



# MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **COUNTER TRAFFICKING UNIT PLANS NEW DIGITAL SYSTEM TO HELP FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

**Port-of-Spain:** The Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) of the Ministry of National Security plans to implement a digital Case Management system that will serve as a repository of all data related to the trafficking in persons.

This announcement was made by the unit's newly appointed Director, Mr. Allan Meiguel, as he spoke at a Stakeholder Reception last week, hosted in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) (funded by the Migration Multi-Partner Trust Fund), at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Sports Clubhouse, Police Academy, St. James. This event marked the official introduction of the CTU's dynamic new leadership, Director of the CTU, Mr. Allan Meiguel and Deputy Director of the CTU, Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall.

Under the theme "Forging Collaborative Bonds", more than 80 stakeholders and partners dedicated to combatting human trafficking were in attendance, symbolic of the strength and unity required in the ongoing fight against this global menace.

Sharing the vision and mission for the CTU, Director Meiguel said "*There is a well-documented and established Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which outlines a route map of the process to be followed when a potential case of trafficking arises, which we envision being placed on a digital platform that incorporates a Case Management Software system.*"

He said the software will serve as a repository of all Trafficking in Persons (TIPs) data, court orders, victim care and outreach programmes. It will also

- Allow for updates and tracking from all related partners and service providers of victim care
- Generate reports and analysis to identify trends leading to predictive enforcement
- Build operational capacity and assist in the preparation of case files.

He added that consultations are already taking place with the IOM, Ministry of National Security's Information Communications and Technology Unit, and developers from Canada to deliver this Case Management System.

CTU's Deputy Director Marshall underscored the paramount importance of Victim Care Assistance adding that the organisation will *"strengthen our administrative staffing in this area to provide comprehensive support to victims and survivors. Elevating the safety and security of those affected by trafficking will not only empower them but also significantly increase their willingness to participate in court proceedings, ultimately boosting conviction rates."*

Ms. Marshall also emphasised the importance of a united front, calling for continued partnerships to create a robust network capable of dismantling trafficking networks, where her focus will lie in the coming months.

Representatives of several agencies and organisations were in attendance including members of the Diplomatic Corps; Senior Government and Ministry officials; the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago; the United Nations Population Fund, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC ROPAN), and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); social services agencies such as the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, the Rape Crisis Centre, and Families in Action; and civil society including the Red Cross Society; the Heroes Foundation and Living Waters Community.

**Persons who know of or suspect human trafficking activity should contact the CTU toll-free Hotline at 800-4288 (4CTU).**

**Photos and captions:**



**Photo 1:** (*Left*) Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall, Deputy Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), Ministry of National Security and (*right*) Mr. Allan Meiguel, Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), Ministry of National Security, at the CTU Stakeholder Reception on Thursday 01 February, 2024, at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Clubhouse, Police Academy, St. James.



**Photo 2:** (From left to right) Ms. Joanna Kazana, United Nations Resident Coordinator; Ms. Jewel Ali, Head of Office, International Organization for Migration (IOM); Major (Ret'd) Richard Lynch, Director, International Affairs Unit, Ministry of National Security; Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall, Deputy Director, Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), Ministry of National Security; Mr. Allan Meiguel, Director, Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), Ministry of National Security; and Ms. Tinstia Haynes, Case Coordinator, International Organization for Migration (IOM), at the CTU Stakeholder Reception on Thursday 01 February, 2024, at the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Clubhouse, Police Academy, St. James.

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