



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF HOMELAND SECURITY

October 1, 2025

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

CTU and National Media Join Forces to Stop Trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago

Port of Spain - On Tuesday, September 30, 2025, the Ministry of Homeland Security's Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), hosted a Media Sensitization Workshop under the theme "The Media as Partners in the Fight Against Trafficking in Persons."

The workshop, held at the BRIX Autograph Collection in Port of Spain, brought together leading national media houses including Newsday, Express, Guardian, CNC3, TV6, IETV, Gayelle, and other independent journalists.

The event focused on strengthening the skills of media professionals to report on human trafficking in a way that protects victims, supports law enforcement, and holds traffickers accountable.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of National Security, Mr. Videsh Maharaj, emphasized the importance of partnership and responsible journalism, stating:

"Trafficking thrives in silence. But the media can break that silence. Your words... have the potential to illuminate the darkest corners of our society. How you tell the story matters. Responsible journalism, rooted in truth, empathy, and ethical standards, can foster understanding, spark dialogue, and drive real change."

Participants engaged in sessions covering the legal framework on trafficking in persons, the role of the media in prevention and public education, and international best practices in reporting.

The CTU highlighted the workshop as an important step in building stronger partnerships with the national media, noting that effective public communication is critical to preventing exploitation and encouraging victims and the public to come forward.

The Counter Trafficking Unit, established under the Trafficking in Persons Act, continues to lead the national response to human trafficking through prevention, protection, prosecution, and partnership.

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

Contact:

Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU)
Ministry of Homeland Security

📞 Hotline: **800-4CTU (4288)**

✉️ Email: countertraffickingunit@mns.gov.tt

🌐 Social Media: [@countertraffickingunit_tt](https://www.instagram.com/countertraffickingunit_tt)

PHOTOS AND CAPTIONS:



Photo 1: Group photo of workshop presenters (front row) and participants, with the participants from several media houses including: Gayelle TV, IETV, Newsday, Express, as well as students learning

communications and journalism from the University of the West Indies St. Augustine and COSTATT.

In the front row from left to right:

- Ms. Arnella Lalloo, Senior Legal Officer, Counter Trafficking Unit
- Ms. Dane-Marie Marshall, Deputy Director, Counter Trafficking Unit
- Mr. Videsh Maharaj, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Homeland Security
- Mr. Allan Meiguel, Director, Counter Trafficking Unit
- Ms. Desiree Jordan-Whiskey, Officer-in-Charge, International Organization for Migration, IOM
- Ms. Kandi Serrant, Reporting and Communications Specialist, IOM



Photo 2: Mr. Errol Fabien, co-founder and CEO of Gayelle, asking a question during one of the presentations in the workshop.



Photo 3: Ms. Shweta Sharma, editor at Newsday, asking a question during one of the presentations.



Photo 4: Deputy Director of the CTU, Dane-Marie Marshall during her presentation *“The Media’s Role in Combatting trafficking in Persons”*.



Photo 5: Director of the CTU Allan Meiguel during the presentation *“Introduction to Trafficking in Persons”*.

END