

**Statement by Barbados on the Occasion of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of St. Lucia**  
**Thursday, November 5, 2015**

Thank you Mr. President.

Barbados extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of St. Lucia and in particular ~~the...~~ **AUB RAMZALLY, HEAD OF DELEGATION**

My delegation would wish to commend St. Lucia for the very frank assessment of the country's efforts to place human rights in the forefront of its development and for their national report and the presentation made here today.

We have noted the intention of St. Lucia to meeting its obligations under human rights instruments to which it is party as well as to accede to those that would further strengthen the legal and institutional framework for human rights in the country.

My delegation is not unaware of the severe constraints placed on small states by the international community to meet these obligations notwithstanding the paucity of financial, administrative and technical resources. As a sister CARICOM state, Barbados fully identifies with these constraints as we concurrently seek to enshrine in law those principles and practices that the Caribbean has long espoused and for which it has become highly regarded.

In this regard the Government of St. Lucia is commended for protections afforded by the Constitution against torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment and for condemnation of violence against all persons.

Barbados however urges that some priority be given to enshrining in domestic legislation the commitments made under the international instruments to which St. Lucia is party and also recommends the strengthening of the office of the Ombudsman in the protection of the rights of nationals.

In the area of the women rights, we applaud the efforts made to bring women into the mainstream of society through access to educational and vocational training, with emphasis on women in rural areas. We also note the mechanisms established to protect women against violence, namely the Women's Support Centre, the Vulnerable Persons Team, a unit in the Police Force whose mandate is to respond solely to cases of violence against women and children, and the awareness activities

undertaken by the Government Division of Gender Relations. We believe that these efforts will go a long way to enhancing the contribution that women can and will make to the development of the country.

My delegation notes the attention given by the Government of St. Lucia to enhancing the security of citizens and the prevention of excesses by the enactment of the Police Complaints Act which seeks to provide an open and transparent process in the handling of police complaints and which provides for an independent investigation where allegations of excessive use of force have been made by any member of the public. We encourage St. Lucia to continue to strengthen these mechanisms thereby further enhancing the environment of collective security and accountability.

Barbados commends the broad efforts and strides being undertaken in the areas of the right to education, with emphasis on addressing the issue of declining rates of male enrolment; the right to health, the protection of persons with disabilities and the rights of children. We note that the promotion of human rights training and education is undertaken mainly by independent advocates and institutions and encourage the Government of St. Lucia to actively engage these bodies in setting the broad agenda to enhance the on-going efforts.

In concluding, Barbados takes this opportunity to wish St. Lucia a successful UPR.

Thank you.

AMB. MARION WILLIAMS

MR. HUGH LAMOND ALLMAN (DPR)

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In concluding, Barbados takes this opportunity to wish St. Lucia a successful UPR.

Thank you.

AMB. MERION WILLIAMS

MR. HUGHCLAWD ALLMAN (DPR)

