



Women's Department

MINISTRY OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
26 Albert Street · P.O. Box 846· Belize City, Belize · C.A.
Tel: 501-227-7397/227-3888 · Fax: 501-227-1275 ·
E-mail: womensdept@btl.net

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ENACTMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT OF 2007

Dear Partners:

This is to inform you that the Domestic Violence Act of 2007 (*No. 19 of 2007*) has been enacted!

It has been long anticipated and the Women's Department is ecstatic about its enactment. Shortly, a Domestic Violence Act Training will be conducted for service providers including Police and Judiciary through funding from UNFPA.

Unfortunately, the Act was not provided to us in electronic form. We have ordered copies of the Act from the printers so partner agencies should be receiving copies within the next few weeks. It has been decided that the Department will wait until the Women's Summit on March 7, 2008 to *officially* introduce the Act along with the Women's Rights Handbook. This decision has been taken based on the fact that at present, the level of attention that this Act warrants would be diluted by all the focus being placed on General Elections in the mass media.

Notwithstanding, the Act is now in place for increased protection of victims of domestic violence. We take this opportunity to thank all our partners who assisted in the consultation process and look forward to working with you to advocate for the enforcement of the Act.

We are presently reviewing the Act to decipher whether the recent representations made to the Health and Human Development Committee of the National Assembly by the Women's Department, Family Court and Magistrate Court were incorporated. Consequently, we will forward a summary of the new provisions of the Act.

Regards,
Icilda Humes
Women's Department

Women's Week

March 1- 8, 2008

"Women : Equal Partners in Belize's Development"