



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY HOSTS MEETING OF THE NATIONAL TASK FORCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND ITS WORKING GROUPS

Port of Spain: On August 21, 2023, the Minister of National Security, the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., hosted and chaired a meeting of the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons. Also in attendance were the Task Force's Prevention, Protection and Prosecution Working Groups. The meeting was held at the Ministry of National Security, Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.

The purpose of the meeting was to examine the operations of the national response to Trafficking in Persons; to discuss the progress of the National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons; and to consider the recommendations of key stakeholders. The meeting included presentations from the Counter Trafficking Unit, as well as an overview on Trafficking in Persons operations by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. The Team Leaders of the Working Groups had the opportunity to communicate their challenges and recommendations to the members of the Inter-Ministerial Task Force.

The National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons comprises the following members:

- The Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P., Minister of National Security (Chairman)
- Senator the Honourable Reginald Armour S.C., Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs
- Senator the Honourable Allyson West, Minister of Public Administration
- Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services
- The Honourable Stephen Mc Clashie, Minister of Labour
- Dr. The Honourable Nyan Gatsby-Dolly, Minister of Education
- The Honourable Randall Mitchell, Minister of Tourism
- The Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis, Minister of Housing and Urban Development

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- The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister-Gender and Child Affairs
- Dr. Roshan Parasram, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health
- Mr. Sheldon Cyrus, Director of the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

As guided by the Trafficking in Person Act of 2011, some of the roles of the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons are to coordinate the strategic objectives of the National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons, to oversee the national response against Trafficking in Persons and to consult with relevant civil society stakeholders to provide a comprehensive whole-of-society response to Trafficking in Persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Michelle Anne Thomas, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of National Security; Dr. Samantha Chaitram, Director, Counter Trafficking Unit; Mrs. Kimoy Thomas-Williams, Deputy Director, Counter Trafficking Unit; and other key government and non-government stakeholders.

PHOTO AND CAPTION:



Photo 1: Minister of National Security the Honourable Fitzgerald Hinds M.P. chairs a meeting of the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons and the Prevention, Protection and Prosecution Working Groups on August 21, 2023 at the Ministry of National Security, Abercromby Street, Port of Spain.

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