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Woman Inc.

PROMOTING THE WELL-BEING OF WOMEN THROUGH ADVOCACY AND CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES

End of Year Newsletter

Message from the president

Greetings! Welcome to the bi-monthly newsletter from Woman, Inc. This year we have made strides in our work to raise awareness of women’s issues at national, international and community levels. From hosting policy-level dialogue to engaging the national media, Woman Inc. has been raising awareness of women’s issues. Despite a reduction in funding, we

have continued our 24-hour Crisis Centre hotline and Crisis Shelter services for victims of rape, incest, domestic violence and sexual harassment, thanks to the support of dedicated staff and volunteers. Thank you for your ongoing support of Woman Inc. We hope you find the newsletter useful and welcome your feedback.



Gender Based Violence Screening and Referral Pilot Underway



This year, Woman Inc. conducted workshops and trainings for healthcare providers and referral network agencies in screening for gender-based violence. Woman Inc. facilitated health department leadership meetings to raise gender awareness and provided hands-on training and toolkits for pilot screeners. The workshops also helped to strengthen communication and collaboration between agency service providers. “When we call them for help, they’re now more cooperative,” says one hotline facility worker of the client-referring agency. The pilot is in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the USAID-funded Health Policy Project.



Woman Inc. Working for Women in Jamaica

In 2013, Woman Inc. kept women's issues at the forefront through a number of events:

One Billion Rising, February 14: In recognition of the global campaign that calls for an end to violence against women, Woman Inc. called upon artists and the broader public to celebrate women's rights through song and dance with gender-sensitive music, [announcing a dance event in association with the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited.](#)

United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), March 4-15: Representing Jamaica under the CSW's priority theme of ending violence against women and girls, Woman Inc. joined several strategic planning meetings of the Latin America Caribbean Caucus, negotiating positions and providing updates from the region

Government/NGO Dialogue Towards Effective Implementation on the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), September 17: Collaborating with the Association Of Women's Organization Of Jamaica, in partnership with the International Women's Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific, Woman Inc. convened a government-NGO dialogue to address implementation of CEDAW committee recommendations, such as the signing of the Convention's Optional Protocol, which allows for procedural submission of rights violations and inquiries on systematic violations of women's rights. The dialogue resulted in an expressed commitment by government to ratify the International Labour Organization's Convention 189 to promote decent work for domestic and household workers.

Crisis Centre Hotline training, November 16-30: Woman Inc. hosted a 3-part series of hotline trainings, signing up almost 20 new volunteers for the busy holiday season.

Self-defense training, November 30: Woman Inc., in association with the Jamaica Public Service Company, hosted a self-defense class for beginners. Martial arts instructor Cherry Natural taught participants how to leverage their weight and break free from assailants using the element of surprise. Tips included the 'overhead block' and the underhand 'pinch.'



Woman Inc. connects women with high tea socials

Woman Inc. networks women's organizations on collaborative activities, such as quilt-making

Woman Inc. posts the latest news on [Facebook](#)



CSW: Joyce Hewett, Woman Inc. Public Education & Legal Reform Coordinator, discussing strategic alliances and support needed with a UNFPA representative while Shirley Pryce, President of the Jamaica Household Workers Association looks on.



Self-defense training: Participants learning a new technique to protect against assault



Woman Inc.

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