



# MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

May 11, 2023

For Immediate Release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY WELCOMES STRATEGIC TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS ADVISOR**

**Port of Spain:** Strong security relations with the United States of America and key partners were reinforced on Friday May 05, 2023 when Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., hosted a meeting with Ambassador of the United States of America to Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Candace Bond, and officials from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The meeting served to introduce the Strategic Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Advisor, Mrs. Antoinette Lucas-Andrews, who was presented by Ambassador Bond. The engagement of the Strategic TIP Advisor is part of a multi-country capacity building initiative called CARISECURE 2.0.

This programme equips national institutions and agencies with the technology, equipment, and training to better collect and analyse crime data, in order to create evidence-informed approaches to reducing crime. CARISECURE 2.0. is being funded by USAID and implemented by UNDP.

In addition to providing support on the implementation of CARISECURE 2.0, the Strategic TIP Advisor will be working closely with the Ministry of National Security, specifically the Counter Trafficking Unit, to prioritise activities of the National Action Plan for Combatting Trafficking in Persons, and provide guidance to the Counter Trafficking Unit to improve Trinidad and Tobago's annual United States Department of State (USDOS) Trafficking in Persons Report ranking.

Minister Hinds welcomed the expertise of Mrs. Lucas-Andrews into our counter-trafficking platforms. He also extended his gratitude to the Embassy of the United States of America, through Ambassador Bond; USAID; and UNDP, respectively, for their continued support in the areas of national security, particularly assistance to the national response to trafficking in persons. The Minister indicated that he looked forward to ongoing fruitful collaborative initiatives.

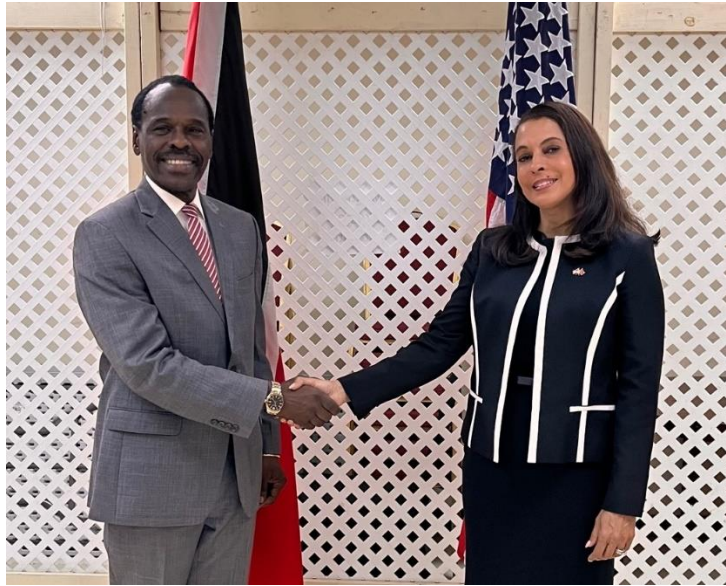
The meeting took place at the Ministry of National Security's Head Office, located at Abercromby Street, Port of Spain. Also present at the meeting were UNDP Assistant

Resident Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Sharifa Ali-Abdullah; USAID Bridgetown Programme Director, Ms. Stephanie Mikulasek, as well as other officials from USAID and UNDP; Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Michelle Thomas; and Deputy Director, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security, Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch.

**Photos and captions:**



1. **Seated in front row (from left to right):** United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bridgetown Programme Director, Stephanie Mikulasek; Ambassador of the United States of America to Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Candace Bond; Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P.; Strategic Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Advisor, Mrs. Antoinette Lucas-Andrews; United Nations Development Program (UNDP) Assistant Resident Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, Ms. Sharifa Ali-Abdullah; Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of National Security, Ms. Michelle Thomas. **Back row (from left to right):** USAID ESC Regional Office Programme Management Specialist (Rule of Law) Ms. Sharon Ramsaran; Deputy Director, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security, Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch; Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit, Ministry of National Security, Dr. Samantha Chaitram; UNDP Programme Coordinator, Ms. Christalle Gemmon; and UNDP Programme Coordinator, Mrs. Amanda Ackbarali-Ramdial.



2. Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., and Ambassador of the United States of America to Trinidad and Tobago, Her Excellency Candace Bond at a meeting on Friday May 05, 2023 at the Ministry of National Security's Head Office, located at Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.

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