

# WOMEN & CORRUPTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Over the last decade, women across Latin America and the Caribbean have been speaking out in ever greater numbers in support of equal rights for women and girls. From Argentina to Costa Rica and Brazil to Mexico, women are marching for reproductive health, demanding action for #MeToo and building a strong and dynamic women's movement to make their voices heard.

While considerable progress has been made to empower women across the region, there is still much work left

to do to inspire real change. The recent release of the *Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) – Latin America and the Caribbean* is an important step for understanding how corruption affects women. Based on a survey of more than 17,000 people in 18 countries across the region, the report reveals new data that could help develop more gender-sensitive anti-corruption programmes and policies.

While existing research shows some forms of corruption disproportionately affect

women, historically, there has been little data on how. For the first time, the GCB highlights data on sexual extortion, or sextortion, one of the most significant forms of gendered corruption. It also presents new data on women's experiences of bribery.

## Access to public services

As primary caretakers for their families, women are often dependent on public services, which also makes them more vulnerable to certain types of bribery.



WOMEN ARE MORE LIKELY TO PAY BRIBES FOR HEALTH SERVICES



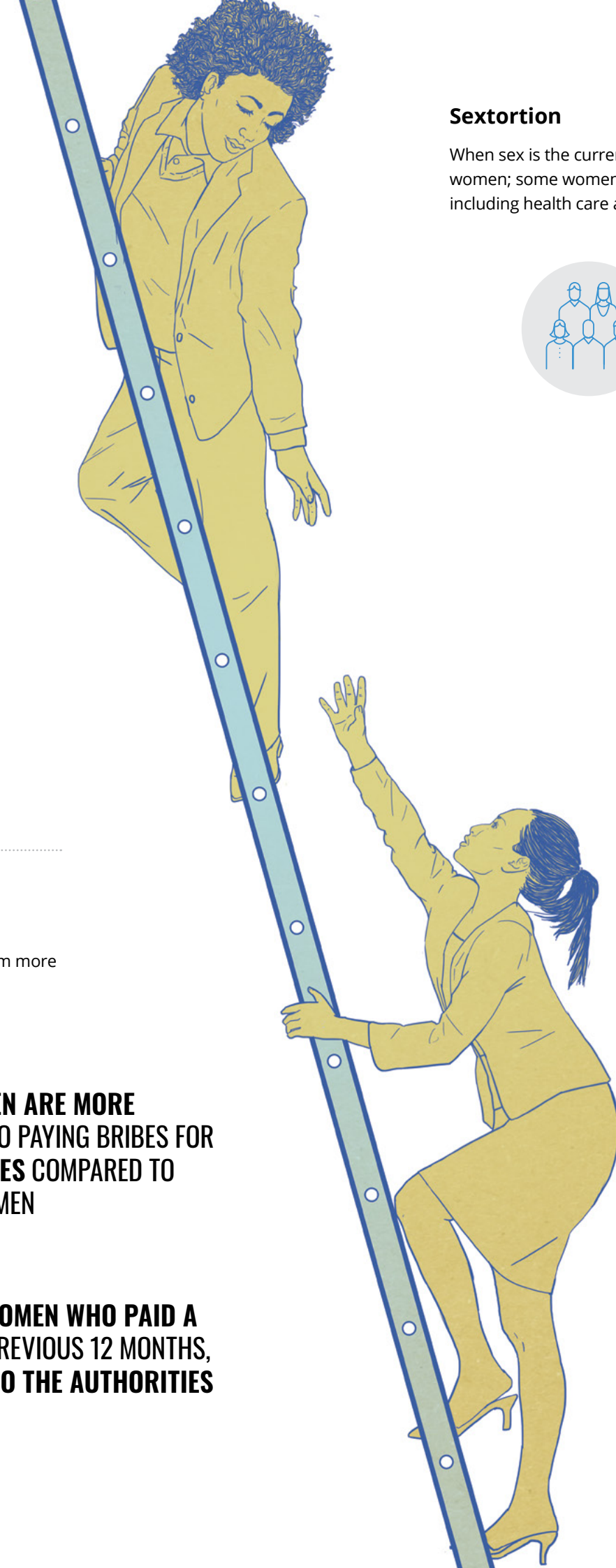
POORER WOMEN ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO PAYING BRIBES FOR COURT SERVICES COMPARED TO WEALTHIER WOMEN



WOMEN WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF EDUCATION ARE MORE VULNERABLE TO PAYING BRIBES TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS



ONLY 1 IN 10 WOMEN WHO PAID A BRIBE IN THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS, REPORTED IT TO THE AUTHORITIES

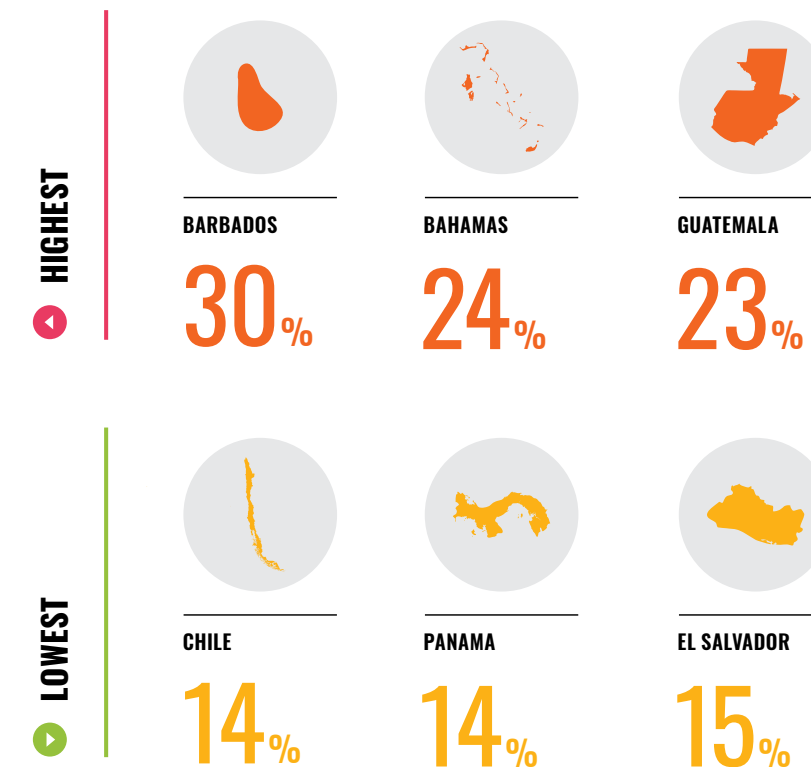


## Sextortion

When sex is the currency of the bribe, evidence points towards a gender bias that particularly affects women; some women are coerced to provide sexual favours in order to receive public services, including health care and education.



1 IN 5 PEOPLE EXPERIENCES SEXTORTION WHEN ACCESSING A GOVERNMENT SERVICE, OR KNOWS SOMEONE WHO HAS



71%

THINK SEXTORTION HAPPENS AT LEAST OCCASIONALLY



Of these, 55% are women



Only 8% of citizens think it never happens

## What do women think about corruption?



WOMEN THINK CORRUPTION IS UNACCEPTABLE



WOMEN THINK CORRUPTION IS ON THE RISE



WOMEN THINK POLITICIANS ABUSE THEIR POSITIONS AND CONNECTIONS FOR PRIVATE GAIN



## Women not taken seriously when reporting corruption

In several countries, a majority of people think that complaints made by men are more likely to result in action than those made by women.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

57%



HONDURAS

51%



GUATEMALA

51%

## Women paint a bleak picture



Women are less likely to think **ordinary people can make a difference** to stop corruption



Women are less likely to think **appropriate action will be taken once corruption is reported**



Women are less likely to think people can **report corruption without fear of retaliation**



Women are less likely to know about their **right to request information from public institutions**



## Recommendations

While the data presents a grim reality of women's views and experiences of corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean, the past decade has shown that when women have come together to demand change, they have succeeded in countries across the region. To advance equal rights for women and girls, government leaders should:

1. **Develop legislation to confront and end sextortion and ensure justice systems have the right tools to address sextortion cases.**
2. **Collect, analyse and disseminate gender data on corruption.**
3. **Support women's participation in public and political life.**
4. **Include women in anti-corruption decision-making.**
5. **Empower women to report abuse and ensure the mechanisms to do so are gender-sensitive.**

## What we're doing

Transparency International works with 17 chapters across Latin America and the Caribbean to advocate for women at the highest levels of government and among global, regional and national policymakers. In addition, 10 chapters recently began a multi-country research project to review legislative frameworks related to sextortion, identify improvements, and make policy recommendations.

In **Guatemala**, our chapter, Acción Ciudadana, trains women leaders in tackling corruption, exercising social audits, and other forms of advocacy and citizen participation. In **Peru**, our chapter, Proetica, conducts research to better understand the linkages between gender and corruption at a national level. In **Argentina** and **Mexico**, we also conduct case studies to evaluate the impact that women in politics have on anti-corruption efforts.

## What you can do



**1. Report sextortion when it happens.** Find an Advocacy & Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) near you to report any cases of sexual extortion.

**3. Speak out on social media.** Spread the word about how corruption impacts women. **#WomenAgainstCorruption**

**2. Learn more about gender and corruption.** Visit Transparency International at **transparency.org** for more information.

**4. Contact your local chapter.** Get in touch to see how you can help.

### ABOUT THE SURVEY

- Conducted from January to March 2019
- 17,000+ people aged 18+ took part
- Carried out by IPSOS Peru, Market Research Services and Public Domain
- Nationally representative (face-to-face in 17 countries, by telephone in one country)
- 18 countries surveyed

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GLOBAL CORRUPTION BAROMETER 2019

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