

## SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS

### SSpS 2 – SVD 3.

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The review of Saint Kitts and Nevis was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011. The delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis was headed by Mr. Delano Bart. At its 14th meeting held on 1 February 2011, the Working Group adopted the report on St. Kitts and Nevis.

The three reports prepared for this review are available at the website listed above.

A list of questions prepared in advance by Germany, Latvia, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Saint Kitts and Nevis through the troika. **These questions are available on the extranet of the UPR.**

Saint Kitts and Nevis is a twin island Federation located in the Eastern Caribbean with a size of 261 km<sup>2</sup> and a total population of roughly 52,000. It attained independence on 19 September 1983 and maintained a democratic form of government. The last elections of January 2010 returned the government of Dr Denzil Douglas for a fourth consecutive term.

Saint Kitts and Nevis was a party to various core international human rights treaties. It had also given consideration to other Conventions to which it was not yet party, however, it had been challenged by resources or constitutional hurdles. The process of Constitutional reform or adjustment required not only two-thirds majority in the House, but at a referendum, there had to be two-thirds majority in each individual island. Nevertheless, the Government remained committed to open consultations with its citizens on constitutional, judicial and legal reforms.

Saint Kitts and Nevis accepted that the retention of the death penalty for offences of murder was controversial and would continue to be so.

Saint Kitts and Nevis accepted that the criminalization of sexual relations between consenting adults under Sections 56 and 57 of the Offences against the Person Act was controversial.

Saint Kitts and Nevis had signed the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women, Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Civil Rights to Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Granting of Political Rights to Women.

It had also enacted legislation, such as the Domestic Violence Act of 2000 to promote and protect the rights of all women. Saint Kitts and Nevis was aware that, although many women occupied senior positions in its society, where more than 50 per cent of households were managed by single women, the problem of domestic violence against women persisted.

During the interactive dialogue, 36 delegations made statements.

#### **Issues raised by other States included the following:**

1. Limited resources for implementation. Capacity constraints. International Technical assistance.
2. Social Security Act and on the Social Protection Programme. Social Security.
3. Gender-based violence especially domestic violence.

4. Death penalty.
5. The legal provisions that criminalise sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex.
6. Ratification of more Human Rights Treaties.
7. Youth and gang-activity and crime and drug-trafficking.
8. Persons living with HIV/AIDS.
9. Better protect children from pornography and child prostitution.
10. Low legal age for criminal responsibility.
11. Human and Social Development.
12. Human Trafficking.
13. Discrimination against Lesbians, Gays, bi-sexual and transgender persons.
14. Discriminatory attitude towards women and the high rate of Rape.
15. Appreciation for efforts made in the area of Human Rights.
16. Mobilization of women in politics.
17. Establish a National Human Rights Institute.
18. Stance on Anti-personnel landmines – positive.
19. Reporting obligations to Treaty Bodies.
20. Corporal punishment of children.

The challenges and constraints which Saint Kitts and Nevis faced as a Small Island Developing States were many, but not insurmountable. The delegation believed that Saint Kitts and Nevis had shown the world on many fronts that its people were resilient people.

**Forty four (44) recommendations formulated during the interactive dialogue were accepted by the delegation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.**

**Fifty six (56) recommendations will be examined by Saint Kitts and Nevis which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the 17th session of the Human Rights Council in June 2011.**

**Thirteen (13) recommendations did not enjoy the support of Saint Kitts and Nevis. All were related to the death penalty.**

**Link to the full draft report:**

[http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session10/KN/Saint%20Kitts-A\\_HRC\\_WG.6\\_10\\_L.10-eng.pdf](http://lib.ohchr.org/HRBodies/UPR/Documents/Session10/KN/Saint%20Kitts-A_HRC_WG.6_10_L.10-eng.pdf)