



Guidelines for the Management of Safe Shelters for Survivors of Gender Based Violence in the English and Dutch-speaking Caribbean

Presented by:

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Introduction

- Home is not safe (IPV)
- Inability to afford housing
- Humanitarian Emergencies
(loss of home/income,
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- **Home is not safe (IPV)**
 - **Inability to afford housing**
 - **Humanitarian Emergencies**
(loss of home/income,
family separation,
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- **Cycle of abuse**
 - **Homelessness and basic survival rights**
 - **Negative coping mechanisms**
 - **Lack of access to services**
 - **Threat to life**

Purpose





- Immediate Protection
- Provision + linkage with essential services
- Support empowerment + livelihoods
- Contribute to ending cycle of abuse





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- Practical Guidance to set up and manage Safe Shelters
→ survivor-centered
- Good practices & challenges
- Specific Recommendations

Methodology



Extensive Desk Review: Available literature specific countries



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Second Stage:

Next week: **Validation Field Assessment in Belize**



Main Findings



38% at full capacity

**87% location is confidential,
6% security systems**

18% charge a fee to survivors

2 adapted to LGBTQI

0 adapted to disabilities and neurodiverse



Referral system in 81% of shelters

87% case management but 75% case workers

50% legal info, but 12% lawyers

87% no staff care plans



25% no code of conduct for staff

19% no anonymous feedback mechanisms

25% emergency preparedness and response plans + 75% say they can continue operating in emergencies

56% government funding, 25% other funding (short-term), 19% have no funding



What do you find in the Guidelines?



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- ✓ **Best Practices and Challenges**
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- ✓ **Checklist for design, setup and management of safe shelters**
- ✓ **Samples of Code of Conduct, Terms of Reference for Staff, Information and Communication Material**

Discussion and way forward



- Caribbean Countries and Small Island Developing States → between **development settings and humanitarian disasters** (mainly climate change)
- The majority of services are crowded in the capital, and seldom in hinterland areas.



- **Safe Shelters are a unique opportunity for multisectoral service provision, empowerment and building resilience to climate change.**
- **Second stage: service audits Belize Pilot.**



Thank you!

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