

## ABSTRACT

### Assessing Institutional Capacity to Mainstream Gender in Crime Prevention Programmes: The Case of one Civil Society Organization in Jamaica

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Grounded in a gender and development (GAD) theoretical framework, this study assesses the institutional capacity of the Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC) to mainstream gender in its crime prevention programmes to determine coherence between policy and practice.

The literature reviewed to assess institutional capacity to mainstream gender did not identify appropriate assessment tools. In response, a prototype evaluation instrument was developed which adapted aspects of the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework (DQAF). Capacity indicators were developed and assigned numeric scores, using a four-point scale to assess: the enabling framework, institutional and technical capacity to mainstream gender and gender equality social impact. The study utilized qualitative and quantitative methods to collect and analyse data from the organization's staff, beneficiaries and internal documents. Analysis involved comparing WROC as a case study with international good practices.

The results confirmed the effectiveness of the assessment prototype. It identified gaps between WROC's strong policy commitments to mainstream gender and some of its practices, which indicated 'policy evaporation'. The main causes identified were: management's inability to develop and implement critical components to create an enabling environment, because of financial and technical resource limitations. These findings contrasted with the literature reviewed which cited resistance from senior management as the most frequent cause of weak gender mainstreaming. The impact of

Jamaica's strong hegemonic masculinist culture on the willingness of males to participate in gender mainstreaming activities in explicitly feminist and woman-focused organizations also emerged as an important factor. The findings also showed that gender mainstreaming premised on a 'GAD' framework can have 'WID' results and that civil society-government collaboration is critical to promoting successful gender mainstreaming initiatives.

Keywords: Violet Nora Ferreira-Sutherland; institutional capacity assessment; gender mainstreaming; gender mainstreaming in crime prevention.