



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Homeland Security

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

CTU STRENGTHENS AVIATION SECTOR'S CAPACITY TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Piarco, Trinidad and Tobago - In an effort to strengthen the aviation sector's ability to detect and respond to human trafficking, the Counter-Trafficking Unit (CTU) of the Ministry of Homeland Security, today, Thursday 12 March, 2026, delivered a Human Trafficking Awareness Training for aviation and airport personnel at the Caribbean Airlines Head Office, in Piarco.

The session brought together key stakeholders from the aviation sector, including Caribbean Airlines, the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, Swissport, and other partners. The training engaged approximately 100 airport personnel through a hybrid format, with staff attending both in-person and virtually.

The session was geared towards equipping frontline staff with the tools to recognize the signs of human trafficking and how to report suspected cases safely and responsibly. Throughout the session, the CTU shared practical guidance on common indicators of human trafficking, the methods traffickers use to move victims through transportation hubs, steps to take when suspicious situations are observed, and the role of the CTU in keeping potential victims safe.

The session also reflected the regional nature of aviation operations. Representatives joined from four territories: Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, and the United States of America, allowing the discussion to include perspectives from across the Caribbean and international aviation network.

Deputy Director of the CTU, Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall, emphasized the importance of Partnerships like these in the fight against trafficking in persons, stating *"It takes a network to defeat a network and this is why strong partnerships with the aviation sector are of utmost importance. When our aviation sector is equipped with the knowledge to spot warning signs and report concerns, they form a powerful line of defence in protecting vulnerable persons in the fight against human trafficking"*.

Security and Training Oversight Officer at Caribbean Airlines Limited, Ms. Kareshma Seeram echoed these sentiments, highlighting the value of the session.



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“Human trafficking can occur in any transportation hub, which is why this training is so important. Our collaboration with the CTU strengthens our ability to identify potential warning signs and respond appropriately, ensuring that our personnel remain vigilant in helping to prevent and combat this crime”, Seeram said.

Initiatives like these show the CTU’s continued commitment to uphold its mandate of combating human trafficking through a 4P Platform - Protection, Prosecution, Prevention and Partnership, with this initiative strengthening the latter two pillars.

Members of the public who suspect human trafficking are encouraged to contact the CTU Hotline at 800-4CTU (4288) or via WhatsApp at +1 (868) 702-0467. All reports are treated confidentially.



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PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS



Photo 1 (From Left to Right): Ms. Arnella Laloo, Senior Legal Officer, Counter-Trafficking Unit; Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall, Deputy Director, Counter-Trafficking Unit; Ms. Nirmala Ramai, Chief Executive Officer (Ag.), Caribbean Airlines Limited; Captain Rene Seow, Chief Operations Officer (Ag.), Caribbean Airlines Limited; and Mr. Varma Khillawan, Vice President, Maintenance and Engineering, Caribbean Airlines Limited, at the Training Session.



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Photo 2: Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall, Deputy Director of the Counter-Trafficking Unit addresses questions posed by a Caribbean Airlines staff member, at the Training Session.



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Photo 3: A group photo of some of the in-person participants at the Training Session.



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Photo 4: A screen capture of some of the attendees who participated virtually during the Training Session.

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