

SPOUSES OF CARICOM LEADERS ACTION NETWORK



SCLAN

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ABOUT US

First Ladies and Spouses of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) launched its network, Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) to tackle issues related to the health and well-being of women, adolescents and children in the Caribbean. SCLAN is the advocacy and action platform to advance "Every Caribbean Women Every Caribbean Child initiative (CariWaC)".

The Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) is a non-governmental organization endorsed by CARICOM Heads of Government at their Inter-Sessional Meeting in Guyana in February 2017. It was formally established on September 5, 2017 with Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow, Spouse of the Prime Minister of Belize, being elected Chair.

MISSION

One strong voice advocating for policy, civil society support and strategic partnerships that will transform our vision into a reality.

VISION

A Caribbean without HIV, hepatitis, TB, cervical cancer, early pregnancy, human trafficking and violence where women and girls know their value and ability to reach their potential.



THE FOUR PILLARS OF ACTION



REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Advocating for the reduction of gender-based violence against women and children (including trafficking of persons) through legislative reform, psycho-social support to victims and the inclusion of men and boys in the solution.



TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Promoting the health and well-being of adolescents in the Caribbean and reducing adolescent pregnancy by 20%.



ELIMINATING CERVICAL CANCER

Expanding prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of cervical cancer, including improving access to screening and strengthening infrastructure through promotion and utilization of the HPV vaccine.



Born HIV Free

ELIMINATING MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION OF HIV

Eliminating mother-to-child transmission of HIV and congenital syphilis in the Caribbean. 7 countries and island states in the Caribbean have been validated as having eliminated mother to-child transmission of HIV: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, Montserrat and Saint Kitts & Nevis.

OUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



H.E. Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow
Chair, Belize



H.E. Mrs. Sandra Granger
Vice-Chair, Guyana



H.E. Mrs. Juliet Holness
Executive Body
Jamaica



H.E. Mrs. Maria Browne
Executive Body
Antigua & Barbuda



H.E. Mrs. Martine Moïse
Executive Body
Haiti



H.E. Mrs. Patricia Minnis
Executive Body
Bahamas

MRS. KIM SIMPLIS BARROW

Spouse of the Prime Minister of Belize



Kim Simplis Barrow is a Belizean activist and philanthropist and wife of the Prime Minister of Belize, Rt. Honourable Dean Barrow. She is also the Special Envoy for Women and Children, Chair of Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network and founder of the Lifeline Foundation one of Belize's most acclaimed charitable initiatives. In 2008, she became the first Belizean to be designated as a Global Ambassador of Special Olympics International.

As the Special Envoy for Women and Children, Simplis Barrow is the Belizean champion for children, collaborating with the Ministries of Health and Human Development, the National Committee for Families and Children and local non-government organisations in advocating for the passage of legislation and the development of social policies and programmes that promote and protect children's wellbeing. She has hosted national conferences to raise awareness on the subject of commercial sexual exploitation of children and successfully advocated for the passage of legislation on the commercial sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking as well as the passage of amendments to the criminal code for stiffer penalties for all perpetrators of sexual violence against children.

In early 2013, Simplis Barrow initiated the construction of two much needed facilities designed to improve the lives of some of Belize's most vulnerable children. The first of these facilities is the Inspiration Center, which opened its doors in March 2014 and now provides integrated care services to poor children with disabilities. The other facility is a Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care wing at the national referral hospital which opened on October 27, 2015. The construction of both multimillion-dollar projects were financed by local and international fundraising

efforts, including two Inspiration Telethons in Belize; the first of which raised a million dollars in one day for the Inspiration Center. Both the Inspiration Centre and the Paediatric and Neonatal Intensive Care wings are the only one of their kind in the country.

In 2013 Mrs. Simplis Barrow embarked on a public education campaign titled "My Body is Precious" that seeks to empower children and adolescents with information on sexual abuse and exploitation. She has co-authored two books as a part of the campaign. The first was a child friendly book on sexual abuse prevention that targets 6 to 10-year olds. This book was launched in April 2013 and resulted in a countrywide tour that included the dramatization of the book and a song. The second book targets adolescent girls and was distributed at a countrywide Girl Empowerment speaking tour that was launched in early 2014.

On March 6, 2014 Simplis Barrow, along with the National Women's Commission put together the first 20,000 STRONG Women's Empowerment Rally which brought together thousands of women and girls countrywide, the largest non-political crowd ever gathered in Belize in a magnificent show of solidarity for women's empowerment. From this biennial movement, the Special Envoy made a significant step forward to empower Belize's women and girls financially; hosting a National Call to Action Conference on Women's and Girls' Financial Health. Mrs. Simplis Barrow took that call to action to the rest of the world with a First Ladies Conference, held as a side event at the 69th United Nations General Assembly. These crucial issues make for a busy schedule, but the Spirit of Christmas is never missing at the Special Envoy office. Each year Simplis Barrow hosts a Christmas concert for the young residents of the children's homes across the country to ensure that while they are away from their families during the holidays; they still get to enjoy the cheers of the season. This concert along with the annual launch of Inspiration Calendars features artwork by children with disabilities and agendas sold a source of funding for the Inspiration Center, are the Special Envoy's signature end-of-year events.

MRS. SANDRA MARIE GRANGER

First Lady of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana



Her Excellency Sandra Marie Granger, First Lady of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, aims to empower and improve the lives of the most vulnerable sectors of the Guyanese population.

She holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees in English Literature and in Portuguese, respectively, from the University of Guyana and

was awarded a LASPAU/Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she read for a Master of Arts Degree in Brazilian Literature and a Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies.

The First Lady is committed to human rights - particularly women's and children's rights - and is engaged in projects aimed at improving children's and youth's opportunities through education. She recognises the importance of preparing Guyanese youth for future employment and is deeply involved in STEM-Guyana, which exposes young people to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including robotics and scratch programming.

She facilitates women's and girls' empowerment through workshops aimed at improving their self-reliance and success in business as well as workshops on childcare and caring for the elderly. She also promotes inter-generational interaction through programmes pairing adolescent mothers with senior citizens.

In collaboration with non-governmental organisations, Mrs. Granger works towards the social and economic development of adolescent mothers and their reintegration into the education system.

Mrs. Granger is the patron of Women Across Differences, The Guyana Foundation, the Guyana Girl Guides Association, STEM Guyana and the Step by Step Foundation.

She serves as Vice-Chair of the Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) which focusses on reducing adolescent pregnancy, cervical cancer, mother-to-child transmission of HIV and domestic violence in the Caribbean.

She is a Champion of Every Caribbean Woman Every Caribbean Child Initiative; a Champion for Change against HIV/AIDS Stigma and Discrimination of the Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV/AIDS (PANCAP); and a Champion of the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Sustainable School Feeding Programme.

Mrs. Granger has been honoured by local and international organisations including Celebrating Woman International (2016) and by the Centre for Economic and Leadership Development (2017).

She is married to Brigadier David Arthur Granger, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, and has two children and four grandchildren.

SCLAN's *Launch*



SCLAN's Chair and Special Envoy for Women and Children, Mrs. Kim Simplis Barrow, supported by Gilead Sciences Inc., hosted the Launch of Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network at the Radisson Fort George Hotel and Marina in Belize. September 2017



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“Transforming Lives through Innovation: Implementation of high-impact prevention programs for adolescents, young men and women”

Spouses of CARICOM Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) was the recipient of two-tiered grant funding from Gilead Sciences Inc. This funding facilitated the establishment of the SCLAN Secretariat that is being housed in Belize and two demonstration projects in Belize and Guyana.



THE BELIZE PROJECT

In Belize, the project will be implemented in the municipality of Dangriga which is in the Stann Creek District of Belize. The Stann Creek District has one of the highest rates of new HIV infections and AIDS related deaths in the country. The project will expand access to HIV prevention and treatment for adolescents, young adults and particularly those at high risk for HIV infection. The Ministry of Health is the main implementing agency for the project in Belize.

THE GUYANA PROJECT

In Guyana, Region 4 (Demerara-Mahaica) has the highest concentration of teenage mothers in the country and Regions 1 (Barima-Waini) and 9 (Upper Essequibo-Upper Takutu) has the highest rates of teen pregnancy per capita. The fact that girls between the ages of 15-24 are almost twice as likely to become HIV-infected as their male counterparts' points to the increased vulnerability of this gender at that age. The Project will be coordinated by The Anira Foundation Inc., a not-for-profit company dedicated to education and empowerment of vulnerable sectors of the Guyanese community.

- MEMBERS -

**ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, THE BAHAMAS, BARBADOS,
BELIZE, DOMINICA, GRENADA, GUYANA, HAITI, JAMAICA,
MONTSERRAT, SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA,
SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, SURINAME
AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

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CONTACT US

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