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DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE

CEIMM

CORN ISLAND CREOLE WOMEN LIFE EXPERIENCES

The experiences of Corn Island women in their struggle to access justice

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INTRODUCTION

The experiences of Corn Island women in their struggle to access justice, true out their life history has bring such great experience due to the richness of information and the way these four ladies make sense of their life story. A moment of sadness, joy and relief, when these women speak out their sorrows, efforts, limitations and strength. How the sums of all these (sadness, joy, relief, sorrows, efforts, limitations and strength) is the result of the women they are today.

As part of our ethical approach, our four interviews was done one to one, afro descendant women and in their native language (creole), to gain confidence and that the ladies would express freely, also we compromise to respect their identity, Roxi, Samantha, Dorothy & Leany are all pseudonymous.

Our stars actress lead us to an unknown dimension of love, horror, hate, peace, and incredible strength, Roxi, Samantha, Dorothy & Leany, had the opportunity to cry, laugh, scream and heal. Incredibly was the result of the information obtaining from each one of our stars actress.

Their life story as black women, mothers, and daughters with high Christian's belief is fundamental to understand their suffering and the way they make sense of their own reality.

Is an remarkable experience and an honor to have form part of this research and that these life story serve for other women, specially afro descendant women in order to create awareness and to our authorities in order that they be more social programs that include ladies, such as our stars actors, who have been real brave in sharing their life history whit all of us.

ORAL LIFE HISTORIES

ROXI

My name is ROXI, I am of 42 years of life, was born in Corn Island municipality, married mother of four boys and continue to live on the island.

I identify myself as a mestizo, my family from my mother side is part from Puerto Cabezas, the Wanky, my grandmother went to Puerto Cabezas to live; my grandfather was from Providence (Colombia), his surname is Watson. My father is from Corn Island, so I identify myself I is a mixture of creole, miskito and Spanish. I am proud to be a mestizo woman. For me as human being I have to be proud of myself, if I am not anyone is going to do it for me. If I, deny my descendant, that means I am not proud of myself. I do not feel secure to say I am afro descendant, or Miskito, I talk the three languages (English, Spanish & Miskito). [For Roxi, being Mestizo is a way to contradict her father's desire].

As a child I past a lot of violence, along whit my three brothers, during this time my father continually discriminated my mother for being a Miskito woman; he did not accept her, ethnically speaking, I remember he saying: you must not talk like her. Due to people saying about my mother, my father used to beat my mother (physical abuse),he also beat us up, when he tied her up he also tied us up (me and my brothers), for us it was like being in prison.

I have a lot of problems whit my brothers, due to the scars of violence that is in their lives, they don't look for God, they don't free their hearts, and they continue living whit in violence. For example my youngest brother he can never speak in a kind way, he always has to speak violently, repeating the model of my father. I am a business woman, I go to church and I ask for prayers, I am trying not to reproduce my childhood model. I still remember sleeping during the night and my father reaches home and tie up my mother to the roof and beat her whit a machete, I used to cry out and scream for help to the neighbors, also during the night I used to find myself running to my grandmother house to ask for help, and at the time I reach back whit help I would find my mother tied up and

beaten, beaten, beaten. At this height of my life, I ask my mother: why did you permit all those violence? Why dint you left my father?

Her answer was because of you all (me and my three brothers). In miskito culture they believe that if you come emptied handed you leave emptied handed.

When my mother see my determination in life and how I stand up for my rights, I respect my husband in order for he to respect me, she would ask: where did you get that strength from? I would reply, I get my strength from you (mother), my father used to violate and beat you and in return you cry and lament, and when he turnoff, you used to take out your anger whit infidelity and as a child I did not understand and used to treat you in telling my father your secret although even if he beat me I would not tell him, if I did I knew he would have killed you.

I try not to give my children's bad example, I would not want my children's to have a second opinion about me, it hurts; living a violent life transcend in different angles, it causes hatred, disrespect and a lot of sufferings. As a child I lived all those things, my brothers has not yet recover.

In those time the local judge was a woman, very recognize on the island and never gave my mother any justice, one because she was a woman, two she was not an islander and three she was Miskito, for the local judge all justice was given to my father and left my mother defenseless, giving my father much more strength to physical and psychologically abused my mother.

After hurricane Joan in 1988, my father went to work in Hawaii, USA, he was there for about two years, during this time we was happy; when he came back, he was the same person he never change, and my mother took the decision to leave my father, she told my father: my children's are in there teens and have been living happy whit out you for the past two years, so she called us (four children's) and we told our father that we are leaving whit our mother, we don't want to live the same life, we don't want no more beating, no more yelling, no more offense, we were happy when you was not here. At this point my father new we was sure of what we wanted and he ask us to forgive him and he promise to change the way he treated us, at 3 am we (me and my three brothers)

forgive my father, the following day he went to fishing and never came back, his body was never found. At times I ask myself, wondering if he died in peace knowing that before he left to fishing we forgive him, that was October 4th, 1991. For the family the month of October is really sad, the month my father died or never came back from sea, my mother birthday is the 6th and my birthday is the 15th.

It hurts to remember the way my father used to treat us, specially my oldest brother, now as a woman I ask my mother if my oldest brother is my father's son, her answer was yes. Some time I wonder the contrary, my father used to treat him with so much violence, sometimes it seems like if he heated the child. The child used to like eat some time he ask for more and my father would force him to eat and eat and eat, if he dint he would beat him till he eat it. My father used to wake him (my oldest brother) at night, no matter the hour for him to take out the horses to feed, I use to be sorry for my brother and use to accompany him at night time; now there were times when my oldest brother wife says to me that she is going to leave my brother, I would reply to her that as children's we used to be very united, I was the one to be always by his side, protecting him, and I ask her not to leave him, he is a good man, he is a provider for his home; she would reply that he has told her the way I used to protect and help him. Living a violent life his hard for a human being, it makes you ignorant at all times, you don't know how to talk, how to express yourself.

My father died when I was going to be 16 years old, I remember if someone would have said to him that they saw my mother in Bluefields maybe drinking a beer, he (father) would interrogate my mother aggressively. I remember one year Corn Island won the Atlantic series, that was around 1986 or 1987 and there was a big celebration, a neighbor came by and ask my father permission for my mother to accompany her to the celebration, and my mother reached a little later from the our he gave her and that night he hang her, my mother was a big woman, I don't know where he got so much strength to life her of the grow, I would never forget that night, he beat her with a machete, her body was all color black, blue, red. I went to ask for help at the neighbors, when we reach it was too late, the neighbor help us let her down from where she was hang and beaten. There was a

neighbor how always help us, to whom I would always be thankful for saving my mother's life, again and again and again.

The consequence of helping my mother was that my father use to treating me, but I was not afraid. Now I look at my mother and I told her that her actual health problems are the consequence of all the beating that she received from my father and she replied that thanks to me she is living, thanks for all the time I would run and ask for help, if not she would have been a dead woman a long, long time ago.

My father loved me, he used to name his boat after me, but that love did not save me from his wrath, his violence; at evening times he would make ice cream for us and spend time whit us watching movies. I remember the last beating he gave me, he double a rope and beat me whit it, I stay whit a bruise from the rope on one of my breast, at one point he kicked me out our back door (a high back door), and blood came out, there are a few ladies that new about that beating and when they knew I was pregnant they where surprise, the new I was sickly because of the violence that I lived and the way my father use to beat me. They even told me that if my father was a lived he would not believe his eyes, because the doctors told him that I would never bare child (although the doctors never new why I was bleeding). My father used to beat us up and when he was true he would be so loving.

My father like having horses, he used to dress me up as cowgirl, (jeans pants, high boots, long sleeves shirt), with that we had to win the horse raise competition, contrary to that he would beat us out there in front of everyone, but if we won the raise, we would have made him so happy. When my father died my mother got read of all the animals, due to the way my father used to treat us for those animals. Now I don't like to have animals or allow my sons to have any, all this due to my life experience as a child.

My husband is a very calm man, he is not violent, my mother hi s so happy for me having a husband such has mine. Whit my husband we share roles and most of all I do not permit him to violate or discriminate me, I refuse to live as my mother and father lived. My father was to tie to his family, his family used to control his income, to the point that he did not give my mother anything. To this point my mother asked me where do get the strength to

stand up for myself the way I do it, my answer is I get it from you, from seen your struggle and suffering and never ever wanting to lived the life you lived whit my father.

DISCRIMINATION.

O yes. I have suffer discrimination as a child from my father, at school and now as a women. At times when people discriminate you, you get stronger, that you can better in life. Life is hard, daily I have to struggle, bu I know how I am and what I have to do, things I did in past has always been for a cause, whit my first child, he was sick I had to do something I never expected in life, but I put it true and took my son to the doctor. Now I am my husband wife, my husband is so sweet; we don't share secrets or pretend something that we are not.

WHY DISCRIMINATION

When I tell people that I am mix (mestizo), is very difficult to believe, all because of my father. My mother is mix (mestizo), so I am mix, if I discriminate or feel ashamed of my mother, that means I discriminate myself. My father use to continually discriminate my mother in front of us and use to obligate and beat us not to talk her bird language (Miskito), that the reason why as me and my brothers grow up, we would always try to speak Miskito.

THE MEANING TO BE A MESTIZO WOMAN.

For me I am mestiza, because my mother is not full creole, not full indian (Miskito), she told me that I carry 25 % Indian (Miskito) blood. When I say I feel proud to be a mestizo woman, if I am not proud, for me that is discriminating my mom, that mean I do not accept my mother just has my father did not accept the fact that she is a Miskito woman. I love her and if it was not for her I would not be here, and my father when he was alive he tried for us not to go to my mother home town, he called it the wood land (Puerto Cabezas).

MESTIZO WOMAN.

I grew up on Corn Island, I identify myself from Corn Island, I know no other place but Corn Island.

WOMEN SPECIAL RIGHTS

They are all kinds for woman rights, for me there should be just one difference between man and woman and is the sex. I share my opinion with my husband and both of us has the same right and both of us have to work, he work on the sea as a fisher man and I work in my business, we have equal rights. Personally I respect my husband, and he in return respected me. I apply this concept to everyone in any place, everyone has the same right and in the eyes of God we are equal.

Having a profession is to have a position in the society, I always tell my four sons that education leads to success, it let you have a better and easy life. You gain respect from people.

I have felt more discrimination in my childhood. I suffered violence and discrimination from my father and at school, the school mates would discriminate me for the way my father treated us, he used to treat us like animal. Everyone on the island news is such a small island, the news get around. We never suffer for hunger but the treatment that my father gave us was the worst. My worst suffering of discrimination and violence came from my father, he used to obligate us not to talk the bird language (Miskito), if I did he would beat me, he never accepted my mother and never accepted us as his children's. I remember the violence was so much that my mother run away from him and went to Puerto Cabezas and she took me along with her, during that time I learn a miskito chorus, and when I came back to island I song the chorus, my father herd me and dint think two time and he beat me in my mouth, even so I never forgot that chorus. That is part of the discrimination, my father said if he was to die he wanted us to promise him not to go to the Wood land (Puerto Cabezas).

If he was here now I would have liked to ask him why he made his life what my mother that came from the wood land, a miskito woman. In Spite of all I feel proud of my mother, she was a woman that hustle for us, she was just like me, she make nacatamal, she make bread, she make cake, she kill cow, she sell, she use to go to Masaya and bring chairs, she was a hustler, but like my father family dint accept her, you now when family telling man things, how it is, and over all she is a miskito woman.

Disappointment is like any thing in life. Starting over is hard, but is the way you make it, if you make it hard, it will come hard, if you make it soft it will come soft, if you put your mind on achieving your goals you will reach it. I had a lot of dreams I wanted to have my business, I wanted a restaurant, I like to cook. During my life I tried to reach those goals, not reaching them in the moment true rang decisions, I saw the person that I love did not love me the same way, and I remember my grandmother use to say you have to love the one that love you. So I married my husband and I told him I want a better life, when that was not happening I told him I would go out of the country to work in order for me to obtain my goals (I want my house), he did not like the idea, so he build the first house, at that point there where two children's and we needed something to secure our children's future and so our welt have been increasing more above the double. I have a neighbor that always said that I had nothing to do at home, he said black people is like the black cow, you cover the two eyes whit the ears; so that's how black people go, instead of them go ahead them go behind, the other evening, now he realize that my life has prosper and ironically has said that I am important, I answer him, yes, and thanks to you, he said why thanks to me, I said true discriminating me, running me, didn't what to give me credit for my business that made me strong. My struggles in life have made me the woman I am today. For me being a Christian woman is not only going church and talking. God wants us to love one another, and a lot don't apply it, instead they discriminate the other for being indian (Miskito), you is spañad, you is creole, so I feel like I love every one, if you are sick, if you are healthy, alcoholic, or drogadict, I love them all.

MY CHILDREN

At the beginning I wanted 2 children a boy and a girl. My first one was boy and the second one was boy, the third one was boy, and the fourth was a boy, in all my pregnancy I was expecting a girl, I am my mother's only girl child and am everything for her, I was expecting to have my girl child and I had a fourth son. My desire was to have a daughter and would never treat my daughter the way my mother treated me. I wanted to be a professional, as a child I would tell my father my dreams and he use to say that I am dreaming, so my husband find me dreaming, I knew what I wanted since I was a child .

ADVICE

The advice that I give my children's is I want them to study, because life his hard and is worst every day, whit out study, in the society you is not nobody, so I tell my four sons I want them to study, my life is no easy, but I love to work, I love to cook, so I get ahead, I have ambition, so what I want you all do, is not to look on what we have here, to say we do not need to worry, we don't need to work. No my sons, you all need to work, for your wives, your children's and same way whit studies you would have better job, and you going give a better life to your children's. In the past you did not need a degree to be a captain, you dint even need to know to read and write, now you have to study to be a captain. One time you could get a cook job, now the restaurant are asking for a certificate, life has change, in my business I am the owner and the cook and everything, my children's future is all about the choices they make in life. The knowledge they obtain nothing or no one can take that away from them.

I dint had the opportunities to study, I tell my sons you all have to look your future and I going give you all an education, don't depend on what I have, depend on your studies, , the best heritage for children is education, some of them get it and no do-nothing whit it, because we have a lot of educated one round here and them no do-nothing whit it, we have to try, we can't give up.

The women that suffer violence must stop. We lady could work just as a man, and that way value or self better, but you have some woman just sit down home and depend on a man, that's why man hold control over them, but if we get out and work for our self and our children's, be independent, when we work we all have rights. My husband, we both coordinate as one, one flesh.

SAMANTHA

My name is SAMANTHA, I am of 41 years of life, was born and lived part of my childhood in Puerto Cabezas, actually living on Corn Island municipality, mother of one daughter.

I am a creole working woman.

Has a child living with my parents (mother and father) in Puerto Cabezas, there was a work woman, that was in the house and she used to physical, psychological and sexually abuse of me. I am very quiet, and like to be myself, product of the violence that I suffered; sometime at night I dream of all what used to happen to me.

When my parents separated and my mother move back to Corn Island, I was 12 and was abused by my stepfather. My stepfather had a gun and treated me that he would shoot me if I ever told anyone what he was doing to me. I was a little girl and didn't had anyone.

Living in Puerto Cabezas, my father gave me a lot of toys including a bicycle, when I reach the island my cousins did not like me because I had things they didn't have (toys), that was a reason why they would not be close to me and when they did it would be for some purpose. I was just a child and had just lost my father.

For some times I maintain it all as a secret, for fear, for shame, not knowing what my mother would say. All of that start consuming me. After the hurricane Joan my father did care me Leon and I did go to a psychology, at the beginning I start talking and it help, I carried one of my cousin with me and she start telling my stepmother things against me, action that carried my stepmother to get in contact with the psychology and I just stop talking, if that did not happen, I would have been emotionally better a long time ago. A few years ago I have been invited to meetings with organization regarding women's rights, I have learned a lot and that have help me.

As a woman it was hard for me, all the things that I suffered flash back when I started a marital relation, product of that relation I had my child. I told my partner my story at that point I trusted him and he understood me. Later during the relation, we began having problem and my partner use my past as a tactic against me, he didn't had a heart, so I was literally sleeping with my enemy.

Actually I am a working woman and a dedicated mother, trying to do my best for me and my daughter. I have told my daughter my life story, with the objective that she knows my life and no one can tell her the contrary, to gain her trust and for her to be aware of how bad life can be. I have a lot of confidence with my daughter and that she would never hide anything from me, I encourage her to study, to be someone in life.

I always speak to the people that surround me, mostly women, regarding life, violence, discrimination, if there is something that has marked our life in the past (violence, discrimination), to let it out, seek help in order to be healed. I recommend to be a role model for our children's, counsel our children's, encourage them to study, to be a professional in the future.

DOROTHY

My name is Dorothy, Born and grow up on Corn Island with the age of 64, I am mother of 5 boys and numerous grandchildren. I consider myself a respectable person always; from coming up I try to respect myself so others can also respect me.

I didn't have a problem with people I always tried to live good in my neighborhood among the people that surrounded me and never felt violated against.

I remember that my school days were ok but in those days it was a better education and we learned a lot more than what children are learning now, we had to respect our teachers and the teachers were also respectful to the students. Favoritism is there anywhere you go it doesn't matter what gender you are it was just like that.

I never suffer discrimination but I observed that it happened with other children and it depended on the company they hang around with so if they were in good companies they weren't molested but if they were in bad ones then they would tease them.

At home the distribution of the house work was good who had to do all the work was my adapted sister because she was the young adult and I was the little one so they had to take good care of me. It was 5 of us my mom, my dad, my older brother, my older sister and I. They had house rule and you had to live by the rule. I didn't had that privilege to go out to parties that was the most important thing, I could go to the activities from the church and if they will having a picnic then I could go but then to go out in the night to a party I wasn't permitted to do it. To leaved the house I Always needed company but after I turned a young girl like around 18 or 19 years I could go by myself sometimes I would really like to go out but I couldn't and the boys were old enough to out on their own without any permission and by themselves.

MARRIAGE

After you get married, the men feel like they have the rights of everything. Sometimes it wasn't the best and I argue for my rights but I didn't go beyond my limit. This means that in some marriage the least problem always end up in something big. But always I try to control myself and discuss about matters and try to make it up in a good way. My parents didn't used to know about it. I used to do my work (domestic) because my husband had to go out and make money to put the food on the table so then there was no one else to do it so I had to do it myself and at times if I were taking care of the children and he was home then he will always help me.

It's not so easy to start over in life because you always have memories and if those memories are not to the best you always remember them and make it hard but then when you look at it you just have to start over and forget the past. Not to say forget the past or it's not in your memory but you have to begin and look forward to the future, not continue to be living in the past because the future is ahead so you need to take the problem and ask God to solve them and go right.

ADVICE

The advice to my children as they grow up they should always put God first and ask God to put place a good partner/companion for them because many times we choose a partner on our own and it's not what God want and in later days is not the right choice that would cause a separation or an unhappiness and they all should listen to the advice of parents cause all parents want to give their children the good advice to lead them into the good direction maybe some parents that suffer a lot of things but again Is some parents that see other people suffer and wouldn't want their children to fall in that same step (situation) so that's the reason why we try to show them and advice them that in everything put God first.

Life is a lot different now; I think that children are getting out earlier than before (going to parties) you see a lot of liberty in this time than before. It's because what we notice that one follow the other sometimes I put a limit and maybe the neighbor have them children and maybe them don't have any limit and the children want to follow the same step and

then you want bring them in or advice them but it hard. These time children going at a early age turning woman and man before and I feel that the reason why as we does use the word baby having babies the boys and the girls are too young to form a family so at times the mother one side and the father one children one side cause the mother only want liberty, she get a family too young and she's not prepared to assume a responsibility with the men it was just the same and most of the boys now a days the men only know that make the babies and that's it. They're not prepared to assume the responsibility. Many girls and boys at home the parents have to support. It's not nice. It's really not nice. You know I feel like at times maybe to the school or maybe on the air maybe the lawyer or someone from human rights give a little teaching over the air, on the radio to discuss about family or how parents should be or bring up their children so they need a little workshop around these topics.

And most of the time the responsibility is on the woman is because many women don't have a husband so they play the role of the mother and the father and especially and especially if they have to go out and work, maybe the children stay with an older sister or a grandmother that maybe don't have the strength to take care of them. If don't train your boys not even to fry an egg if their wife would get sick and they don't have the money to hire someone to do it for them, then they have to know how to do it.

I see now that women have a lot of rights than before but on the other hand may woman abusing of the law, abusing the man just because they have a little bit more right, and what they say it should be 50/50 and some of the woman go beyond the 50 it just depend on the understanding, try to understand each other's to live for one another. But in my days it was so rare and seldom so they try to solve the problem at home they never needed a judge only if it was a divorce but other problems no, maybe once a while but it was that needed.

You know right I have my uncle staying with me he sickly and can't stop drink and him had a woman that always had problem and she in jail through drugs and then him sleep anywhere night ketch him so right now him up here like 3 days now and then my granddaughter come up she and her man leave as I look on that child 15 years, so I don't know what to say I told my son since you don't live in your little place (house) that you

used to stay in before make her clean it out cause I promise myself not to take her back in, I did it two times and after she turn to be a woman she had to get out of my house.

I didn't take her out but finally she left with the boy that is older than her but they leave because he had another woman and they start having problem so she get mad and came up to my house so I say fix up over there and let her stay in it but like she doesn't want to cross over there so I told her if she don't want she don't have to sleep but put her things over there because right now my house is full.

I have a room I called it the garbage room the way it's filled with a lot of stuff and my sister soon come back to me again cause all her things in that room because she say she can't make it with them children too so then with the time she going come up so I tell her she can't sleep but it all depends on her behavior because if not then make she get a little bed and put over there cause right now I know in age cause I have Keane right now too and sometimes I get frustrated cause right now her boyfriend fall out cause she vex with him, as far as I see the boy he's ok but he have a serious problem him jealous her that is his problem and now like she getting she can't stand her, when him getting ready to go work him call her that's early like from 5 o'clock, the other night it was raining so she say when I get home I going call you so when she get out to the road to get a taxi him start calling and calling and as soon as she get out the taxi home him start chatting her so she get vex she can't stand that anymore and then he pressure out himself cause when she don't answer the phone then he ask permission to come out the work to go look for her so she say I can't take time to breathe cause the phone don't rest so she need time and I talk to him I tell him rest cause every chance him get him come up and jealousy is the worst thing and you can't live like that they just boyfriend and girlfriend and what would happened if they would get to married and then they study to the same university so I talk to him and say him need to change cause she in class so she need to focus on that. I don't know what to do anymore and I'm frustrated and sometimes feel to runaway. I'm just the grandmother.

LEANY

Leany is a humble woman born and grow up in Corn Island part of her life; she's mother of one child, have a good job that help pay the bills and better her income. She struggle through her childhood to reach where she is, she had realized that it's very difficult but she never gave up and this is her story. She remember that growing up her economical status had do a lot in the environment she were in, the more you had the more people would approach you.

She relates: I was very poor, I only had one pair of shoes through the whole year and the cloths I wore was given by people that didn't want it or do it just to help us out because we couldn't afford it.

She smiled, and said all the hard work paid off still it's not easy so I always remember where I come from. I didn't care what people had to say about me, they used to tease me by saying my mom was crazy and was a lime seller. When I look back at my background my situation was very depressing I used to cook, wash, clean iron only being a young girl and it always felt unfair because it was ten of us and no one help or they did it when they felt like. Sometimes I observed when they would buy gifts for the others and give me the old ones. Well some days we didn't had what to eat I only had one pair of shoes and wore people old cloths when they didn't wanted it anymore cause we couldn't afford it and it was so hard. To be sincere I didn't felt bad about being poor cause fancy things didn't call my attention and I didn't feel good so I didn't care about what people had cause if they had good things that still wasn't for me, so material things didn't bother me at all or much less called my attention, so I didn't care about what they had. But it was unfair and unjust to do something like that to a child. I didn't have much relationship with my parents, my mother was a very hard person didn't show any emotions and I never knew my father.

Sometimes hardship comes to you so you can appreciate what you have and sometimes things happen to you so your life can be better because sometimes when you have everything you don't care and sometimes you don't want to go to school all those type of things.

Economically it's better because I can see a lot of things now that I hadn't and used to ignore but now I realize is better. For example when I was small I didn't had nothing I was very poor and I wasn't like the other children but then now I have the opportunity in these moment I can buy anything I want, a car, a house anything but I still remember where I coming from so I always like to help people in worst situation maybe you would see someone dirty and you wouldn't want to get close to them or keep their company and it's a lot of things people need but I don't feel better than them cause no one is better than the other and I rather be with the poor than with people that have money and think that is all in life. That's the way I am cause when you look at my back ground not on my family but on my economical status or situation is very depressing, now I can buy any amount I want but that don't make me a better person and I put myself in the other person place and I feel sorry for them well the needed because I lived it. My hope was always things going to get better for me and now it is, I used to always think that God would helped me get out that situation and open the way for me and he did cause I'm not sick, I eat everyday and I have my little house.

Many people were better off than me with money and now they don't have quart of what I have today cause just to have a house it's a big deal in these time, I have a job health and strength. I didn't grudge them and I was a child in school that was poor and a lot of children had a lot of things and I wouldn't be begging or asking for anything as poor as I was still I wasn't in their social level and they had their own social group. Now that I have something they would want to say hi or talk to be but it don't bother me cause from I was a child I was very proud and I knew that things would get better for me and I still have the mind that things in the future will be a lot better.

In my time it was by level so the more you had then people will approach you and talk to you so now that I am, on their level and they would want to say hi I don't cause I'm the same dirty poor girl so whoever was my friend in the past is still my friend now and I don't pretend to be the person I'm not I mingle with humble people like myself.

So far I haven't suffer any type of discrimination, sometime people used to say my mama/mother sold lime and that I was ugly with dry head (hair) but that didn't bother me at all.

As far women rights so the government say that we have but I don't see any rights because they discriminate you in a way specially as coast people because if you black they think that you don't know anything so they want keep you down and don't want to give you your right and if you go the judge or the police sometimes they give it to you and depends and your level because if you have money they would give you the rights but if not you would end up as the loser so I really don't see it fair enough.

For example if I have a problem here on the island and I would go to the judge but if the person is well know or they are bonds of friendship then he or she would have the preference and all the rights many laws are unfair and I've experience it also on the international airport, by I was the only black person from the coast they decided to check my luggage, I know it's a procedure sometimes but what called my attention was that they only did it to me, by on the coast they think we sell drugs they did it, I'm not a fool and I always talk what's on my mind so I ask the question why me and they said its part of the job so I said if it's so how come only me and not the other people them, by there are gringo (North American) they are special then what seem more unfair is that I have already boarded the plane and they took me off when all my suitcase was already on the airplane and been through the machine.

In Nicaragua you can see a lot of discrimination, you can see it at the schools and also at the stores the way they walk behind you or keep looking at you like you cannot pay or purchase anything just because you black they think you're a delinquent and only make money off drugs.

The law exist because every day you can hear about it on the news but that doesn't matter for us islanders because sometimes you assist to the law hands and if you don't have any money or you're not know in society you lose the case because favorite is there and people abuse of their power so it's better not to waste time or money to go, if you go to the hospitals also you see it because they attend the one that they know or call them by phone not to make the procedure everyone does and no one says anything about it, the attention is not good and yet still you have to go because there is no other alternative. How they can say that they help women and that's not the reality whether here or next part of the country we suffer and struggle.

At my job there are unfair in many ways because if you don't pay or tip your boss you cannot get a good section and specially European if your black they don't like you so automatically they give it to the Philippines and Indonesians people rather than the black and worst if you're a person that stands up and fight for your rights. No it doesn't matter it's as long as your black or don't threat them to expensive gifts then they would threat you bad or give you the ugliest job. An example if your to a job and you know you have the capacity and the ability to do it but because your black they will prefer give it to Spaniard (Mestizo) people and you get mad and upset about it but you cannot do anything cause you need the job but you know that you deserved it.

A next thing if your home and your parents can afford it but they keep buying you pacca (second hand clothing) and all the good things only for themselves you see it really unfair but you say I done in this house they give me little food and I'm safe here well better you stay until you grow up and look something else to do like the way I did. It may be hard but still I keep mentioning that if you don't give up better will come so you need to learn how to reason and know the difference between what's wrong from right.

I can't consider that I had it hard starting over in life because I didn't had to start over cause I didn't had anything that I've lost so I had to gain back and my first job is the one that I still have.

Sometimes life is not how you want it but it's how you make it, you need to be a strong person cause not everybody mentality the same not everybody can put up with hardship in life for example if I'm living in a house and I have three children and I don't threat them the same and buy things and give the others or not equality then my child can walk out the house or get in bad company so ill just tell her she need to take things easy and better will come you have to be honest in life even though you have to put up with a lot don't make your hand fast (thief) and your name in life is the best thing to keep don't make anyone hall and pull you (don't make anyone abuse of you) and when you want something in life it requires a lot of sacrifice whether you have money or not you need to be kind and nice to people because your ways carry you through this world and make a lot of efforts cause not everything comes easy in life and when you have the opportunity you should make the best of it, study and get a good education to make this society less ignorant and

be someone of good in this life to make people look up to you as I said we are not going to like many things but we will have to put up with it until better comes and when you have a good name in life is the best thing. (Someone respectable, honest and of good) and the best thing that we can give to our children is a good education so that way they won't face situations that their parents faced or make it a lot easier for them.

CONCLUSION

Our investigation is based on oral life history told by afro descendant women that born and grew most of their lives in Corn Island municipality, during this research and the information or knowledge obtain from the interviews that we made the results show us that these four women suffer multiple discrimination of gender racial and class from their childhood throughout their whole lives that minimize their self esteem, make them feel so little and keep them back from denouncing any type of violence.

Domestic Violence was always present in the lives of these women as they shared in their experiences. They created ways and strategies to resist against this type of violence engender most in the homes of these ladies with their parents, spouse and children.

Violence was held as a private issue as a way to pretend in society to have a perfect family because Corn island women tend to put family before themselves and becomes victims of violence where they used coping in silence. They also feel that principles and values should always come first to maintain a high status in society and most likely to naturalize violence because they are not conscious of the concepts of it, due to that they're not able to point it out as such.

Corn island women consider education as the key to overcome most situations of violence and discrimination to better their social status and to better the life style of younger generations. They acknowledge that the laws exist but it requires a collective effort to make a change, one of the reasons they have decided to let their voices be heard so it can contribute to create awareness and new understanding towards the hardship that Corn Island afro descendant women struggle facing discrimination and violence.