



Women empowered to succeed with WEEFI Project

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The Women's Employment, Entrepreneurship & Financial Inclusion (WEEFI) Project continues to benefit scores of women across the Federation.

The Project, which is funded by the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), was launched on October 12th, 2021 with the aim of providing technical and financial support to unemployed women and female entrepreneurs struggling in the COVID-19 environment.

Speaking at the Project Signing Ceremony, His Excellency Ambassador Michael Lin explained *"This programme will not only teach women to fish, but will provide them with a fishing net"*.

The Honourable

Minister Eugene Hamilton also gave remarks at the Ceremony and lauded the long-standing relationship with The Republic of China (Taiwan) that led to the Women's Empowerment Project coming into fruition, asserting that the Federation indeed *"had a friend - in the Republic of China on Taiwan"*.

Three courses have been held in St. Kitts since the start of the Project, namely Business Strategy & Innovation, Food & Beverage Entrepreneurship & Beauty Entrepreneurship, with a combined total of over one hundred women graduating with increased skills

and knowledge in their chosen fields, and the top performing candidates provided a seed Grant for further business development.

The Project, which has utilized the experience of local facilitators, is expected to wrap up in November of this year, with one additional Course planned for St. Kitts, to commence in June.



Scenes from WEEFI Project

Counselling Unit renames and rebrands

The Counselling arm of the Ministry, known for many years as the Counselling Centre or Counselling Unit, has now been officially renamed as The National Counselling Centre (NCC).

The renaming, which became effective this year, was considered necessary in keeping with the importance of the Centre and the services provided to many persons in the Federation,

including youths, individuals, couples, families and public and private sector organizations, explained NCC Deputy Director, Ms. Naeemah Hazelle.

Several updates to the Centre's operation are also expected to come on stream shortly, with one being the establishment of a fee structure which will become effective in the

next couple months, and will apply to most levels of clients, including self-referred clients, corporate referrals and requests for training on psycho-social topics.

While Counselling services have customarily been free, Ms. Hazelle explained, *"the new fee structure will be minimal, and will help to normalize the...."* (cont'd on Pg. 2)



Counselling Centre renames and rebrands cont'd



NCC Deputy Director,
Ms. Naeemah Hazelle
(Photo: ZIZ)

(cont'd from Pg. 1) “.. service of counselling, as just like any other service, for example, going to a doctor”, she said, adding “Referrals that originate within the Ministry and the services of Family counsellors will continue to be free.”

The Centre expects to establish an online presence and offer Group Counselling sessions in the near future as well, and facilitate

access to an accredited training Course called ‘Darkness to Light’, which advocates for protecting children from sexual exploitation.

In addition to in-person sessions, online sessions via Zoom are already being offered, which provide added sustainability in the event of national lockdowns, and allow clients the option to utilize counselling services at their preferred location.



“Referrals that originate within the Ministry and the services of Family counsellors will continue to be free.”



PCPS Director and
Facilitator address
workshop participants
(Photo: SKNIS)

PCPS strengthens relationships in Juvenile Justice

Probation Officials within the field of Juvenile Justice recently came together to discuss ways of strengthening their networks to improve children’s security and welfare.

The half-day workshop entitled ‘Strengthening Relationships within Criminal Justice’ was organized by the Probation & Child Protection Services (PCPS) Department and held at the Information Communications Technology (ICT) Centre on Thursday, March 3rd, 2022, with the aim of building better working relationships between PCPS and its partners in the field, so that all units could work collectively on children’s protection.

Director of Probation & Child Protection Services, Mr. Gerald Connor, explained that the Department had previously researched programmes that could enhance the working relationship between the Police and Probation Departments, and to that

end, contact was made with Boston-based Chief Probation Officer, Mr. Bernard Fitzgerald, who happily indicated that he had been visiting St. Kitts for the last eighteen years, and would be willing to conduct the training during one of his visits.

Mr. Connor continued, “A programme was created under Mr. Fitzgerald’s leadership called ‘Operation Nightlight’, which included Police Officers and Probation Officers working together at evenings, going into different areas...enforcing curfews and doing home visits together, to prevent juveniles from being on the street”. During the workshop, with discussions led by Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Connor, participants explored incorporating elements of that programme as well as different ways of building a stronger child protection

network overall.

The training was attended by twenty-five juvenile justice professionals, including officials of the Police Force, Defence Force, and the Departments of Probation & Child Protection Services and Gender Affairs.

Noting that the discussions were well received, Mr. Connor said, “The training was helpful as the information in terms of child protection and the Child Care & Adoption Act- and the way that we all fit into it- was new to some persons”.

He indicated that the Department planned to broaden the training to junior staff of the same Units, as well as host more training sessions on different aspects of Juvenile Justice and Child Protection in the near future.

Celebrations held for International Women's Day

Seven women were recognized for their contributions to the Federation during the annual International Women's Day (IWD) Award Ceremony, held on Tuesday March 8th, 2022 at the National Heroes' Park.

This year's Ceremony, which was chaired by Mrs. Toni Frederick-Armstrong, saw feature remarks by Dame Constance Mitchum and the Honourable Minister of Social Development and Gender Affairs, Mr. Eugene Hamilton, as well as performances by several female talents.

Awarded during the ceremony were **Ms. Treasa Wyatt- Digital Economy, Mrs. Tricia King - Blue Economy, Dr. Merisa Grant-Tate – Women in**



2022 IWD Awardees

Science, Mrs. Ilis Palmer Watts and Mrs. Dianille Taylor-Williams for the Green Economy, and Ms. Hildred Carey– Prime Minister's Awardee.

The celebration of women continued throughout March under the theme *"Gender Equality today for a Sustainable Tomorrow"* with several other activities held, including the second annual Pioneering Women's Gallery Induction Ceremony on Wednesday, March 23rd.

The Pioneering Women's Gallery, which was

revitalized last year after a long hiatus, and honours women who have achieved 'first in their fields', saw seven women being recognized as pioneers in different areas.

This year, seven female trailblazers were inducted into the Gallery. They are: **Ms. Louise Clarke, First Female Fire Engine Driver, Mrs. Sheryl Bass, First Female Manager of The St. Kitts Cooperative Credit Union, Ms. Pat Walters, First Female Manager of The Cable, Mrs. Tricia King, First Female Marine Biologist, Mrs. Diane Dunrod-Francis, First Female to represent the Federation at the Olympic Games, and Mrs. Giselle Matthews, First Female President of The Chamber of Industry & Commerce.**



Honourable Minister Eugene Hamilton stands with 2022 Pioneering Gallery

Inductees

(Photo: SKNIS)



"We want to give the public a sense as to what the Policy is about, and who it's going to target" she said.

National Gender Policy approved by Federal Cabinet

The National Gender Policy and Action Plan (GEPAP), which was finalized in December last year and submitted to Cabinet, has now been approved by the said body.

Mrs. Shinnel Charles, Senior Gender Field Officer in the Department of Gender Affairs, confirmed that the endorsement occurred in early March, and that the Department was now actively making plans to launch the Gender Policy and Action Plan, as well as sensitize the public and other stakeholders on its contents.

"We want to give the public a sense as to what the Policy is about, and who it's going to target" she said, adding "And so we are planning an Open Day, which will hopefully take place in May".

Mrs. Charles disclosed that the Open Day will likely involve major stakeholders in the Policy, such as the Ministries of Environment, Trade and Agriculture, and that Consultations are also expected to be organized with all major

stakeholders in the near future, to chart the way forward.

"The Gender Policy is not just about Gender Affairs", she said. "The Gender Policy and Action Plan speaks to the mainstreaming of gender and the involvement of all sectors, and the strategic actions that each area should undertake to achieve a better gender balance" she added, noting that persons should stay tuned to learn more about the important document.



Official Poster of the GEPAP

FOURTH QUARTER (2021) RECAP

Eight Men Awarded for International Men's Day

Eight deserving men were honoured at the annual International Men's Day Award Ceremony, hosted by the Department of Gender Affairs on November 19th, 2021 at the CUNA Caribbean Conference Centre, Fortlands.

The Awardees and their area of recognition are: *Mr. Samul Duggins - Agriculture, Mr. Val Henry - Communications/Entrepreneurship, Mr. Rhon Boddie - Disaster & Shelter Management, Dr. Leroy Richardson - Health Care & Medicine, Mr. Keeshavn Banker Wahyn - Culture, Dr. Marcus Natta - Humanitarian's Award, and Mr. Vince Matthen- Prime Minister's Awardee.*



The 2021 Men's Day Awardees

Chaired by Mr. St. Clair 'GQ' Liburd, the prestigious ceremony was graced with the presence of National Hero, Sir Kennedy Simmonds, the then Acting Prime Minister Honourable Shawn Richards, the Honourable Minister Wendy Phipps, featured speaker Dr. Bichara Sahely, senior officers of the Ministry, and relatives of the Awardees.

The invocation was led by Pastor Phillip Webbe while male guest artistes, including Messrs. Brensly Blake, Asher Dolphin, Jermaine James, and Iquanja Bradley lent their musical talents to the successful staging of the Event.

16-Day Campaign against Gender-Based Violence Well Supported

Centenarians' Corner

Ms. Ruby Thomas
Newtown Age 102

Ms. Bernice Sebastian
USA Age 109

Mr. George David
Stapleton Age 101

Ms. Agnes Kelsick
Age 100

Mrs. Esther Harris
Sandy Point Age 100

Ms. Angeline Revan
St. Peters Age 100

Congratulations!!



The 2021 16-Day Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence was held successfully and was well-supported by the public as well as many community activist groups, according to Senior Gender Field Officer, Mrs. Shinnel Charles.

Held under the local theme "*Colour SKN and the World Orange and Purple: End Violence against Women Now!*", the Observance ran from November 25th-December 10th with



Scenes from 16-Day Campaign

many activities organized in both St. Kitts and Nevis to highlight the issue of gender-based violence.

Some of the activities held were a Women's Health Fair, a Candlelight Vigil to honour victims of domestic violence, Panel discussions on Radio and Television, and Advocacy Training on Gender-Based Violence.

Mrs. Charles noted that the 2021 Campaign had a particularly wide reach, thanks to the involvement of the many groups who came on board, including *Silence no More*, *Garden of Re-birth*, and the *Women's and Men's Councils*.

STAFF MOVEMENTS

Employment

Mr. Tahir Hanley - Deputy House Parent, New Horizons

Mr. Lauston Percival - Child Protection & Probation Officer 1, PCPS

Transfers

Mr. Rae Browne - from Asst. Deputy Director, New Horizons (external transfer)

Retirement

Mrs. Celia Christopher - Director, Gender Affairs

Mrs. Anne Wigley - Deputy Director, Community Development & Social Services

Attachment (WEEFIP)

Mrs. Isilma Duggins

End of Attachment (STEP)

Ms. Charissa Caesar -
Probation & Child Protection
Services Department

Upcoming Celebrations

April

16 April- Dahlia Scarborough

10 April- Naeemah Hazelle

23 April - Azilla Clarke

28 April - Delroy Prentice

June

2 June - Idona Walwyn-Matthew

3 June- Janelle Lewis-Tafari

3 June - Glentine Wattley

9 June- Donarette Sharry

12 June- Isis Nisbette

27 June- Shaneze Sam

27 June - Jeweleen Woodley

May

1 May- Dorn Henry

2 May - Stephan Joseph

12 May - Sonia Tyson

20 May - Janan Stapleton

27 May - Venecia Wharton



STAFF SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

CALENDAR**April 5th-8th -**

Staff assignment to Houses

April 14th—House Meetings**April 29th - Ministry Learning Circle****June 3rd— Mixed Football Competition****July 29th—Mixed Basketball Competition****August 26th - Hike****September 15th - Sports Day**



Female staff have fun at Women's Month Staff Appreciation Activity



Officers Carey, Huggins and Wattley mentor teens at Girls Empowerment Session - Saddler's High School



Happy Retirement to Mrs. Celia Christopher and Ms. Anne Wigley! Thanks for your many years of dedicated Service to the Ministry and country (Photo: SKNIS)





PAHO donates audio-visual equipment for the benefit of seniors and persons living with disabilities



Foster children happily receive Christmas gifts donated by the Rotary Club of St. Kitts (Photo: SKNIS)



Jamie Quamina poses for a 'picture break'



Staff spread Christmas cheer during Holiday Gift Exchange



St. Peter's Pride Community Group donates to St. Peter's Community Centre (Photo: SKNIS)

The St. Kitts and Nevis Gender Equality Policy & Action Plan - A Brief Summary

The Saint Kitts and Nevis Gender Equality Policy and accompanying Action Plan is the Government's commitment to mainstream gender. The Policy provides a platform for gender equality in all sectors and areas of social, economic, political, and environmental development so that all citizens and residents can reap the benefits of inclusive, sustainable development.



A key focus for Saint Kitts and Nevis in developing modern and relevant gender equality policy was to be inclusive in addressing discrimination and inequality that boys/men and women/girls face. Another critical focus was to fully integrate into all provisions and protections groups in the society who may be marginalised because of their socio-economic status or circumstances. The Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan is a tool to monitor and report on the country's progress in attaining agreed inclusive development targets. To that end, the Policy supports Government's reporting and compliance obligations under the varying international treaties to which it is a party.

The Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan 2022-2027 is the culmination of consultative processes and a secondary research agenda that completed its first phase in 2019, and has ten pillars or domains corresponding to the agreed international priorities for achieving gender equality. They elaborate on the *Theory of Change* (TOC) and the strategies to achieve the Government's vision for transformative change on gender equality. The ten (10) domains and co domains, with sub-sector primacies, are:

- ♦ **Agents of Socialisation (Culture, Family, Religion, Mass Media)**
- ♦ **Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food Security**
- ♦ **Climate Change and the Environment**
- ♦ **Decent Work and Inclusive Economic Growth (Labour Market Participation and Social Protection, Employment, Productive Resources, and Entrepreneurship, Digital Technologies, Tourism and Services, The Blue Economy (Optional)**
- ♦ **Education for All**
- ♦ **Elimination Of Gender-Based Violence and Discrimination For Human Security**
- ♦ **Health and Well-being (Sexual and Reproductive Health, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), Healthy Outcomes for Men and Boys and Men, COVID-19- Recovery and Resilience)**
- ♦ **Leadership and Decision-making (Women in Parliament and Politics, Women in Policing and Security Forces, Equal Participation in Society)**
- ♦ **Rule of Law, Justice, and Gender Rights**
- ♦ **Special groups for gender mainstreaming (Older Persons, Youth, Persons with Disabilities -PWDs, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex -LGBTI people, Adults in the Justice System, and Migrant (foreign-born) populations**

(Source: St. Kitts-Nevis National Gender Policy & Action Plan)

HOW TO REMAIN HEALTHY AT WORK



Have breakfast!

This meal helps to increase your brain power, energy and enthusiasm for the day!



Keep your workspace clean, so that it doesn't become a reservoir of dust and germs. Clean the desks and computer regularly.



Don't just sit all day while at work. **Get up and stretch!** Take a short walk around your work environment. Stretch again before returning to work. This helps reduce muscle tension, and can make you more relaxed and improve your mood.



Avoid long work-days.

Take regular breaks and vacation to keep stress from building up.



Avoid Unhealthy Snacks!

Many snacks are heavily processed and contain a lot of calories, which

can lead to weight gain and increased sugar, salt, and cholesterol levels.



Eat Lunch: Your lunch should be a nutrient-rich meal to replenish your energy stores and protein to build up your muscles. If you can, you should take homemade meals along with you when for lunch, to avoid overly processed foods.



Protect yourself from infections.

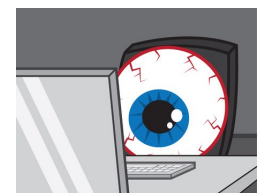
Wash your hands after using office equipment that doesn't belong to you, and do not drink from unwashed glasses used by others. Use a face mask and hand sanitizer around sick coworkers.



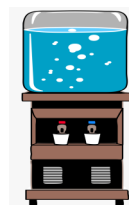
Light-hearted conversations at work can ease stress. **Keep healthy relationships with co-workers.**



Watch your posture! Bad posture increases strain on muscles and ligaments, and can make you feel sore and tensed. Sit with feet on the floor with shoulders relaxed and back straight. Don't lean to one side for long periods.



Don't stare: Staring at screens for too long can cause eyestrain and tension headaches and make you less productive. Take occasional breaks from screens.



Stay hydrated to keep your body and mind state balanced!

You will never speak
to anyone more than
you speak to yourself
in your head.
Be kind to yourself.

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glasbergen.com



"Tech support says the problem is located
somewhere between the keyboard and my chair."

Kittitian-Style Conkie Recipe



Ingredients

- 2 & 1/2 cups **all-purpose flour**
- 2 cups **sweet potatoes (preferably the white sweet potatoes)** (eq: 2 sweet potatoes)
- 3/4 cup **grated coconut** (eq: 1/2 coconut)
- 1/2 cup **grated pumpkin** (eq: 1/4 (pumpkin))
- 1/2 cup **water** (may need more if the batter is too dry)
- 1/2 cup **granulated sugar**
- 1/3 cup **raisins**
- 1 tsp **vanilla extract**
- 1/4 tsp **fresh or ground cinnamon**
- 1/4 tsp **almond essence**
- 1/4 tsp **fresh or ground nutmeg**
- **Banana leaves or foil paper**

Instructions

- In a bowl, mix together the grated coconut, pumpkin, sweet potato, flour, spices, sugar, vanilla extract and almond essence. Combine well.
- While mixing the base, slowly pour in the water.
- If you are wrapping with fresh banana leaves, wash

them and quickly pass them over fire. Spoon 3-4 tbsps of the batter to the centre of the leaf. Take each side of the leaf and bring them to the centre, then take each end and bring them to the centre. Using a string/twine, wrap it around the leaf and tie the ends together—wrap tightly.

- If you are using foil to wrap the conkie, spoon 3-4 spoonfuls of the batter to

the centre of the foil paper and wrap tightly.

- Place conkie into a large pot of boiling water and cover
- Boil for 45-minutes to 1 hour.

Source:

www.tasteefulrecipes.com/traditional-caribbean-conkies-in-banana-leaf/

life
hacks

#2960

Hold down the control key and...

C - Copy
 V - Paste
 B - Bold
 A - Select All
 L - Highlight URL
 P - Print
 T - New Tab
 W - Close Tab
 R - Refresh Page
 S - Save
 F - Find
 Z - Undo

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JAMAICAN EASTER SPICED BUN RECIPE

Ingredients

- ☐ ¼ cup brown sugar
- ☐ ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ☐ ¼ cup honey
- ☐ 1 teaspoon browning.
- ☐ ½ tablespoon molasses
- ☐ 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ☐ 4 tablespoons melted butter
- ☐ 1 cup Guinness Stout
- ☐ 1 egg
- ☐ 1 cup dried fruits (cherries, raisin)
- ☐ 2 cups all purpose flour
- ☐ 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ☐ ½ teaspoon salt
- ☐ 1/2 tablespoon cinnamon
- ☐ 2 1/2 teaspoon spice combination (nutmeg {3/4 teaspoon}, cinnamon {1 teaspoon} and {3/4 teaspoon} all spice)
- ☐ 1 cup cherries (optional to top bun)



Source: www.africanbites.com/jamaican-easter-spice-bun/

JOKE

Four men are in the hospital waiting room because their wives are having babies. A nurse approaches the first guy and says, “*Congratulations! You're the father of twins.*” “*That's odd,*” answers the man. “*I work for the 'Minnesota Twins' team!*” A nurse then yells to the second man, “*Congratulations! You're the father of triplets!*” “*That's weird,*” answers the second man. “*I work for the 3M company!*” A nurse goes up to the third man saying, “*Congratulations! You're the father of quadruplets.*” “*That's strange,*” he answers. “*I work for the Four Seasons hotel!*” The last man begins groaning and banging his head against the wall. “*What's wrong?*” the others ask. “*I work for 7 Up!*”



Instructions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a loaf pan with baking spray; set aside
- In another bowl, whisk the following ingredients: brown sugar/granulated sugar, honey, browning, molasses, vanilla, melted butter, Guinness and egg.
- In other bowl, combine flour, baking powder, nutmeg, cinnamon, allspice and salt. Lightly mix. Then throw in the dried fruits.
- Combine wet and dry ingredients until thoroughly blended
- Scrape down sides
- Pour mixture into prepare loaf pan, add cherries on top if desired -bake for about 60-75 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the centre comes out clean
- Let cool before slicing.





UPCOMING

Notice
Board

April 1st - 30th - Human Services Awareness Month

May 8th (- June 19th) - Family Month

May 15th - International Family Day & Church Service

May 27th - Family Month Outdoor Movie Night

May 31st - Centenarians' Day

June 1st - 30th - National Child Month

June 15th - World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

The Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs is dedicated to serving vulnerable populations through advocacy, education, empowerment and enhancement of individuals, families and communities through evidence-based and customer-oriented programmes that promote equity, growth and development, regardless of race and culture.

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Youtube: MSDGA *Instagram:* msdga_skn

Departments

(Please note changes to some extension numbers)

Administration - 467-1020

Community Development & Social Services - **467-2675/762-5539**

Probation & Child Protection Services (PCPS) - 467-1311

(PCPS hotline: 662-6833)

Policy, Planning and Projects Unit (PPPU) - **467-1370**

Gender Affairs - **467-1223**

(Domestic violence hotline: 765-5492)

Finance - **467-1154/1276**

Counselling Centre - 465-5000

New Horizons Rehabilitation Centre - **467-1598/762-5624**



Community Corner is a publication of the Ministry of Social Development and Gender Affairs. It is compiled by the Policy, Planning and Projects Unit and will be circulated quarterly to staff and other stakeholders in social services.

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