

# THE CARIBBEAN AT AIDS 2018

Updates from the 22nd International AIDS Conference by UNAIDS Caribbean and PANCAP

#CbeanAIDS2018

July 24, 2018

## Robert Carr's human rights legacy lives on



CVC Executive Director Ivan Crucikshank (from left), ICASO Executive Director Mary Ann Torres, Cesar Galindo Arandi of CAS and Clare Barrington of UNC.

The clarion call of late Caribbean human rights defender and academic, Dr. Robert Carr, continues to resonate. Carr is remembered for his global and regional work around empowering marginalized communities to address their health and social needs, as well as his advocacy for the legal and policy changes to address stigma and discrimination.

The Robert Carr Fund for Civil Society Networks prioritizes the needs of inadequately served populations across the world while the Caribbean Vulnerable Communities (CVC) Coalition which Carr founded remains the largest regional civil society network addressing the health and human rights needs of communities most vulnerable to HIV.



Dr. Peter Carr sharing his son Dr. Robert Carr's vision and legacy at the Robert Carr Research Award and Memorial Lecture

The Robert Carr Research Award recognizes projects from community-academia partnerships that inform advocacy and evidence-based programmes, and ensure a rights-based HIV response. This year's winners were Cesar Galindo Arandi and Clare Barrington.

The Guatemala-based Colectivo Amigos contra el Sida (CAS) and the University of North Carolina (UNC) Gillings School of Global Public Health collaborated on a study to critically document the process of creating a community-based clinic for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) for men who have sex with men in Guatemala City.

[Learn more about the research](#)

## How do we reach men and boys?



SCLAN Chair Kim Simplis Barrow, moderator/actress Stephanie Sandows and SCLAN Vice-Chair Sandra Granger

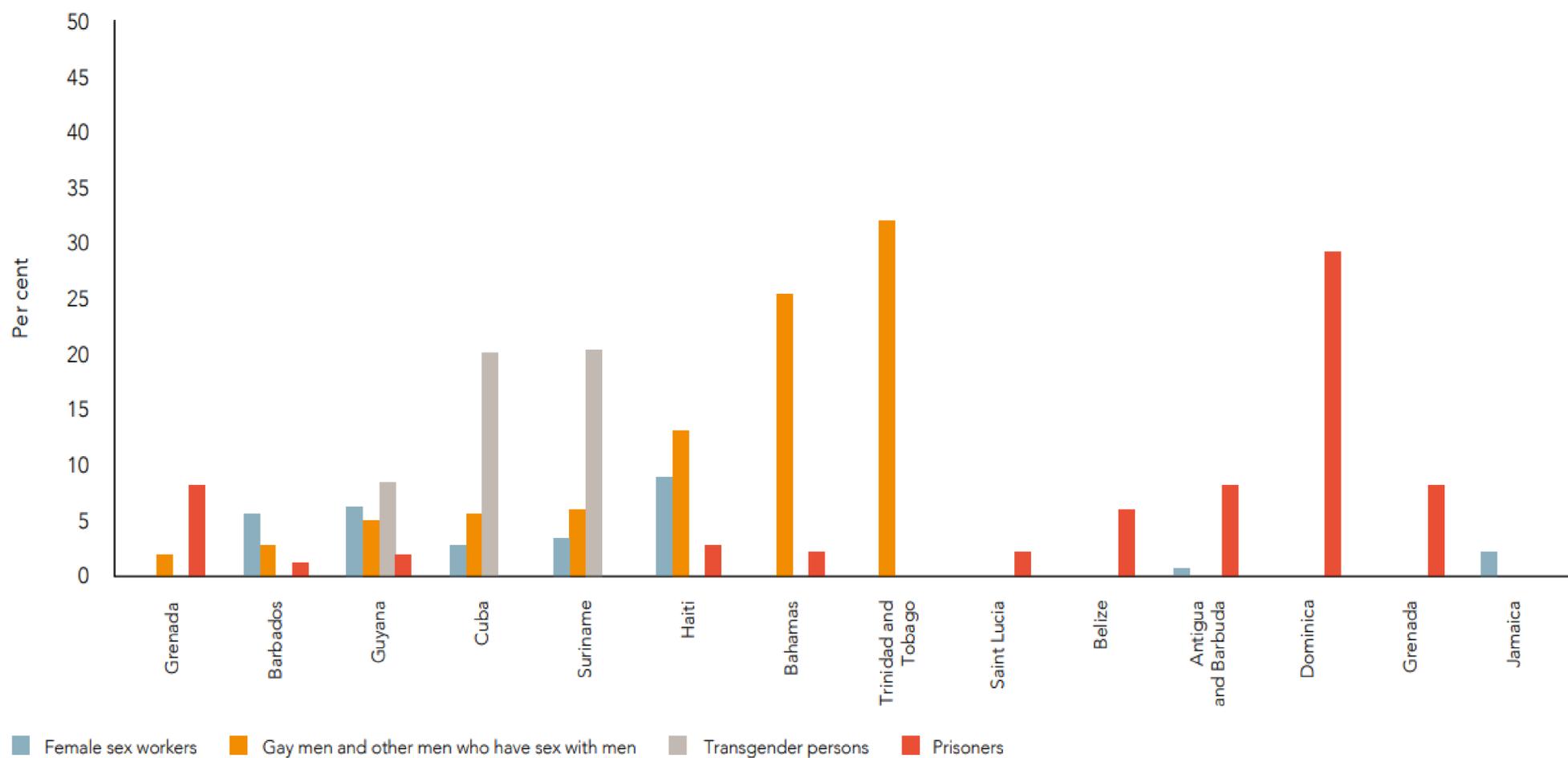
Think of Belize's Kim Simplis-Barrow, Chair of the Spouses of Caribbean Leaders Action Network (SCLAN) and SCLAN Vice-Chair, Guyana First Lady Sandra Granger, and what probably comes to mind is their work around the Caribbean Woman Caribbean Child (CariWaC) initiative. But at AIDS2018 both ladies participated in a session hosted by MTV Shuga on finding and reaching men with HIV services.

This issue is critical for the Caribbean as men are more likely to be diagnosed with advanced HIV and more likely to die due to AIDS-related causes. According to a 2017 report by PAHO and UNAIDS, while new infections decreased by 8% among adult Caribbean women between 2010 and 2016, they increased by the same level among men.

SCLAN is committed to efforts to ensure that, regardless of sex, every child has age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education and every young person can access youth-friendly healthcare services. But equal access does not mean using the same approaches. They learned about how edutainment can be used to reach new audiences and start conversations that challenge cultural norms.

# Latest studies show high HIV rates among C'bean key populations

Fig 1: HIV prevalence among key populations, countries with available data, Caribbean 2015 - 2017



[Learn more in the new UNAIDS report \(Caribbean chapter p. 224\)](#)

## Monique McDonald: Issues affecting girls need to be prioritized



Eve for Life Peer Educator Monique McDonald  
Photo: UNICEF Jamaica

One of the region's youngest representatives at AIDS2018 is Life Coach and Peer Educator, Monique McDonald. She works with Eve for Life, a Jamaican non-governmental organization that uses innovative interventions to prevent new infections and improve the quality of life of young women and children living with, or affected by, HIV. McDonald is also the author of the book "I am Now Free" which shines a light on the issue of child sexual abuse.

"The AIDS response has less money," McDonald said. "And the money that we do have is mostly directed toward key populations. It is important to make a case for the issues affecting girls and young women to be prioritized."

This week she will collaborate with civil society participants from other countries to learn more about their strategies for bringing the vulnerability of girls and young women into focus while sharing Eve for Life's approach which addresses the link between child sexual abuse and HIV risk through national advocacy, community education, support groups and resource mobilization.

[Learn more about Monique's work from UNICEF Jamaica](#)  
[Learn more about Eve for Life](#)



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