



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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For Immediate Release

A REFERRAL MAP TO ASSIST VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING – A Counter Trafficking Unit Initiative

Port-of-Spain: As a crucial part of the fight against human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago, the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) of the Ministry of National Security, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), held its first Stakeholder Workshop, on Friday 1st March, 2024, at the Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, Port of Spain, themed, *“Partnering to Combat Trafficking in Persons”*.

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In attendance were officials from the Diplomatic Corps; Ministry and Law Enforcement; the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago; the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF). Members from social services agencies, such as the Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (CATT), Rape Crisis Society of Trinidad and Tobago, St. Jude’s Home for Girls, Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago; Families in Action; and civil society such as the Heroes Foundation and Living Waters Community were also present.

A significant output of this workshop was the construction of a comprehensive Referral Map to facilitate an integrated approach to victim care. The map streamlines the process for victim assistance, by outlining clear pathways for referral and support services, across government and non-governmental agencies.

Delivering remarks during the Opening Ceremony, Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit, Mr. Allan Meiguel emphasized that the Referral map would, *“serve as a vital tool in facilitating an inter-agency approach, to enhancing the victim-care process”* and immediately, *“provide a clear pathway for victims to access the support and assistance they urgently need.”*

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He further gave the assurance that, *"Through our collective efforts, we can ensure that no victim falls through the cracks and that every individual receives the care and protection they deserve."*

Deputy Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit, Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall also urged that it was through, *"collaborative initiatives such as this workshop"*, that the region, including Trinidad and Tobago, *"can forge ahead towards a future free from exploitation and injustice."*

The Stakeholder Workshop allowed for critical dialogue and experiential learnings, and served as a forum for reviewing best practices, and strategizing ways to bolster victim support mechanisms.

The Counter Trafficking Unit remains steadfast in its efforts to combat human trafficking and to safeguard the rights and dignity of every individual, affected by this egregious crime.

Should you know of or suspect any human trafficking activity, please contact the CTU toll-free Hotline at 800-4288 (4CTU).

Photos and captions:



Photo 1: Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), Ministry of National Security, Mr. Allan Meiguel delivers remarks during the Opening Ceremony, at the CTU Stakeholder Workshop, on Friday 01 March, 2024, at the Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, St, Ann's, Port of Spain.



Photo 2: Stakeholders participate in Working Sessions, at the CTU Stakeholder Workshop on Friday 01 March, 2024, at the Cascadia Hotel and Conference Centre, St. Ann's, Port of Spain.

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