



Request for Expert Speakers for International Girls in ICT Day 2024



This initiative has been voted and [SDG Good Practice](#)

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INTRODUCTION

The CARICOM Secretariat Girls in ICT Partnership, in collaboration with the Restore a Sense of I Can (RSC) International, is planning its annual observance International Girls in ICT Day 2024, aligned with the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) theme of "Leadership." Scheduled for **Thursday, April 25th**, this event will serve as a platform to empower and celebrate the leadership potential of girls and boys in the field of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

The gender disparities in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and careers, particularly in the field of ICT, highlight a critical issue that requires urgent attention. Despite the recognition of STEM as the driving force behind innovation, social well-being, and sustainable development, girls and women remain significantly underrepresented in these fields. The International Girls in ICT Day serves as a poignant reminder of this disparity and the need for concerted efforts to address it.

The CARICOM Secretariat serves as the focal point for the Partnership, highlighting the pivotal role of leadership in fostering gender equality and empowerment within the ICT sector. Recognizing the leadership potential of both girls and boys, the Partnership aims to inspire the next generation of ICT leaders across the CARICOM region. The CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership was honored by the United Nations in 2021 as a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Good Practice Initiative, showcasing exemplary practices that inspire and guide regional organizations in implementing sustainable development solutions.¹

The International Girls in ICT Day event is an integral component of the CARICOM Girls in ICT Action Plan, which received approval from Ministers during the Ninety-First (91st) Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) - ICT.

For more information on the CARICOM Girls In ICT Partnership visit: <https://caricom.org/caricom-girls-in-ict-partnership/>

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership, is pleased to invite expressions of interest from expert speakers on sectoral topics to enrich the upcoming International Girls in ICT Day Event. This event will serve as a platform to highlight key topics in ICT while empowering youth throughout CARICOM. The event will take place on **Thursday, April 25th, 2024**, aiming to bring together regional youth experts to inspire and uplift the next generation of ICT leaders.

The regional theme is "Inspiring Youth Innovation, Leading Change in CARICOM!".

¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/partnerships/caricom-girls-ict-partnership>

The CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership will utilize the platform and other resources provided by RSC International to broaden its reach to children, parents, and guardians across the CARICOM region. The aim is to engage a diverse audience and promote inclusivity in ICT education and opportunities. Anticipate finding additional resources tailored for both girls and boys on the Secretariat's website: caricom.org. The planned event sets out to provide enriching content and opportunities to empower the next generation of ICT leaders.

STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL GIRLS IN ICT DAY EVENT

The CARICOM Secretariat and CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership will host a one-day event featuring thought leaders, industry experts, Regional Government Officials, Privat Sector and the public. The intention is to create a supportive and empowering environment where girls and boys feel encouraged and confident to pursue their interests and aspirations in ICT, ultimately contributing to greater diversity, innovation, and progress in the field.

Timing / Sequencing of the Event

International Girls in ICT Day is observed on the last Thursday in April yearly, this year the observance will be held on Thursday April 25th. The CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership will host a one-day event in collaboration with RSC International on Thursday April 25th 2024.

- **The opening ceremony will start at 9:00 am** (Eastern Caribbean Time) <https://www.utctime.net/ect-time-now>
- After the opening ceremony, a group of STEM and ICT sessions are expected to commence at 10:00 am (ECT)/ Thereafter, breakout sessions will take place hourly until 5:00 pm (ECT) on the RSC Platform. Participants will receive a list of CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership led sessions but are also free to join any session of interest.
- The main stage will have lectures and panel discussions beginning at 10:00 am (ECT), lasting an hour to hour and a half.

Each session will be structured as follows:

Proposed Outline of Lectures and Panel Discussions

1. Introductions (5-10 Minutes)
 - a. Introduction to the topic by the moderator
 - b. Brief overview of the agenda for the day's proceedings.
 - c. Introduction of presenter/panelist.
2. Presentation (30 Minutes):
 - a. The presenter will deliver an interactive presentation on the chosen topic.

OR

3. Panel Discussion (45 Minutes)

- a. The panelists will share their experiences, challenges, and successes encouraging girls to pursue careers in ICT. OR
 - b. The panelists will discuss the importance of education and mentorship in nurturing girls' interest and talent in ICT.
 - c. Interactive discussion on strategies to encourage more girls to pursue ICT careers, provide equal access to ICT education and foster inclusivity in the industry.
4. Audience Engagement and Q&A Session (10-15 Minutes)
 - a. Opportunity for the audience to ask questions and engage with the speakers and panelists.
 - b. Addressing queries, sharing insights, and fostering dialogue between participants.
 5. Closing Remarks (5 Minutes)
 - a. Recap of key insights and highlights from the discussion.
 - b. Expressing gratitude to participants and speakers.
 - c. Encouragement to continue the conversation and efforts towards gender equality and empowerment in ICT.

TARGET SECTORS/GROUPS/STAKEHOLDERS

The list of primary target Sectors/ Focus Groups encompassing youth aged 13-29, educators, parents/guardians, persons with disabilities, ICT agencies, Government Ministries, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. By engaging such a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the event aims to foster inclusive participation, promote collaboration, and address the unique needs and perspectives of each group.

CALL FOR SPEAKERS – EXPERT SUPPORT REQUIRED

The Partnership Steering Committee is looking for experts in the following areas / careers to deliver a fifteen (15) to forty-five (45) minute interactive presentation. Additionally, parents/guardians and teachers are invited to participate in a panel discussion. Prospective participants are requested to consider the request in the context of the sessions listed below:

1. **Expert Talk:** Generative Artificial Intelligence: - Presentations should showcase innovative AI models used in writing, digital art creation, personalized avatars, and everyday tools. Focus on engaging youth and highlighting practical applications for everyday tasks using AI.
2. **Expert Talk:** Career Dialogue: - Presenters should aim to discuss their personal career journey in order to inspire and inform participants about the diverse and rewarding opportunities available in the field of ICT, empowering them to pursue careers that align with their interests and aspirations.
3. **Panel Discussion:** Parent Panel OR Girls in ICT Global Dialogue: - Panelist should explore opportunities in ICT for youth and involve discussions on their experiences as parents. Highlighting

the importance of parental support, addressing information /knowledge gaps, existing careers, and nurturing youth's interests in technology. Alternatively, a global stakeholder's dialogue discussing ICT progress towards gender equality may take place.

4. **Panel Discussion: Teacher Insights:** - Panelist should share insights on integrating ICT into classroom settings and preparing youth for the digital age and the 'future of work', address digital age careers, curriculum gaps. Offering practical strategies for fostering ICT literacy and innovation in education. This panel should preferably include teachers currently working in ICT in the CARICOM region; however all educators are welcome to express their interest.
5. **Expert Talk: Digital Well- Being and Security:** - Presenters should lead an interactive discussion on digital well-being and online safety tailored for youth. Cover topics such as identifying online risks, building a positive online presence, practicing good cyber safety habits, emphasizing the importance of safeguarding personal information, and staying vigilant against online threats, primarily those present on social media.

SUBMITTING YOUR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

To register your interest in being considered by the Partnership Steering Committee as a presenter/panelist, please submit the following documents using the subject line: "Speaker interest for the CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership International Girls in ICT Day Event 2024" to email address: caricomgictpartnership@caricom.org

Please submit the following in support of your expression of Interest:

1. Your curriculum vitae; and/or short biography
2. Photograph
3. Short description of your work in the area (If you are a prospective parent or teacher panelist you are not required to submit item three (3) in the list below.)

Selection of Experts

Please note that, if selected, participation/presentations will be in a personal capacity. Therefore, please do not use the letterhead or other identification of your employer – unless necessary.

Experts/Speakers selected by the CARICOM Secretariat and the CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership, will be sent an e-mail confirmation.

RENUMERATION

Experts/presenters will not be remunerated for their services in relation to the CARICOM Girls in ICT Partnership International Girls in ICT Day Event 2024 or otherwise. Presentations/participation will be on a purely voluntary basis.

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**Thank you in advance for expressing your interest in this critical initiative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).**