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30 Years Towards Equality: How Many More? The Mandate of the Bureau of Gender Affairs in Promoting Gender Justice in the Barbadian State

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Abstract

The Barbados Bureau is the second oldest in the Commonwealth Caribbean (Table 1). In my regional travel, I learnt that the Bureau has developed a solid reputation for monitoring women and gender and development issues and reporting to international agencies in a timely manner. I commend successive governments for recognizing that there is the need for agovernment machinery dedicated to working to eradicate gender inequities in our society. Except for some high profile criticisms here and there, such as “the Bureau is not living up to the government’s and public’s expectations” (Barriteau 1999), usually around the “testy” time of the annual estimates, governments have maintained the Bureau of Women\then Gender Affairs. We who are committed to the ideals of social justice, with gender justice being an integral component of that commitment, are grateful.
