

PRESS RELEASE

Tel: (284)468-2730

Official Government Website:

<https://gov.vg>

Speaker George-Massicote Addresses Technology-Facilitated Violence at CIWiL

Release Date: 26 June, 2025



The Honorable Corine N. George-Massicote, Speaker of the House of Assembly of the Virgin Islands, delivered “a powerful and thought-provoking keynote address”, according to attendees at the Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL) Conference in Barbados on June 18.

Centered on the vital theme, **“The Impact of Technology-Facilitated Violence Against Women,”** Speaker George-Massicote used her platform to conscientiously advocate for women leaders, particularly those navigating the complex challenges of public service and digital safety. Addressing the alarming surge in Technology-Facilitated Violence (TFV), the Hon. Speaker emphasized its disproportionate impact on women in high-profile, male-dominated sectors.

Drawing on global statistics and personal stories, she urged regional leaders, digital innovators, and policymakers to recognise online harassment as a significant barrier to women’s empowerment and full participation in public life or other high-profile roles.

“Technology should be a platform for progress—not a weapon of oppression,” Speaker George-Massicote stated. “We must unite to protect women’s voices, ensuring leadership is strengthened by courage, not silenced by fear.”

Her address outlined the deep psychological, economic, and social effects of TFV, including anxiety, career disruptions, reputational damage, and self-censorship. She called for a comprehensive approach that includes stronger legal protections, enhanced digital literacy, accountability from technology platforms, and the fostering of respectful, inclusive cultures.

In closing, the Honorable Speaker directed a powerful message to the next generation of women and emerging leaders present, urging advocacy, policy reform, and cross-sector collaboration. She stressed the crucial role of empowering women to reclaim their digital spaces as an essential step toward democratic development and nation-building.

“Let us move beyond words on gender equality—let us embed it into our policies, technologies, and cultures,” she urged. This message strongly resonated with the audience who echoed her sentiments and engaged in further discussions on TFV

upon conclusion of her address.

The CIWiL Conference brought together women leaders, policymakers, academics, and activists from across the Caribbean to tackle pressing issues affecting women's advancement. Speaker George-Massicote's remarks reinforced the Virgin Islands' steadfast commitment to gender justice and legislative awareness, underscoring her dedication to empowering women and enhancing democratic participation throughout the region.

Notice to Editors: Three Images

1. **Speaker of the House of Assembly of The Virgin Islands, Honourable Corine George-Massicote**

Photo Credit: (GIS)

1. **Some of the attendees at the Conference**

Photo Credit (Provided)

1. **Conference Flyer**

Photo Credit (ciwil.org)

Speakers and Presiding Officers Attending the Conference Included:

- H.E. Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General, Caricom
- Her Worship, Geraldine Lendor-Gabriel, Mayor of Castries, St. Lucia
- Senator The Most Honourable, H. Elizabeth Thompson, Deputy President of the Senate of Barbados and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary with responsibility for Climate Change, Small Island developing States and Law of the Sea
- Senator the Hon. Alinicia Williams-Grant, President of the Senate, Antigua and Barbuda
- Councillor, Theresa Turner, President of the Caribbean Development Bank

- Her Excellency, Natalie Campbell-Rodriques, High Commission of Jamaica to Trinidad and Tobago
- The Hon. Dr. Clarice Modeste-Curwen, Deputy Speaker of the House, Grenada
- Ms. L. Nana Oye Hesse-Bayne, President of the Caribbean Women in Leadership Regional Board of Directors
- Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, First Caricom Advocate for Gender Justice, International Development Expert

Gallery

