

One Health in the Caribbean

The [Caribbean One Health Alliance \(COHA\)](#) is a One Health network of phenomenal, highly experienced, passionate professionals from across the Caribbean who are very invested in One Health.

This **International Women's Day 2023**, COHA is proud to highlight some of our Caribbean Women, Leaders in One Health.

We are working to **#embraceequity**, diversity and inclusion in One Health locally, regionally and globally.

Editors: Adana Mahase-Gibson (she/her), Joannah Bharose (she/her)

#OneHealth #Embraceequity

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Dr. Carla Phillips Savage

Educator,
Aquatic One Health Practitioner,
Certified Aquatic Veterinarian,
Marine Mammal Stranding
Response Coordinator

Trinidad & Tobago (T&T/USA)



Dr. Kathian Herbert-Hackshaw

Chief Veterinary Officer,
Agricultural Health & Food
Safety Focal Point, Director,
Women's Ministries Leader

St. Vincent & Grenadines (SVG)



Dr. Malaika Glasgow

Veterinary Officer,
Changemaker,
One Health Specialist,
Secretary, COHA

St. Vincent & Grenadines (SVG)



Dr. Chandra Degia

Risk Communicator,
Environmental Manager,
Climate Change &
Health Educator,
Environmental Scientist
Anti-Racism, Equity & Gender
Officer, COHA

Jamaica



Dr. Maxine Parris-Aaron

Agricultural Health Specialist,
Community Leader,
One Health Specialist,
Vice-Chair, COHA

Guyana



Dr. Auria King-Cenac

Director of Agricultural Services,
former Chief Veterinary Officer,
Vice-Chair, COHA

St. Lucia



What cross-cutting issues are you working on?



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Caribbean One Health Alliance (COHA)

Dr. C. Phillips Savage



Aquatic ecosystem health and management, including **bacterial and parasitic diseases of fish** (food fish and ornamental fish) of economic and/or public health significance.

I develop **academic programmes** as well as educational and **international networking opportunities** for veterinary students and graduate veterinarians desiring to work in or transition to areas of veterinary medicine outside of private practice.

Dr. K. Herbert-Hackshaw



SVG depends on **tourism**. It is our main source of revenue.

With outbreaks of **African Swine Fever** and High Pathogenicity **Avian Influenza** in the region, SVG is on high alert. My role is to formulate and implement plans to **prevent the introduction of diseases** through **import risk assessments, surveillance and monitoring**.

These are conducted in collaboration with Ministry of Health, Fishers and Forest Rangers.

Dr. C. Degia



I work with **rural communities**, including farmers, who face complex issues, wicked environmental problems, around **food security** and **food sovereignty**. These affect their day-to-day survival. As a result, I am involved in **training the Next Gen of Caribbean Leaders** in **climate change** and **health** issues and solutions. A lot of my current work involves evoking **responsible environmental behaviours** in adults and **risk communication**.



Dr. M. Glasgow

Collaborative and multi-disciplinary work are part of my daily work activities. My work programme includes **public health**, inclusive of **disease surveillance** activities, **food safety** regulatory activities that involve the importation of animals, meat and meat products. This is in collaboration with Customs and Environmental Health Departments.



Dr. M. Parris-Aaron

I work in areas of **food safety**, food security, **emerging diseases**, **sustainable agriculture**, sanitation and hygiene. Central to my work is using **gender equity tools** and **culturally appropriate methods** to meaningfully support diverse communities. This is central to any sustainable development initiative. I am involved in **training the Next Gen agricultural entrepreneurs**, including women from vulnerable and marginalized communities.



Dr. Auria King Cenac

I am responsible for **implementing the policies** of the **Ministry of Agriculture**. We work to promote food and nutrition security. This involves collaboration with various agencies and disciplines. I work to protect Agricultural and Environmental Health by conducting **surveillance activities** for **pest and diseases of concern**. I regulate the importation and registration of **pesticides** and **toxic chemicals**.

Inspiration

Who or what inspires you?

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Dr. C. Phillips Savage



My mother – Her steadfast **faith**, her dedication to **life-long learning**, and her unwavering determination to challenge detrimental industry norms and the status quo in support of finding and proving non-injurious paths to holistic health and healing.

Dr. K. Herbert-Hackshaw



I am inspired by my **sister**: Together we offer an open garment boutique twice a year and back to school supplies for targeted communities.

Family matters

Dr. C. Degia



I love seeing diverse, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary teams working to develop solutions. I admire individuals and organisations that have the courage to **speak truth to power**. I am inspired by **women** who cut new paths and **blaze new trails**, as this paves the road to gender equity.



Dr. M. Glasgow

Ensuring livestock **farmers' livelihoods** and **food security** are major motivations but my **family**, especially the **strong, independent women**, is my greatest inspiration.



Dr. M. Parris-Aaron

I was **nurtured by parents** who emphasise service hence wherever there is a need for my assistance, I extend it willingly. **My Dad** who at **eighty-four (84)** years, spends 8 – 10 hours daily serving others and nurturing the next generation of Leaders. I am also inspired by the endless possibilities of collaborative work.

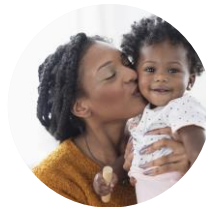


Dr. A. King Cenac

I am inspired by my **two young daughters** who must grow up in this world with so much uncertainty. My impact may not be seen now but I am hoping if I continue to advocate then many will come on board to ensure that the future is a bit brighter for the youth.

Daring to Lead

Your advice to aspiring Women Leaders in the Caribbean?



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"Dare to be different. Set boundaries. Be kind in the workplace but let not your kindness be mistaken for weakness. As a woman, this will **surely be tested**. Be meticulous, pay attention to detail, **but don't miss the 'big picture'**; consider the potential far-reaching implications of your work, your words and your actions beyond your immediate environment and, in all things, **strive to leave things better than the way you found them.**"

Dr. Carla Phillips Savage



"Be patient and celebrate the small wins, remember, 'Rome was not built in a day.' You will encounter the 'Nay Sayers'.

Keep on persevering.
Rely on the **Most High** for guidance and direction."

Dr. Auria King-Cenac



"Take the time to understand the community/persons you intend to serve. Be aware of that community's or individual's realities. Success is a process hence **patience is a pre-requisite** to achieving that success."

Dr. Maxine Parris-Aaron



"Have patience, persistence and tenaciousness; the ability and willingness to inspire and foster grassroots movements to identify issues, promote ownership and cause change. A **sense of humour** always helps!"

Dr. Malaika Glasgow



"As Women's Ministries Leader I am exposed to the challenges of our Caribbean women: abuse, health risks, lack of leadership training and mentoring, literacy, poverty, and workload. Each of these challenges is an opportunity for Ministry. **"Be our Sisters' Keeper"**, as the Good Book says "...therefore render unto God the things that are of God."

Dr. Kathian Herbert-Hackshaw



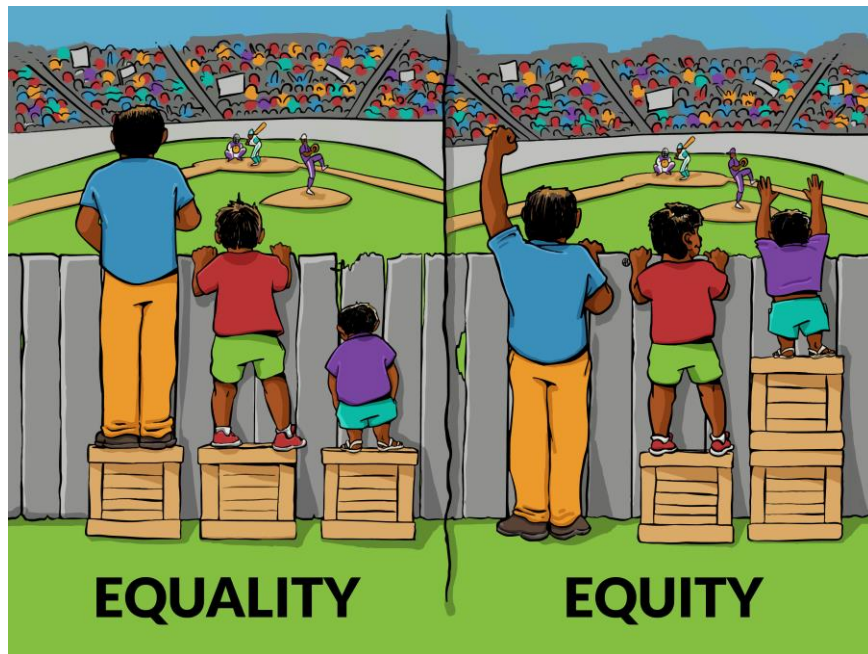
"Be true to yourself. Know yourself. Understand yourself. **Love yourself.** Practise **self-care**. Know your worth. Try to leave your country, the Caribbean and the world a better place than you found it, by living from your True and Authentic Self."

Dr. Chandra Degia

Being an Ally

What does it mean to you?

Graphic: Interaction Institute for Social Change



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Professor John Agard
Co-Chair, Global Sustainable Development Report, 2023
Scientist, University of the West Indies (UWI), T&T

"Women can't be ignored because they are women. They should be included as experts when they have the required skills, expertise, and experience."



Dr. Paul Crooks
President, Trinidad & Tobago Veterinary Association, Past President, Treasurer, Caribbean Veterinary Medical Association
Veterinary Officer, Tobago House of Assembly, T&T

"Being an ally means considering your own unconscious bias, it is important to own your privilege. Women for example still get asked 'Why are you focusing on your career rather than your family?' This is probably not a question a lot of Men in Leadership positions get asked. As allies, I believe we need to help build a community of allies. At the organisational level, we advocate and insist on being diverse and inclusive to ensure gender equity, starting from the hiring process to the Leadership level."



Dr. Joe Myers
Chief Veterinary Officer (Interim) BELIZE

"It means taking concrete action - support and advocate for practices and policies that empower women. Be part of an organisation that puts women's issues at the forefront. Take the time to listen to Caribbean women's experiences and understand their perspectives. It also means learning, about current issues and the challenges they face. Be part of the solution for a better world."



Dr. Roderick King
Senior Vice President, Chief Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, University of Maryland Medical System, USA

"Being an ally to Caribbean women requires a commitment to learning, listening, and taking action to support their rights and wellbeing. By working together, we can create a more just and equitable world for all."