



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

"A Check-in with the Policy Makers"

**Regional Seminar for National Drug
Observatories in the Caribbean
Ramada Georgetown Princess Hotel
Georgetown, Guyana
April 05th, 2018**

Role of the Observatory in Decision Making

Whilst the political responsibility remains in the hands of the decision makers, it is important for those decisions to be based on objective, factual and reliable information. Therefore, some examples of cases where the information from the Observatory was able to aid in decision making includes:

- **Development of the Drug Treatment Court:**

- Data on the number of arrests for drug possession and possession of apparatus provided a reliable justification for the DTC in Trinidad and Tobago. A policy was developed to guide the development of the DTC.
- Data from the school surveys also further impacted the Juvenile Court Project

- **Acquisition of the Drug Loo:**

- Data on the number of swallowers was able to aid in the justification of this acquisition

- **Support from the UK:**

- Data showing the increase in the number of women involved in drug trafficking led to Trinidad and Tobago receiving support from the UK in the following:
 1. *Eva Goes to Foreign (a review of this project reveals that 18 months after the launch, there was a 75% reduction in the number of new arrests of female drug traffickers entering Britain).*
 2. OCIU received additional equipment to aid in the detection of drug traffickers.

Level of Satisfaction with Areas Being Studied

During the period 2016 to 2017, the Trinidad and Tobago Observatory collaborated with the Women Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) to conduct a pilot study on Women in Communities “The Case of East Port of Spain”.

Against the backdrop of increased violence in Trinidad and Tobago, this study was commissioned to examine armed violence and leadership in relation to women’s security, community safety, and national development and make specific recommendations for amplifying women’s voices, protecting women and girls in communities plagued by violence, as well as give suggestions on how to increase and enhance women’s participation in the full spectrum of decision making around community safety and arms control.

The study also sought to interrogate the relationship between illicit drugs and armed violence to determine the extent to which illicit drugs contribute to armed violence against women.

Areas for Further Information Development

- National Consumption
- Primary School Survey in Tobago
- New Emerging Drug Trends
- New Psychoactive Substances

Strengthening of Drug Observatories

- Additional training in the application of Quantitative Research Analytical Software
- Training in Qualitative Research Analytical Software
- Database Development
- Closer collaboration with Universities to expand the resources available to undertake research studies