

POLICY BRIEF



Assessing the Jamaican Society's Knowledge,
Attitude, and Perception of Gender
Mainstreaming and its Impact on the
Implementation of Gender Recognition
Legislation in Jamaica.

Prepared by: Lamar Grant – Policy and Advocacy Manager



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This policy brief presents a comprehensive assessment of Jamaican society's knowledge, attitude, and perception of gender mainstreaming and its implications for the implementation of a gender recognition legislation. With a specific focus on gender identity and diversity, this analysis explores the existing socio-cultural landscape and legal framework in Jamaica. By examining the challenges and opportunities for advancing gender equality and the rights of transgender and non-binary individuals, this brief provides evidence-based recommendations to foster a more inclusive and progressive Jamaican society.

INTRODUCTION

HE / HIS

SHE / HER

THEY / THEM

The United Nations (2001) defines gender mainstreaming as, "The (re)organization, improvement, development, and evaluation of policy processes, so that a gender equality perspective is incorporated in all policies at all levels and at all stages, by the actors normally involved in policy-making. It is a strategy for achieving gender equality by transforming the norms, practices, and structures of institutions in order to promote and realize substantive equality between women and men, and to empower all individuals, regardless of their gender identity or expression, to fully exercise their rights and participate in all areas of life."

Gender mainstreaming is a vital strategy for promoting gender equality and eliminating discrimination. Understanding the knowledge, attitude, and perception of the Jamaican society regarding gender mainstreaming is essential to address the implementation of gender recognition legislation. This brief combines scholarly research and relevant sources to assess the specific challenges faced by transgender and non-binary individuals in Jamaica.

INTRODUCTION



Jamaica has made significant strides in gender mainstreaming initiatives, particularly in areas such as women's rights and gender-based violence. However, the recognition and protection of transgender and non-binary individuals' in terms of policy and legislation remain limited. The legal framework in Jamaica lacks explicit provisions for gender recognition, and there is a need for specific legislation to address this gap.

PUBLIC PERCEPTION & AWARENESS OF GENDER MAINSTREAMING

To assess the knowledge, attitude, and perception of Jamaican society towards gender mainstreaming, empirical research and public opinion surveys were conducted by TransWave Jamaica. These studies indicate a mixed perception of gender equality and limited awareness of gender identity and diversity issues. The dominant cultural and religious influences contribute to conservative attitudes and misconceptions surrounding transgender and non-binary individuals.

The lack of public understanding and acceptance of gender identity and diversity significantly hinders the progress towards implementing gender recognition legislation in Jamaica. Negative stereotypes, social stigma, and misconceptions perpetuate discrimination against transgender and non-binary individuals, leading to barriers in accessing healthcare, employment, and legal protection.

INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL CONTEXT

Examining successful models and practices from other countries and regions can provide valuable insights for Jamaica's approach to gender recognition legislation. Global initiatives, such as the Yogyakarta Principles and the Malta Declaration, emphasize the importance of legal recognition and protection for transgender and non-binary individuals. By aligning with international standards, Jamaica can strengthen its commitment to human rights and inclusivity.





RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADVANCING GENDER MAINSTREAMING AND GENDER RECOGNITION LEGISLATION

Public Awareness and Education:

- Develop comprehensive public education campaigns to promote understanding and acceptance of gender identity and diversity.
- Encourage dialogue and cultural sensitivity training in schools, workplaces, and public institutions.

Legal and Policy Reforms:

- Enact legislation explicitly recognizing and protecting the rights of transgender and non-binary individuals.
- Establish mechanisms for gender recognition, including legal name changes and gender marker changes on identification documents.
- Ensure legal protections against discrimination based on gender identity or expression.

RECOMMENDATION

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Institutional Support and Capacity Building:

- Train healthcare professionals, law enforcement agencies, and judicial personnel on transgender and non-binary issues to enhance their understanding and responsiveness.
- Establish support networks and safe spaces for transgender and non-binary individuals, providing mental health support, counselling, and community resources.

Collaboration and Partnerships:

- Foster collaboration between government agencies, civil society organizations, and community leaders to develop inclusive policies and programs.
- Seek technical assistance and guidance from international organizations and regional partners experienced in gender mainstreaming and gender recognition legislation.

CONCLUSION

Jamaica has an opportunity to create a more inclusive society by addressing the knowledge gaps, challenging negative attitudes, and advancing gender mainstreaming initiatives. By implementing gender recognition legislation and promoting acceptance of gender identity and diversity, Jamaica can uphold human rights, empower transgender and non-binary individuals, and foster a more equitable society for all.

Note: This policy brief provides a comprehensive analysis of Jamaican society's knowledge, attitude, and perception of gender mainstreaming and its impact on gender recognition legislation. While the recommendations presented here are evidence-based and aligned with international best practices, further stakeholder consultation and detailed research are crucial for effective policy implementation.

REFERENCES

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