



# MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

## Corporate Communications Unit

Temple Court I

31-33 Abercromby Street

Port-of-Spain

Tel: (868) 624-5771; 623-2441-8; Fax: (868) 625-3925; Email: [corpcomm@mns.gov.tt](mailto:corpcomm@mns.gov.tt)

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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **NATIONAL TASK FORCE MEETING AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

The progress of Ministry of National Security's Counter Trafficking Unit's (CTU) efforts in Trinidad and Tobago took another step forward on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> 2016 with the meeting of the National Task Force against Trafficking in Persons (NTFATIP) at the International Waterfront Complex, Wrightson Road, Port of Spain.

In accordance with the Trinidad and Tobago Trafficking in Person's (TIPs) Act, the NTFATIP comprises the Ministers of foreign affairs, labour, social development, national security, justice and education. The NTFATIP is a stipulated body under the TIPs Act mandated to, among other things, establish policies and develop a national plan of action for identification of and assistance to victims of trafficking, prosecution of traffickers, repatriation of victims, and working in partnership with non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations and other States.

At the meeting, Minister of National Security, Major General (Ret'd) the Honourable Edmund Dillon, was appointed Chairman of the National Task Force.

Other Ministers in attendance were The Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago, The Honorable Faris Al-Rawi; Minister of Social Development and Family Services, The Honourable Cherrie Ann Crichlow Cockburn, and Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Senator The Honourable Dennis Moses. Also in attendance were Permanent Secretary Ministry of National Security Mr. Carl Francis and Permanent Secretary Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, Ms. Jennifer Daniel.

The Task Force was given a status report on CTU's activities and progress with respect to the fight against human trafficking and provided the requisite guidance to the Unit on the way forward. Outcomes of the meeting included the establishment of a Steering Committee comprising Permanent Secretaries and a National Task Force Working Group comprising technical officers. These bodies will work towards the finalization of a National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons. At the meeting, Deputy Director of the CTU, Ms. Alana Wheeler, presented the outcomes of a National Threat Assessment on Human Trafficking which was conducted in October and November 2015.

The next meeting of the National Task Force against Trafficking in Persons is scheduled for February 2016.



Above: National Task Force Ministers Meet: Chairman of the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons, Major General (Ret) Edmund Dillon, Minister of National Security (centre), pays close attention to the meeting's procedures and is accompanied, from left, by: Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Mrs. Cherrie Ann Crichlow-Cockburn and Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Mr. Dennis Moses



Above: National Task Force Meeting Presentation: From left, Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) Deputy Director Ms. Alana Wheeler, Advisor to Minister of National Security Dr. Richard Ramoutar and CTU Senior Legal Officer Jillian Williams, look on at the presentation of the meeting for the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons

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**Marcia Hope**  
**Director - Corporate Communications Unit (CCU)**