

## ***SUMMARY***

### **Approaches to Domestic and Gender Based Violence in Trinidad and Tobago**

In 2003, the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (JEI) instituted a series of training programmes directed to issues of domestic and gender based violence. The JEI is committed to increasing educational opportunities in domestic and gender based violence for judicial officers. More recently, it has been working collaboratively with the Coalition Against Violence and the Inter-American Development Bank in producing training workshops for judicial officers, court staff, police and others in the helping professions. These efforts have now extended to the wider Caribbean in that twenty-three Caribbean Magistrates and Senior Court staff will be joining these trainings.

As well, domestic and gender based violence was one of the principal topics for discussion at the Judicial Colloquium held in the Bahamas from May 17-19, 2004. Within the wider context of domestic violence, discussions focused on and included rape, sexual offences, sexual harassment and battered women's syndrome.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago is also addressing issues of domestic violence. In October 2003, the Honourable Attorney General appointed a Working Committee to prepare a domestic violence investigative and procedural manual specifically tailored for the use of police investigators responding to reports or complaints of domestic violence.

Following is a fuller description and some examples of these various initiatives.

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