO DATA

Number of courts and specialized prosecutors' offices, that undertake violence against women matters, on civil, criminal or other areas.

NO DATA

Database records with relevant jurisprudence from federal and state courts, on violence against women, including documentation of cases, testimonies and mechanisms to protect those who provide testimonies.

YEAR
2018
INSTITUTION
Judiciary of Belize
TYPE OF INFORMATION
NO DATA
NAME OF INSTANCE ORGANISM
Judiciary of Belize
LEGAL BASIS
"The Law library is an integral part of Belize's Judiciary. It operates to provide information and materials from the West Indies and the Commonwealth to various sectors of the legal profession."
EXISTENCE OF PUBLICATIONS
No
SOURCE
Judiciary of Belize. (2023, January 16). Law Library - Judiciary of Belize. https://judiciary.bz/law-library/ · Open to Public by Request Only

Ind. 151

Number of women who have filed violence complaints at the Police stations.

Year	Institution	Type of Violence	Ascription Instance	Received	Source
2018	Belize Crime Observatory	Physical, Sexual, Intrafamily, Other types of violence	Police Domestic Violence Unit	2,390	https://bco.gov.bz/crime-statistics/
2019	Belize Crime Observatory	Physical, Sexual, Intrafamily, Rape/sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions, In armed conflicts	Police Domestic Violence Unit	1,600	https://bco.gov.bz/crime-statistics/
2020	Belize Crime Observatory	Physical, Sexual, Intrafamily, Patrimonial, Rape/sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions, Other types of violence	Police Domestic Violence Unit	1,771	https://bco.gov.bz/crime-statistics/
2021	Belize Crime Observatory	Physical, Sexual, Intrafamily, Patrimonial, Rape/sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions, Other types of violence	Police Domestic Violence Unit	1,667	https://bco.gov.bz/crime-statistics/
2022	Belize Crime Observatory	Physical, Sexual, Intrafamily, Patrimonial, Rape/sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions, Other types of violence	Police Domestic Violence Unit	2,414	https://bco.gov.bz/crime-statistics/

Year	Institution	Type of Violence	Ascription Instance	Received	Source
2023	Belize Crime Observatory	Physical, Sexual, Intrafamily, Patrimonial, Rape/sexual abuse within marriage and civil unions, Other types of violence	Police Domestic Violence Unit	2,596	https://bco.gov.bz/crime-statistics/

Number of women victims of sexual offences by age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic situation.

NO DATA

Number of users who access to free legal services, either public or private, and with or without state subsidy.

NO DATA

Number of users who access to free legal services, either public or private, and with or without state subsidy. (duplicated on the platform)

NO DATA

Result

Number and percentage of cases heard by the Criminal Courts (ordinary and specialized) for different crimes of violence against women in relation to the number and percentage of sentences (convictions and / or acquittals) handed down by the courts (ordinary and specialized) disaggregated by sex, age, race and ethnicity, in the year of the report.

NO DATA

Number and percentage of complaints of violence withdrawn by the victim with respect to the total complaints of violence in the last year

NO DATA

Number and percentage of criminal cases for femicide/feminicide, murder, or violent death of women, including offence on attempt; in relation to the number and percentage of judgments (convictions and/or acquittals) for femicide, murder issued.

NO DATA

General observations

NO DATA

5 Information and Statistics

NO DATA

6 Diversity

NO DATA

Structure

Ind. 227

National budget law with identification of funds allocated for Women's Mechanisms — Basic Financial Context and Budgetary Commitments / Indicator.

Year	Mechanism Law	Publication Date	Policy/Action Name	Area of Competences	Budget US\$
2018	Constitution of Belize Chapter 9. - Consolidated Revenue Fund	12/03/2018	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2018	Gender Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment	81,000
2019	Constitution of Belize Chapter 9. - Consolidated Revenue Fund	12/03/2019	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2019	Gender Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment	80,300
2020	Constitution of Belize Chapter 9. - Consolidated Revenue Fund	12/03/2020	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2020	Gender Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment	66,600
2021	Constitution of Belize Chapter 9. - Consolidated Revenue Fund	12/03/2021	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2021	Gender Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment	54,800
2022	Constitution of Belize Chapter 9. - Consolidated Revenue Fund	21/03/2022	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2022	Gender Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment	165,000
2023	Constitution of Belize Chapter 9. - Consolidated Revenue Fund	12/03/2023	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2023	Gender Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment	86,500
2024	Constitution of Belize Chapter 9. - Consolidated Revenue Fund	12/03/2024	Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2024	Gender Equality, Equity & Women's Empowerment	104,400

Follow-up mechanism (all records): "Amendment to Revenue and Expenditure (when monies are needed for programs or additional expenses it will be requested to the Ministry of Finance.)"

Source (all records): <https://mof.gov.bz/> · <https://www.nationalassembly.gov.bz/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Belize-Constitution-Chapter-4-2021.pdf>

Process

Basic Financial Context and Budgetary Commitments / Indicator: accountability reports

NO DATA

Result

Percentage of budget execution

NO DATA

Percentage of budget allocated/executed for victim services

NO DATA

General observations

NO DATA