

General Assembly
Resolution 68/268
Response to Questionnaire
from United Nations Human Rights Questionnaire

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda reaffirmed that it is committed to promote and protect Human Rights and to use its best endeavours to implement the responsibilities that they have undertaken under the Human Rights treaties and conventions that they have signed on to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda have ratified the Convention of the Rights of person with Disability. The Government has passed the Disability Equal Opportunities Act in 2017. The requisite regulations to the act are being worked on. The Government hosted the I Am Abled Conference in November in partnership with the Commonwealth Youth Council. The conference attracted 250 differently abled persons from the Commonwealth.

The Government is encouraged by having the ability of using the simplified reporting procedure when offered as it is less cumbersome when preparing the country reports. The simplified procedure makes the preparation of country less laborious and less time consuming and more effective as the issues are clear.

There is currently no National Human Rights Body (NHRB) to discuss human rights issues. However, when issues arise discussions are held with the relevant Government Departments, State Parties and Stakeholders. The establishment of an NHRB is an issue the Government intends to explore.

The Government strongly condemns all acts of intimidation and reprisals against persons who work in the human rights field. The Government has appointed a person from the LGBT community as a legislator in the Senate. The Chairperson of the Council for disability is a member of the Development Control Authority Board so that needs of disabled persons are not over looked in buildings the public have access to. The response to recommendations at the UPR, regarding GBV sexual offences against women, the Government has established a Support and Referral Centre primarily for persons who are victims of violence and sexual violence. It is a one stop support centre for victims with medical and legal support. With the support of the Canadian Government, a Sexual Offence Court will be set up midyear. The Canadian Government is supporting the establishment of the Court for twelve (12) months, then the Government will take over. The Court will have its own administrative support staff and the need of the victim will be of great importance.

The Government will continue its efforts to nominate experts of high moral standing and recognized competence and experience in the field of human rights covered by the treaties they are party to.

The Government notes the recommendation and will give due consideration, as stipulated in the relevant human rights instrument noting the need of all persons to be recognized and taken into consideration.