

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**HONORABLE CAROLYN RODRIGUES-BIRKETT, M.P**  
**MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett was born in the Amerindian Village of Santa Rosa, Guyana. She received her early education in Santa Rosa and then move to the capital Georgetown to attend a private school. Minister Rodrigues-Birkett then left for Saskatchewan, Canada, on scholarship, to pursue studies in Business Administration and Indian Studies. Following her return to Guyana in 1993, she read successfully for a degree in Social Work at the University of Guyana, while simultaneously managing the Amerindian Projects Program of the Social Impact Amelioration Programme (SIMAP), a post she held for seven years before being appointed as Minister of Amerindian Affairs in 2001.

Minister Rodrigues-Birkett was the first Minister to be reappointed to her position as Minister of Amerindian Affairs by His Excellency President Bharrat Jagdeo in September 2006 following national elections. During her tenure as Minister of Amerindian Affairs, Minister Rodrigues-Birkett led country-wide consultations for new legislation protecting Amerindians. She successfully piloted the ground breaking Amerindian Act in Guyana's Parliament in October 2006 which secures the collective rights of Amerindian villages and communities, the legal recognition of Amerindian lands and the promotion of good governance in the villages and communities. It was also under her watch that a full- fledged Ministry of Amerindian Affairs was established.

On April 10, 2008 Minister Rodrigues-Birkett was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs thereby making her the first female to be appointed to this post. A few months after Minister Rodrigues-Birkett also assumed responsibility for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation. She is the first indigenous person to rise to this level in the governmental hierarchy.

On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, following the national elections, Minister Rodrigues-Birkett was re-appointed by His Excellency President Donald Ramotar as Minister of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation.

As Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister Rodrigues-Birkett led the Government's efforts in consolidating Guyana's position within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) by ensuring Guyana fulfills its legal obligations, among others, to the Community while at the same time cementing Guyana's relationship with the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) by ratifying the UNASUR Constitutive Treaty and being the first country to ratify the Additional Protocol on Democracy. Central to these efforts is also the strengthening of relations with the countries of UNASUR and the wider Latin American region.