

Organization Name: Women's Declaration International - Bahamas Chapter

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Date of Report: March 30th, 2023

Date of appointment: October 3rd, 2020.

Due date of Report: (Quarterly) April 30th, 2023

***Description: The WDI represents the Women's Declaration on Human Rights. The Declaration re-affirms women and girls' sex-based rights, and challenges the discrimination we experience from the replacement of the category of sex with that of 'gender identity.'***

WDI Bahamas onboarded two new members to its executive team.

A Social Media Strategist and Outreach Ambassador.

As of January 2023 Bahamas Chapter began to prepare to launch its community outreach programme with the aid of a social media presence.

Social media has been very impactful as the Bahamas continues to build a following. We currently utilize Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

### **WDI Resource Pool**

*Cash request made on behalf of WDI Bahamas on August 2nd, 2023*

***To date we have used specified funds for disbursements and general administrative supplies as needed.***

- 1. Training certificates***
- 2. Computer Supplies***
- 3. Paper***
- 4. Local regulatory fees***
- 5. Technology upgrades***

WDI Bahamas also secured major local sponsors for the organization which can be provided via request.

### **Next Steps**

It is with that view that I will allow the extension to serve as a benchmark for activity as I compile the list of attendees to the Masterclass and further introduce the campaign to key stakeholders in the Bahamas. ONGOING

WDI Bahamas wants to launch a community outreach activity programme that will foster a safe space for women to gather and discuss their concerns. We are currently looking for a committed volunteer to facilitate this program.

WDI Bahamas will also apply for the NPO Registration which will make the organization an official NGO in the country and require financial reporting.

### **Projects**

WDI Bahamas has consulted a media firm to facilitate the develop of its website and social media strategy. A quote with deliverables has been submitted to the campaigns leadership team in the small grant request proposal. ONGOING

### **Measurable Projections**

Since sending out a formal introduction in November 2020 we have curated local clusters to recommence MasterClasses to continue to build capacity and awareness.

### **Advocacy**

Engaged in discussions with CEDAW expert Marion Bethel-Sears and shared recommendations for proposed domestic violence courts at the local level.

Recommendations also shared with DGFA as per further review by CEDAW expert.

WDI Bahamas issued a statement on the Marital Rape legislation on the Bahamas country page.

WDI Bahamas wrote the Bahamas' minister of health and wellness to challenge the proposed policy changes and ammdements to the Mental Health Act. WDI Bahamas called for a real consultation process and an allocation of funding by the government for programs focused on women and girls.

This was also placed on the country page.

Currently devoloping quality content that has driven policy changes for the Royal Bahamas Police Force and women's rights that impact domestic violence and incident reporting.

Government legislating domestic violence legislation that includes more training for police officers to facilitate proper care for women and data collection based on sex.

Government also decided to change language in their proposed GBV Bill which puts our position at the forefront of years of research and collective thought. WDI Bahamas does believe those changes can be a benchmark to other reforms that will make legislation current and better suited to protect women.

### **Campaigns**

WDI Bahamas first online campaign -TBA

### **Events**

WDI Bahamas' Outreach Ambassador attended the Womanish Ways Event in November 2022.

### **Media**

Beyond the Headlines approached WDI Bahamas about coming on the show. WDI Bahamas saw the opportunity as entertainment focused and not best suited for the organization.

Howard Grant was another decline as it was not a good fit for the organization, after numerous emails and informal WhatsApps.

### **Global Advocacy-Speaking**

WDI Bahamas did become a signatory on docs., that oppose gender mainstreaming in development multinationals without proper research and consultation, taking into consideration the negative impact it will have on policies that provide equity for women and girls that leads to equality.

No current speaking engagements for 2023

**Prepared by Rochelle R. Dean, Country Contact Bahamas**

