

# GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

## FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Gender-based violence in the Caribbean stands out across regions worldwide.

On average,

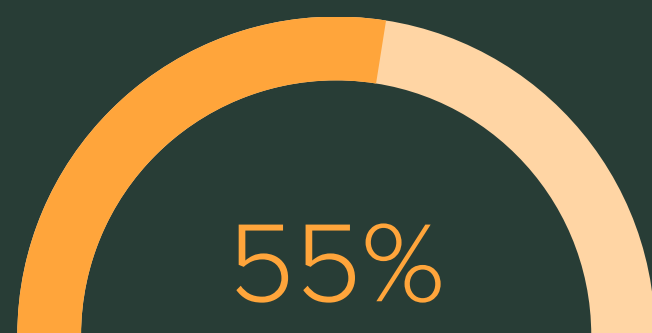
**46%**

of women in Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have experienced at least one form of violence in their lifetime.

In 2019, five of the top twenty recorded rape rates worldwide were in the Caribbean.



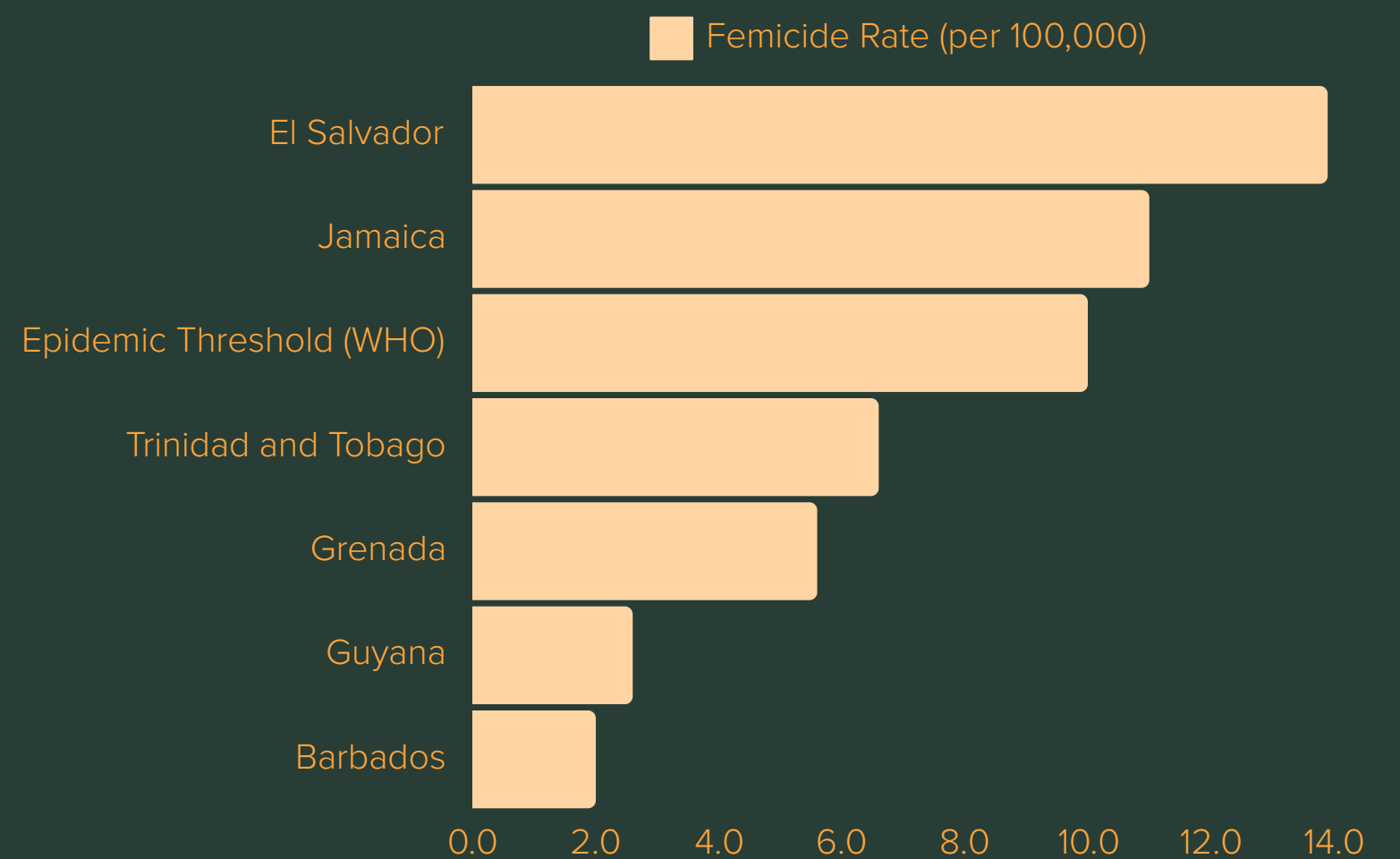
### THE CASE OF GUYANA



Guyanese women reported having experienced at least one form of violence, including intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual abuse.

Source: [UN Women](#)

### THE CASE OF JAMAICA



Jamaica has the second highest femicide rate in the world, and at an epidemic level, according to World Health Organization threshold.

Source: [UNFPA](#)

### Focus Group Findings:

FEAR OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALSO BECOMES A DETERRING FACTOR TO WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE.

“I've seen it a lot happening to women in the workplace, especially in the industry. Working out in the fields, it tends to happen a lot to women.”  
– Guyanese Man

TRADITIONAL GENDER BIASES “JUSTIFY” DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FOR BOTH MEN AND WOMEN.

“[...] But men have been and still are receiving emotional violence, verbal violence, but it's not reported. You got emotional in the sense of neglect, lack of intimacy. You hear in all the words in the dictionary plus some, but those things are not reported. And they aren't even considered, but they're a large part of gender-based violence. [...] So, if we're going to look at this coin, we need to look at both sides of the coin and while women empowerment may be something, then there is also need for male empowerment.”

–Guyanese Man

GBV CASES OFTEN GO UNPUNISHED AND UNREPORTED ALTHOUGH LEGISLATION EXISTS.

“But sometimes you go to the police and the police take your statement and look at you and be like if you wear that then you don't think the man is going to see you.”  
– Jamaican Woman

# WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

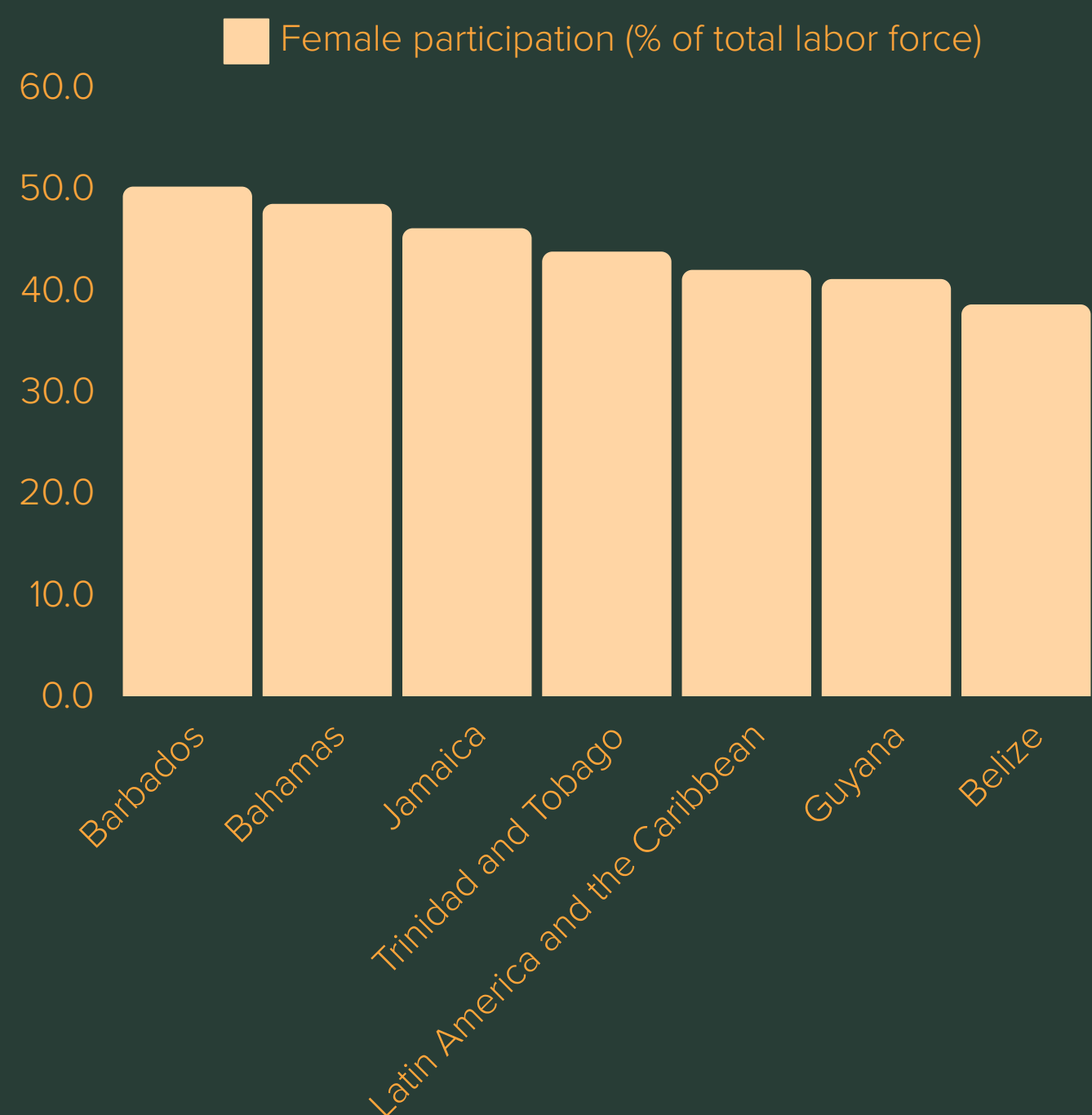
## FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

Important strides have been made in the Caribbean, but women continue to face significant inequalities in the workforce.

### WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE RATE OF LABOR PARTICIPATION OF BOTH WOMEN AND MEN DECLINED GLOBALLY, BUT WOMEN'S RECOVERY RATE HAS BEEN SLOWER.

According to 2022 data, female labor force participation is of 41.9 percent.



Source: [World Bank](#).

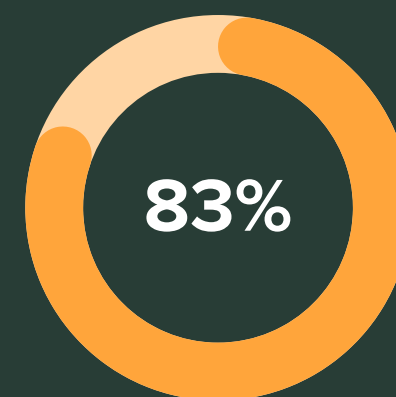
ALTHOUGH WOMEN SEEM TO BE EMPLOYED, THEIR LABOR MARKET PARTICIPATION IS OFTEN TIED TO PRE-CONCEIVED NOTIONS OF "TRADITIONAL WOMEN'S" INDUSTRIES.

"It may seem that women are having a bigger opportunity in terms of jobs, because majority of the jobs in Guyana are service-based jobs. Which in women dominate service-based industry. So in that sense, it seems that the women are getting more job opportunities.

– Guyanese man

### GENDER PAY GAP

EVEN IN 2023, THERE IS STILL LITTLE DATA AVAILABLE ABOUT THE GENDER PAY GAP AND UNPAID HOUSEHOLD AND CARE WORK IN THE CARIBBEAN.



In Jamaica, women are estimated to earn 83% of men's income.

In Barbados, the estimation is that women earn 88% of men's income.



There is no data on Guyana for 2023.

Source: [World Economic Forum](#)

### Focus Group Findings:

MEN LARGELY EXPECT WOMEN TO TAKE CARE OF MOST HOUSEHOLD CHORES, WHILE THE WOMEN RESENT THAT EXPECTATION, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY PREVALENT AMONG THEIR PARENTS' GENERATION.

“Because most men believe that women should go out and work too but when we go out and work we still have to come home to wash, cook, clean and help with homework.”  
– Jamaican Woman

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# WOMEN IN POLITICS

## FOCUS GROUP FINDINGS

In 2023, out of the 193 member states of the United Nations, only THIRTEEN had a woman had of state or government.

### WOMEN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

ONLY FOUR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN RUN BY A WOMAN IN THE CARIBBEAN:



The Honorable Mia Mottley has been the Prime Minister of Barbados since 2018.



Ms. Portia Simpson-Miller was the Prime Minister of Jamaica from 2006 to 2007 and again from 2012 to 2016.



Ms. Kamla Persad-Bissessar was the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago from 2010 to 2015.



Ms. Janet Jagan was President of Guyana from 1997 to 1999.

### Focus Group Findings:

SOME PARTICIPANTS BELIEVE THAT MORE FEMALE POLITICAL LEADERS WOULD PROVIDE A GREATER DIVERSITY OF PERSPECTIVES, HASTEN PROGRESS ON GENDER ISSUES, PROVIDE GOOD REPRESENTATION, AND GENERALLY BENEFIT THEIR COUNTRIES.

“If we have more females, I think our voices will be louder and there'll be more perspectives.

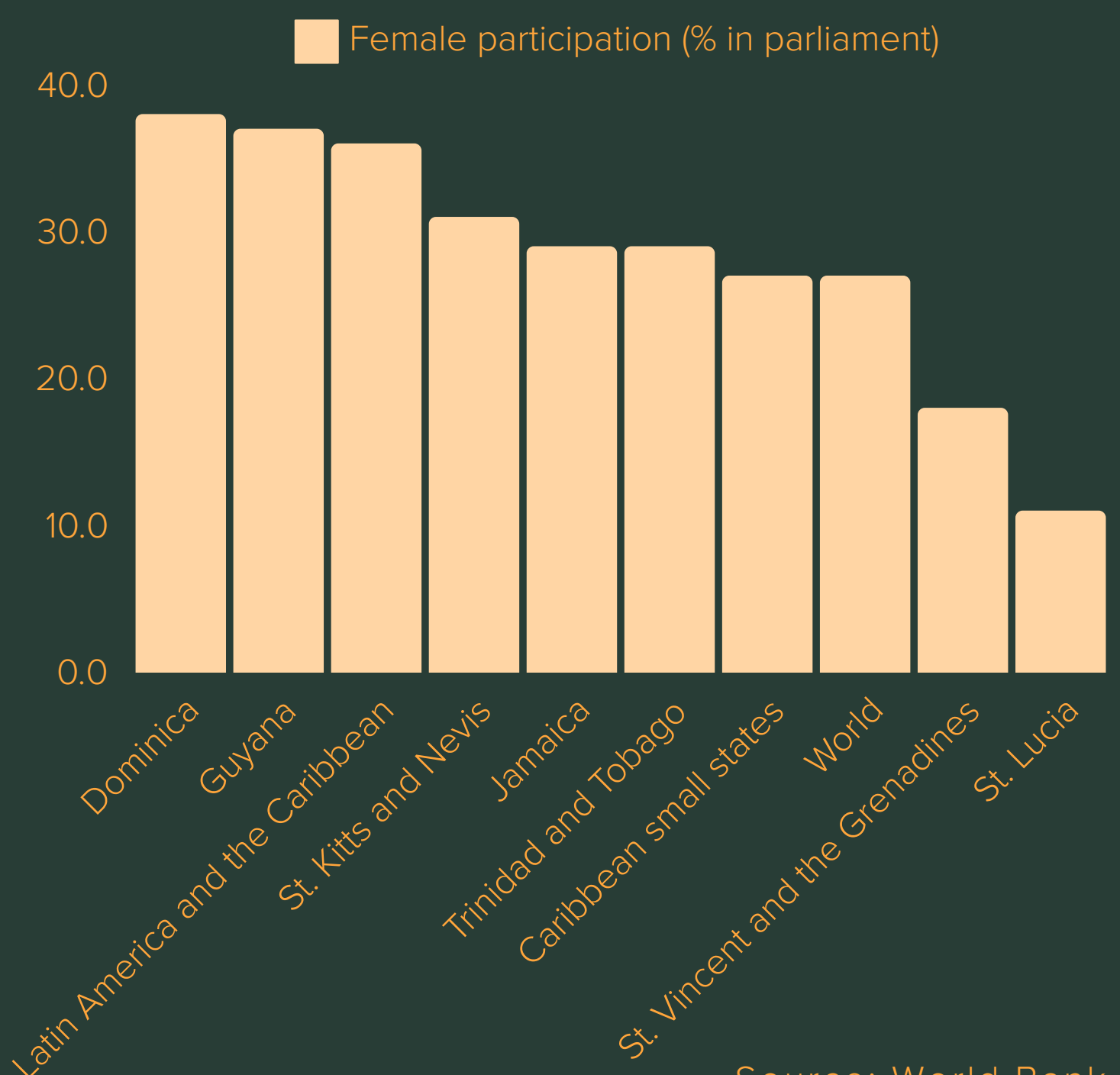
– Guyanese Woman ”

**22%**

of ministerial portfolios and cabinet positions in the English-speaking Caribbean are held by women.

Source: [UN Women](#)

### WOMEN IN PARLIAMENT



Source: [World Bank](#)

SOME PARTICIPANTS ARE SKEPTICAL THAT WOMEN ARE NECESSARILY BETTER ON GENDER ISSUES THAN MEN, AND SOME OF THE MEN QUESTION THE LEADERSHIP TRAITS OF WOMEN.

“ Since I was growing up small, we've seen male dominate parliament. And I think it's more important to see more women out there. And I prefer to see women in ministries other than just education and the few others that we see them in... I think we need to see more women in these areas because that then instills in our young ladies coming up that they can go about, they can go forward into these areas as well.”

– Guyanese Woman