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**Human Rights Council**  
**Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**  
**Forty-ninth session**  
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## **Grenada**

### **Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

2. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recommended that Grenada ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education.<sup>2</sup>

3. The United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States noted that Grenada had yet to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Optional Protocols to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.<sup>3</sup>

4. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that Grenada had not submitted reports to treaty monitoring mechanisms in recent years.<sup>4</sup>

5. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that, in 2023, Grenada had become a party to the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement).<sup>5</sup>

6. Since 2024, Grenada has been covered by the regional office of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the Caribbean Community. Support is also provided by a Human Rights Adviser to the United Nations country teams in the English-speaking Caribbean, who is based in the region.<sup>6</sup>



### III. National human rights framework

7. The United Nations Subregional Team observed that the Office of the Ombudsman, established in 2009 under Act No. 24 of 2007, continued to function with a mandate that included the handling of maladministration complaints against government departments, agencies and public bodies and investigations of issues of potentially major public interest and concern, but indicated that Grenada had not yet established a national human rights institution in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).<sup>7</sup>

8. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that Grenada had joined a regional initiative to reform the criminal law to ensure alignment with regional standards.<sup>8</sup>

9. The United Nations Subregional Team reported that Grenada was in the process of developing a national population policy to address demographic resilience issues, including migration, ageing, low fertility and climate change.<sup>9</sup>

10. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that the Ministry of Social Development had prepared and submitted to the Cabinet final versions of the draft gender-based violence policy and the draft victims' rights policy, with recommendations for action. However, it expressed regret that two issues had been removed from the list of recommendations, namely, the decriminalization of same-sex sexual activity between close-in-age children and the express inclusion of protections for same-sex couples in the Domestic Violence Act.<sup>10</sup>

### IV. Promotion and protection of human rights

#### A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law

##### 1. Equality and non-discrimination

11. The United Nations Subregional Team reported that discrimination in employment, housing, education, healthcare, access to government services and essential goods and services against a person based on sexual orientation or gender identity continued to occur in Grenada in the absence of protective laws.<sup>11</sup>

12. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that same-sex relations between consenting adults were illegal in Grenada and that, under sections 430 and 431 of the Criminal Code, same-sex relations were considered to be an "unnatural connexion", punishable by imprisonment for 10 years.<sup>12</sup>

##### 2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture

13. The United Nations Subregional Team stated that Grenada had not conducted any executions since 1978 and that, in January 2020, the Senior Legal Counsel at the Ministry of Legal Affairs had confirmed that Grenada would not execute the lone prisoner on death row or conduct any future executions. Although a proposal to repeal the death penalty had been put to a referendum in 2016, the Subregional Team expressed regret that such initiatives had not yet succeeded.<sup>13</sup>

##### 3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law

14. The United Nations Subregional Team stated that, according to the regional needs assessment of the justice system carried out in 2020 by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in nine Caribbean countries, including Grenada, the judicial system of Grenada was outdated, slow and not equipped to handle complex cases.<sup>14</sup>

15. The United Nations Subregional Team also noted that the challenges identified through the UNDP assessment included the backlog of criminal cases, which was exacerbated by a lack of technological resources and reliance on paper-based systems. The

Subregional Team noted that, in the UNDP assessment report, it was recommended that Grenada make efforts to modernize the system, such as by introducing electronic records and integrated communications systems to improve case management and reduce delays.<sup>15</sup>

16. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that, in the same assessment report, UNDP had highlighted the overuse of pretrial detention, with limited alternatives to incarceration available at the pretrial stage, a high rate of remand detainees and inadequate infrastructure and resources, which had an impact on the efficiency and speed of legal proceedings.<sup>16</sup>

17. It was concluded in the UNDP assessment report that Grenada served as a strong example of the supportive role that civil society could play in providing legal aid services, as the Legal Aid and Counselling Clinic, a subsidiary of the Grenada Community Development Agency, had provided legal aid, mediation and counselling services to the Grenadian public since 1987.<sup>17</sup>

#### **4. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life**

18. UNESCO encouraged Grenada to introduce a law on access to information that was in accordance with international standards and to establish an independent oversight institution with the capacity to implement the law.<sup>18</sup>

19. UNESCO recommended that Grenada decriminalize defamation and place it within civil defamation legislation, in accordance with international standards.<sup>19</sup>

20. UNESCO encouraged Grenada to assess the system for appointing the members of the National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, the body charged with regulating communications activities, in order to ensure its independence.<sup>20</sup>

21. UNESCO had recorded no killings of journalists in Grenada, through its Observatory of Killed Journalists, since systematic reporting began in 2006.<sup>21</sup>

#### **5. Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work**

22. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that, in 2018, Grenada had ratified the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization, which had entered into force in November 2019, and that its implementation was crucial, as most domestic workers in Grenada were women.<sup>22</sup>

#### **6. Right to an adequate standard of living**

23. In 2024, the World Bank stated that hurricane shocks in Grenada could increase poverty rates by between 1.6 and 1.9 percentage points on average over the period 2030–2050.<sup>23</sup>

24. The United Nations Subregional Team stated that Hurricane Beryl had devastated agriculture and fisheries in Carriacou, disrupted water services, and worsened food insecurity in vulnerable and isolated communities. It further stated that 42,000 people had potentially been affected and that Petite Martinique island had suffered near-total devastation, with 100 per cent of homes either damaged or destroyed.<sup>24</sup> The Subregional Team also noted that, as of September 2024, Grenada had made progress in restoring water services and that potable water was being delivered to households, and tanks replenished, while nearly 90 per cent of water connections had been restored in Petite Martinique.<sup>25</sup>

25. In 2024, the World Bank reported that many residents of Grenada were living in structures that had sheet metal roofing, which was particularly vulnerable to strong winds. It indicated that minor structural improvements would increase resilience against future storm events and should be carefully considered for recovery and reconstruction efforts, given the context of climate change.<sup>26</sup>

26. The United Nations Subregional Team reported that approximately 20 per cent of the population in Grenada had been affected by moderate or severe food insecurity from 2021 to 2023 and that an increase in the proportion of the adult population suffering from obesity had been observed, from 23.9 per cent in 2012 to 30.3 per cent in 2022, owing to the unaffordability of healthy diets.<sup>27</sup>

27. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that, in May 2024, Grenada had experienced the most severe water situation in 14 years, which had resulted in the declaration of a water crisis by the Government.<sup>28</sup>

## 7. Right to health

28. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that the health system had experienced significant disruptions caused by Hurricane Beryl, with several facilities either damaged or rendered inoperable. As the hurricane had left many residents displaced, mental health issues had also emerged as a significant concern, with psychological trauma caused by the loss of income, property and community stability manifesting in higher levels of stress, anxiety and depression.<sup>29</sup>

29. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that the sexual and reproductive health rights policy, which was aligned with the National Sustainable Development Plan 2020–2035 and was aimed at supporting impactful, sustainable and equitable action within the health sector and driving partnerships and shared responsibility across other critical sectors, such as finance, education and social development, was still pending adoption by the Government.<sup>30</sup>

30. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that Grenada had established a plan to decentralize HIV treatment to facilitate and improve access. However, it expressed concern that Grenada had not been certified as having eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B. Also of concern was the limited access to services for the prevention and treatment of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections due to discrimination and stigmatization against vulnerable groups, such as LGBTIQ+ persons, sex workers and adolescents.<sup>31</sup>

31. In 2024, the World Bank stated that shortages in and the poor distribution of health workers undermined service delivery and meant that adequate personnel might not be available in the event of a disaster.<sup>32</sup>

## 8. Right to education

32. UNESCO encouraged Grenada to consider enshrining the right to education within the Constitution and to enshrine the right to education within legislation.<sup>33</sup>

33. UNESCO stated that government expenditure on education had accounted for 3.9 per cent of gross domestic product in 2022 and 14.4 per cent of total government expenditure in 2023.<sup>34</sup>

34. UNESCO stated that the Education Act of 2002 did not guarantee free or compulsory pre-primary education.<sup>35</sup> It recommended that Grenada introduce legislation to make pre-primary education free and compulsory for at least one year.<sup>36</sup>

35. The United Nations Subregional Team reported that, in 2023, the Ministry of Education of Grenada had indicated that, while the country aimed to foster an inclusive society, the inclusion of LGBTIQ+ education in schools was not being considered.<sup>37</sup>

36. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that the Programme of Action on Public Education and Participation in Grenada included reference to inclusive education but not to persons with disabilities.<sup>38</sup>

37. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that, in 2022, Grenada had developed a policy for the reintegration of adolescent mothers into the education system, to support equal access to mainstream education for young women who might also be survivors of gender-based violence or family violence, but expressed regret that the policy was yet to be approved by the Cabinet.<sup>39</sup>

## 9. Cultural rights

38. UNESCO noted that Grenada was a party to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions.<sup>40</sup>

39. UNESCO encouraged Grenada to fully implement the provisions that promoted access to and participation in cultural heritage and creative expressions. It also recommended giving due consideration to the participation of communities, practitioners, cultural actors and civil society organizations, as well as vulnerable groups.<sup>41</sup>

## **10. Development, the environment, and business and human rights**

40. The United Nations Subregional Team stated that, according to climate change projections for Grenada, there would be an increase in average annual temperature, a decrease in average annual rainfall and potentially a greater intensity of extreme events such as hurricanes, tropical storms, droughts, floods and increased sea surface temperatures.<sup>42</sup>

41. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that Grenada had established various strategies to better address vulnerabilities exacerbated by natural disasters and climate change impacts, such as the National Sustainable Development Plan for 2020–2035 and the National Disaster Resilience Strategy of 2022.<sup>43</sup> In 2024, in a report covering four of the States members of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the World Bank stated that Grenada was the most advanced in integrating climate resilience into budgeting.<sup>44</sup>

42. The United Nations Subregional Team highlighted the launch of a national climate change plan and policy for 2017–2021, covering the main island and the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique, but expressed regret that the policy lacked explicit human rights considerations.<sup>45</sup>

43. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that, in 2024, Hurricane Beryl had dealt a crippling blow to many communities and had left widespread destruction in Grenada, especially on the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The hurricane had also had an impact on the economy of Grenada and its precarious debt situation following the compound effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the global surge in energy and food prices. By mid-2023, Grenada had been in debt distress due to unresolved arrears.<sup>46</sup>

44. The United Nations Subregional Team stated that, after Hurricane Ivan, in 2004, Grenada had included hurricane clauses in its agreements with international creditors and that, in 2024, Grenada had become the first country to use such a provision in a government bond, allowing for the postponement of debt payments to private investors. The application of the clause in 2024 had allowed Grenada to fund immediate recovery efforts and would ensure the maintenance of essential services such as healthcare and education. However, there was still a significant financing gap for the Government of Grenada.<sup>47</sup>

45. In 2021, UNDP noted that Grenada could leverage digital tools and data to strengthen disaster preparedness, enhance resilience to environmental and external shocks and maximize available natural resources in a sustainable way, with the aim of improving livelihoods under the green and blue economies.<sup>48</sup>

46. In 2024, the World Bank reported that Grenada was investigating the possibility of a pilot to reduce methane emissions by capturing landfill gas, a technology that would reduce methane emissions from waste by 90 per cent.<sup>49</sup>

## **B. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### **1. Women**

47. In the Human Development Report 2023/24, Grenada was included in Group 1 in the Gender Development Index for 2022.<sup>50</sup>

48. The United Nations Subregional Team stated that the Government of Grenada had issued its first Gender Budget Statement in 2023, as part of its Gender Equality Policy and Action Plan.<sup>51</sup>

49. The United Nations Subregional Team noted that, in 2023, Grenada had established national and subnational coordinating mechanisms for ending violence against women and girls and a multisectoral mechanism to improve the capacity to address violence against women and girls through integrated efforts.<sup>52</sup>

50. The United Nations Subregional Team reported that Grenada had made progress in integrating gender considerations into its climate policies, including through the Gender Equality Policy, the National Gender Equality Commission and gender-responsive climate finance. It recommended enhancing training, facilitating gender-responsive value chain development, supporting gender-responsive disaster management and improving gender-based monitoring and budgeting, including in relation to climate action.<sup>53</sup>

51. In 2020, following a review of the gender inequality and differential impact of climate change and disaster risk and cost of inaction concerning Grenada, the multi-country office of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for the Caribbean reported that the lack of disaggregated data was the main barrier to gender being incorporated at the institutional level in Grenada. Recommendations included the use of intersectional and gender-based analysis plus (GBA+) approaches to data collection at the national and local levels.<sup>54</sup>

## **2. Children**

52. UNESCO noted that the Education Act of 2002 authorized the use of corporal punishment within educational institutions but that no provisions relating to other kinds of violence in educational institutions had been identified. UNESCO recommended legally proscribing corporal punishment in education settings.<sup>55</sup>

53. UNESCO noted that, according to the Marriage Act, the minimum age of marriage was 18 years. Exceptions allowed minors over the age of 16 years to marry with parental consent or judicial consent. UNESCO therefore recommended that Grenada amend the law to ensure that the minimum age of marriage was 18 years.<sup>56</sup>

54. In 2021, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) reported that Grenada had included children and youth as a specific group in its revised nationally determined contribution.<sup>57</sup>

55. The United Nations Subregional Team reported that the Government of Grenada had established the Grand Bacolet Juvenile Rehabilitation and Treatment Centre in March 2016, for children in need of care and protection and children in conflict with the law, and that the Centre had been credited with the successful rehabilitation of over 200 young people by 2021. However, the Subregional Team stated that significant investments were required to ensure that the Centre was able to protect children's rights.<sup>58</sup>

## **3. Persons with disabilities**

56. In 2023, OHCHR reported that legislation and policies on disability inclusion were under development in Grenada and noted that discussions had been organized on transformative solutions for inclusive development, as part of Disability Awareness Month activities in May 2023.<sup>59</sup>

57. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that Grenada was working to include children with disabilities within the integrated early childhood development programme.<sup>60</sup>

58. The United Nations Subregional Team commended Grenada for the adoption of the National Disability Policy and Strategic Action Plan, which provided for support for women with disabilities to obtain employment through training, mentorship programmes and support to access funding to start and grow their own businesses.<sup>61</sup>

## **4. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons**

59. The United Nations Subregional Team indicated that civil society organizations had intensified calls for stronger legal protections for and effective measures to safeguard the rights and safety of LGBTQ+ persons in Grenada following the death of a gay artist, which was suspected to have been motivated by homophobia.<sup>62</sup>

## **5. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

60. In 2023, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) noted that Grenada was not yet a party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the Protocol thereto.

Hence, Grenada had no formal policy or legal instrument on the recognition of refugees' rights, and no identifiable legal and policy instruments could facilitate the granting of refugee status to persons who moved in the context of disasters, climate change or environmental degradation.<sup>63</sup>

## 6. Internally displaced persons

61. In 2023, IOM stated that Grenada had not yet incorporated the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement at the national level. In effect, Grenada did not have any set of regulations or established protocols to guide efforts to address the situation of internally displaced persons in the context of climate change, disasters or environmental degradation.<sup>64</sup>

62. IOM recommended that Grenada consider the possibility of conducting an extensive review of measures provided for in existing national policy frameworks and mainstreaming those measures, with specific consideration of the needs of cross-border and internally displaced populations and populations on the move or unable to move due to the impact of climate change security or the COVID-19 pandemic, to facilitate a resilient, inclusive, gender-sensitive and peaceful society in Grenada.<sup>65</sup>

### Notes

- <sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/44/13](#), [A/HRC/44/13/Add.1](#) and [A/HRC/45/2](#).
- <sup>2</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Grenada, p. 3.
- <sup>3</sup> United Nations Subregional Team for Barbados and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States submission for the universal periodic review of Grenada, p. 2.
- <sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- <sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* See also OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2023*, p. 43.
- <sup>6</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/08/un-human-rights-chief-welcomes-creation-regional-office-caribbean](http://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2024/08/un-human-rights-chief-welcomes-creation-regional-office-caribbean); and OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2023*, p. 195, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2022*, p. 238, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2021*, p. 267, and *United Nations Human Rights Report 2020*, p. 296.
- <sup>7</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 3.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- <sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 14.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- <sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 6. See also UNDP, "Caribbean justice: a needs assessment of the judicial system in nine countries", 2020, available at <https://www.undp.org/latin-america/publications/caribbean-justice-needs-assessment-judicial-system-nine-countries>.
- <sup>16</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 6. See also UNDP, "Caribbean justice", p. 67.
- <sup>17</sup> UNDP, "Caribbean justice", p. 37.
- <sup>18</sup> UNESCO submission, p. 4.
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 4.
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3 and 4.
- <sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 3.
- <sup>22</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 3.
- <sup>23</sup> See <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c5270e44-a4ed-4013-ab16-be84a9372c9a/content>, p. 17.
- <sup>24</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 5.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 11.
- <sup>26</sup> See <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/17ea42ea-5afb-4ee0-82a4-27c75dfb6380/content>, p. 24.
- <sup>27</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 8.
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 5.
- <sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 10.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>32</sup> See <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c5270e44-a4ed-4013-ab16-be84a9372c9a/content>, p. 50.
- <sup>33</sup> UNESCO submission, p. 4.

- <sup>34</sup> Ibid., p. 2.  
<sup>35</sup> Ibid., p. 2.  
<sup>36</sup> Ibid., p. 4.  
<sup>37</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 4.  
<sup>38</sup> Ibid., p. 5.  
<sup>39</sup> Ibid., p. 11.  
<sup>40</sup> UNESCO submission, p. 4.  
<sup>41</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>42</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 5.  
<sup>43</sup> Ibid., p. 7.  
<sup>44</sup> See <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c5270e44-a4ed-4013-ab16-be84a9372c9a/content>, p. 21.  
<sup>45</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 5.  
<sup>46</sup> Ibid., p. 2.  
<sup>47</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>48</sup> See <https://www.undp.org/barbados/publications/grenada-smart-small-state-developing-vision>, p. 3.  
<sup>49</sup> See <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/c5270e44-a4ed-4013-ab16-be84a9372c9a/content>, p. 47.  
<sup>50</sup> See <https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2023-24reporten.pdf>.  
<sup>51</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 3.  
<sup>52</sup> Ibid., p. 13.  
<sup>53</sup> Ibid., p. 5.  
<sup>54</sup> See [https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER\\_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief\\_GrenadaF\\_20220203.pdf](https://wrd.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/EnGenDER_Gender%20Inequality%20CC%20DRR%20Brief_GrenadaF_20220203.pdf), pp. 2 and 14.  
<sup>55</sup> UNESCO submission, pp. 2 and 4.  
<sup>56</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>57</sup> See <https://www.unicef.org/media/116246/file/Eastern-Caribbean-Area-2021-COAR.pdf>, p. 5.  
<sup>58</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 7.  
<sup>59</sup> OHCHR, *United Nations Human Rights Report 2023*, pp. 195 and 196.  
<sup>60</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 14. See also <https://www.unicef.org/easterncaribbean/stories/grenada-takes-lead-integrated-early-childhood-development-unicef-consultation>.  
<sup>61</sup> United Nations Subregional Team submission, p. 14.  
<sup>62</sup> Ibid., p. 4.  
<sup>63</sup> See <https://www.iom.int/sites/g/files/tmzbd1486/files/documents/2024-06/grenada-country-assessment-analysis.pdf>, p. viii.  
<sup>64</sup> Ibid., p. viii.  
<sup>65</sup> Ibid., p. 17.
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