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Ministry of Homeland Security

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Counter Trafficking Unit uses Theatre to Bring the Realities of Human Trafficking to Life.

Port of Spain – In commemoration of the globally recognized Human Trafficking Awareness Month, the Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) of the Ministry of Homeland Security successfully hosted *Traffic in the Capital*, an interactive theatre production that used spoken word, drama, and audience engagement to explain what human trafficking is, how traffickers operate, warning signs to look out for, and where to seek help. This production was created, directed, and performed by Trinidad and Tobago National Poetry Slam winner and acclaimed performer, Derron Sandy, and his talented cast.

The initiative formed part of the CTU's deliberate prevention strategy for Human Trafficking Awareness Month, which focuses on reaching young people and frontline stakeholders who are most likely to encounter trafficking situations either as potential victims, witnesses, or first responders. Adolescents and young adults are particularly vulnerable to recruitment through deception, coercion and false promises, making early age appropriate sensitization critical.

The performances were held across Trinidad and Tobago as follows:

1. North Trinidad - Queen's Hall, January 22
2. Tobago - Shaw Park Complex, January 27
3. South Trinidad - Southern Academy for the Performing Arts (SAPA), January 29

Each of the performances were followed by guided discussions led by Deputy Director Dane-Marie Marshall and CTU authorised officers, allowing participants to ask questions, reflect on key messages, and receive clear information on available support services.

The audience composition was intentionally diverse, ensuring that prevention messages reached both those at risk of trafficking and those positioned to identify, report and respond to the crime within their professional and community roles. In total, **16 secondary schools from across the country** took part with additional attendance from a wide range of stakeholders including:

1. Teachers and guidance counsellors



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2. Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service
3. Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force
4. Members of the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service
5. Members of the United States of America Embassy
6. Community stakeholders and representatives from partner agencies such as CERT 1000 Strong, Soroptimist International Esperance, Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD), The Women Parliamentarians of Trinidad and Tobago, and The Trinidad and Tobago Youth Advocacy Network (TTYAN)

RECAP VIDEO

A recap video from the Queen's Hall showing on January 22nd 2026 can be viewed here:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P6gPzo9uOdp_ftJXQnKQ4fHv0dCWNF-n/view?usp=sharing

The Counter Trafficking Unit, established under the Trafficking in Persons Act, Chapter 12:10, leads Trinidad and Tobago's national response to human trafficking through Prevention, Protection, Prosecution, and Partnership.

Initiatives like this one show that the CTU is fulfilling its mandate for Prevention - keeping persons safe from human trafficking before a crime even occurs.

The continued use of theatre and arts – based approaches reflect CTU's recognition that human trafficking is a complex and often hidden crime that cannot be effectively addressed through traditional lectures alone. Theatre allows audience to emotionally engage with real life scenarios, challenge misconceptions and better understand the lived experiences of victims, making the message more memorable, relatable and impactful.

As the national coordinating body, the CTU remains committed to innovative, people-centred prevention initiatives that speak directly to communities and equip them with the knowledge to prevent exploitation before it occurs.

Members of the public are reminded that if they suspect or know of a case of human trafficking, they should contact the CTU through its hotline at **800-4CTU (4288)** or via email at **countertraffickingunit@mhs.gov.tt**.

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS



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Note: The faces of students have been blurred in accordance with the mandate of the Counter-Trafficking Unit to not share images of vulnerable populations.



Photo 1: Teachers and students from Scarborough Secondary School posing with the actors of *Traffic in The Capital* (wearing black) and the Deputy Director of the Counter Trafficking Unit, Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall (on right)



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Photo 2: A student asking a question during one of the interactive portions of *Traffic in the Capital*.



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Photo 3: A collection of students watching Traffic in the Capital at the North showing on January 22nd at Queen's Hall.



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Photo 4: A scene from the play depicting the characters taking advantage of a vulnerable person and subjecting them to human trafficking.



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Photo 5: Derron Sandy interacting with a student at the Queen's Hall showing, asking them how they would change the scene of the play to help the characters avoid being trafficked.



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Photo 6: Students who interacted throughout the performance posing on stage at the Queen’s Hall showing. The following Schools were in attendance with approximately 15 students per school: Diego Martin (Central) Secondary, Diego Martin (North) Secondary, Morvant Laventille Secondary, Success Laventille Secondary, St Francis Boys' College, Tranquility Government Secondary, Woodbrook Secondary and St James Secondary.



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Photo 7: Students watching the performance at the SAPA showing. The following Schools were in attendance with approximately 15 students per school: San Fernando Central Secondary School, San Fernando West Secondary School, St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando, ASJA Boys' College, San Fernando, Holy Faith Convent, Penal, Waterloo Secondary School, Iere High School.