



**EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES (ECAWJ)**

Message from ECAWJ on the occasion of International Women's Day

International Women's Day is observed globally on 8th March every year. It is a day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. International Women's Day has been observed for over a century, with the first gathering held in 1911.

On 8th March 2025, International Women's Day will be celebrated under the theme, "Accelerate Action." This year's theme calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a future where no one is left behind.

The United Nations has declared the 10th March as the International Day of Women Judges. The theme for this year is "Women in Justice, women for justice" which is aimed at promoting full and equal participation of women at all levels of the judiciary, celebrating the progress that has been made and raise awareness about the challenges ahead. The International Association of Women Judges' (IAWJ) Biennial Conference theme for their upcoming conference is "Resilience: Women in Leadership to End Gender-Based Violence & Femicide."

The recently launched Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Association of Women Judges (ECAWJ) comprises of women judges, magistrates, registrars, court administrators, among others from the Court's Member States and Territories. ECAWJ is dedicated to among other things, promoting gender equality in the legal profession and at the broader level engaging in public education on issues that are important to women and to the wider society.

International Women's Day marks a call to action for accelerating gender equality and protection of women and young girls. To commemorate International Women's Day, the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Association of Women Judges (ECAWJ) will be hosting several activities to celebrate the achievements of women in the legal profession in Eastern Caribbean. The events will include interviews with our very first patron, The Right Honourable Dame Janice Pereira DBE, LLD, former first female Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court and other prominent women on their achievements. The main event

in keeping with the IAWJ's conference theme will be a panel discussion on domestic violence themed **"HARD TALK-GVD (Gender-based violence) -Beyond Physical"** on 5th March 2025. The panel will include testimonials and experiences from people who deal with gender-based violence. It is anticipated that the panel discussion will be live streamed on the YouTube Channel of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court. The ECAWJ has also planned a weeklong step challenge which commenced on 1st March 2025 to promote health and well-being among its members. In addition, members in each of the Member States and Territories have been encouraged to do something meaningful to commemorate the two days. It is anticipated that members will undertake activities at the local level to celebrate the day, such as church services, activities to recognise female staff members who work within the court system and social activities.

ECAWJ encourages the participation and support of all as we launch a campaign of awareness and promotion of gender equality in the legal profession and among all women and young girls.

Happy International Women's Day to all women and young girls throughout the Member States and Territories of the Court and the wider Caribbean region from the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court Association of Women Judges (ECAWJ).

-End-

