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Last Days to Apply: Open Call for Scholarships for Women Electoral Candidates in the Caribbean

- *Forty (40) spots are available for participants residing in The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and twelve (12) additional spots are available for participants from the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, and Suriname.*
- *Applications are open until September 8 at <https://forms.office.com/r/B87RaGUEyv>*

Washington, D.C., Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuesday, September 3, 2024 —The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), in collaboration with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the School of Government of the Organization of American States (OAS), are pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity aimed at women who have either run for office or are planning to run in the upcoming election cycle. This initiative is part of the CIM/OAS “Course for Electoral Candidates,” renowned for its focus on advancing gender equality and political leadership in the region.

This edition is organized by CIM, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, with additional support from ParlAmericas and Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWIL). The program is designed to enhance women candidates' political skills, build their leadership capacity, and equip them with practical strategies to combat gender-based discrimination throughout the electoral process.

The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs, expressed her strong support for this initiative, emphasizing the essential role of women in Trinidad and Tobago:

“In Trinidad and Tobago, women play a significant role in shaping the nation, and the Government actively advocates for and supports their involvement and accomplishments in business, politics, the arts, and all facets of our socio-economic and cultural life. Our commitment to gender equality and women in leadership is evident, as women lead many esteemed institutions. The President of our Republic, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Opposition Leader, the Presiding Officer of the Tobago House of Assembly, and even our Commissioner of Police are all accomplished women.”

Alejandra Mora Mora, Executive Secretary of CIM/OAS, affirmed: “This initiative represents the Inter-American Commission of Women’s commitment to making visible the leadership of Caribbean women and providing them with the tools to face the challenges of new political dynamics and the evolving language of electoral campaigns. It is part of our new strategy in the Caribbean, where we will engage in reciprocal learning and strengthen alliances and cooperation among international organizations, governments, donors, and Caribbean civil society.”



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Yasmin Odlum, CIM/OAS Specialist and Coordinator for the Caribbean region, emphasized the importance of the course in addressing the gendered challenges women candidates face. “This innovative CIM course, being pioneered in the Caribbean, is dedicated to dismantling the barriers and overcoming the challenges that women in politics often face by empowering them with the knowledge, tools, and support they need to lead any political process and drive meaningful change confidently”, said Odlum.

The course, offered by CIM/OAS in Latin America since 2018, will be hosted for the first time in the Caribbean in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from November 18th-19th, 2024. It is open to women who have previously run as candidates or intend to do so in the upcoming electoral cycle in their respective countries. To be eligible, candidates must reside in Trinidad and Tobago or one of the OAS non-OECS Caribbean States: The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, or Suriname. A limited number of scholarships will be available to cover transportation and accommodation costs based on the needs of the selected candidates.

For more information and to register, please visit <https://forms.office.com/r/B87RaGUEyv>.

****/** INFORMATION FOR JOURNALISTS**

About CIM/OAS

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) is the principal hemispheric forum dedicated to promoting and protecting women's human rights and gender equality. Founded in 1928, the CIM has been a pioneer in identifying the barriers faced by women in the social, economic, and political spheres and formulating policies and programs to overcome those barriers. CIM works in collaboration with OAS Member States, civil society organizations, and other key actors to advance the gender equality agenda in the Americas.

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About the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs

The mandates of the Gender and Child Affairs Divisions (GCA) cover pivotal areas of national development through service delivery, policy development, and project implementation. The Division plays critical roles across the governmental and non-governmental sectors, as gendered and child-specific issues are cross-cutting throughout society. Consequently, in implementing its mandate, each Division works in collaboration with key stakeholders throughout the country.

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