

Abstract

Gender, Regionalism and Caribbean Development: An Examination of CARICOM Policy

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A feminist approach to international relations in the Caribbean essentially entails a feminist approach to development. It challenges male biased ideologies which have resulted in gender inequality throughout the world, including the Caribbean.

This study begins by defining a Caribbean feminist approach to international relations in the Caribbean. It then examines the extent to which CARICOM, as a regional state institution for Caribbean development has considered gender in its development policies.

The analysis looks at previous considerations of gender in Caribbean state development policies since the 1940s; the history and present status of the women and development movement in the Caribbean; gender in the Caribbean regionalism discourse; and a case study of the CARICOM Women's Desk.

A proposal for a CARICOM regional policy on gender follows from the conclusion and suggestion that CARICOM could better realise regional integration if it focuses less on economic integration policies, and concentrates more resources in social integration areas, such as the pursuit of gender equity.

The proposal envisions mandating the inclusion of gender considerations in all CARICOM policies and work programmes, gender analysis training for all professional Secretariat staff, and retaining a gender specialist, in addition to the existing Women's Affairs Officer.