



CARIBBEAN CENTRE  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

## Caribbean Voices for Human Rights



In this newsletter,  
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February 2026 Newsletter

### *Executive Summary: Human Rights Update for the Caribbean – February 2026*

By February 2026, the Caribbean's human rights landscape has moved from warning signs to acute rupture, with multiple crises reinforcing one another across borders. Violence, displacement, and state fragility are no longer isolated national issues but part of a regional pattern shaped by external pressure, weak governance, and structural inequality.

**Haiti** remains the epicentre of humanitarian collapse. Armed gangs continue to exert territorial control, deepening food insecurity and forcing communities to develop informal, home-grown survival strategies in the absence of effective state protection. Gender-based violence has intensified alongside displacement, underscoring how insecurity disproportionately affects women and girls. Despite international attention, responses remain fragmented and insufficient.

**In Cuba**, economic breakdown, energy shortages, and sustained external pressure have pushed the country closer to systemic collapse. Mass emigration continues, hollowing out communities and straining neighbouring states already grappling with limited absorptive capacity. The situation illustrates how sanctions, migration policy, and domestic governance failures intersect to produce long-term human rights consequences.

Across the wider region, **migration and deportation** regimes are becoming increasingly punitive. Third-country deportations, detention practices, and expanded tracking of migrants reflect a shift toward securitised mobility management, often at the expense of due process, dignity, and non-refoulement obligations. Caribbean nationals are increasingly caught in extraterritorial enforcement systems over which their governments have little influence.

**Climate justice** has emerged as a legal and political fault line. The ruling on discrimination against Bonaire islanders highlights how colonial governance structures continue to shape unequal access to climate adaptation and protection, reinforcing calls for accountability and reparative approaches.

Meanwhile, **gender-based violence** remains a persistent regional emergency. New scholarship and advocacy confirm that legislative reforms alone are insufficient without sustained investment, survivor-centred systems, and cultural change.

Taken together, February's developments point to a Caribbean confronting compounded vulnerability — where violence, climate impacts, migration controls, and geopolitical decisions converge. The urgency for coordinated regional leadership, rights-based policy, and international accountability has never been greater.



Coverage of the same summit emphasized how U.S. military actions targeting suspected drug traffickers, visa/immigration policy changes, and broader diplomatic tensions are affecting Caribbean states' rights and region-wide dialogue. [Read More](#)

A ReliefWeb situation update (20 Feb 2026) documented protection and human rights developments across the region, including conflict-related impacts and human rights risk areas. [Read More](#)

A feature connected to the upcoming 70th session of the Commission on the Status of Women outlined priorities for strengthening access to justice and women's rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. [Read More](#)

This academic piece reflects on regional human rights dynamics, structural inequalities, democratic change, and evolving challenges — blending empirical insight with broader perspectives. [Read More](#)

A UN Women Caribbean statement calls for urgent action to curb gender-based violence and protect women and girls' rights across the Caribbean. [Read More](#)

The Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) issued a press release about human rights concerns affecting migrants and persons in mobility in the Dominican Republic — including detention and access to due process. [Read More](#)

Human Rights Watch reported on how some Latin American and Caribbean governments are affecting migrant and civil liberties — influenced by external political pressures — highlighting abuses and restrictions on rights. [Read More](#)

An in-depth regional analysis discussed proposals to establish new standards for protecting human rights defenders, especially against harmful business practices and judicial harassment. [Read More](#)

The Pulitzer Center has supported reporting on Venezuela for almost 20 years. After Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro was captured and arrested by the US [Read More](#)

The Dutch government discriminated against people in one of its most vulnerable territories by not helping them adapt to climate change, a court has found. [Read More](#)

As a Feb. 3 deadline looms, families across the country are stressed beyond their limits. For those who may not understand the significance of this date, it is when the Department of Homeland Security has scheduled Temporary Protected Status (TPS) [Read More](#)

Haiti's Crisis Will Not End Unless We Name the Demon Holding It Captive. [Read More](#)

Cubans from all walks of life are hunkering into survival mode, navigating lengthening blackouts and soaring prices for food, fuel and transport as the U.S. threatens a stranglehold on the communist-run nation. [Read More](#)