



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



*“Spotlight on  
Older Persons in  
Emergencies.”*

## *World Elder Abuse Awareness Day*

June 15, 2024



The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services today, June 15, joins the international community in commemorating World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), thus reaffirming our unwavering commitment to the eradication and prevention of all forms of abuse against older persons.

The theme for this year's commemoration is “Spotlight on Older Persons in Emergencies.” We fully endorse this theme as older persons are frequently marginalized during crises, which can further amplify vulnerabilities.

Following any major disaster, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, acting as secondary responders, collaborates with the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) and the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government to coordinate disaster relief. Counselling and psychosocial support, through the Ministry's National Family Services Division, are also provided to affected individuals and families.

Further, the Ministry's Division of Ageing conducts visits to Homes for Older Persons to

ensure compliance with established safety procedures. These inspections encompass a thorough assessment of the physical structure of Homes for Older Persons, examining everything, from floors and walls to ceilings. The aim is to ensure safety standards are met, including the presence of fire safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and safety signs. These homes are inspected to guarantee the safety, protection, and overall well-being of older residents.

In closing, and in-line with the theme, I encourage older persons and their loved ones to remember the simple yet profound saying: “Better to have, and not need, than to need, and not have.” Have an emergency preparedness plan! Select a contact person who will check on you during a disaster, keep your emergency kits prepared and updated regularly, and stay informed about the disaster preparedness protocols for your area.

*Senator the Honourable Donna Cox*  
**Minister of Social Development and Family Services**

**#WEAAD2024 #StopElderAbuseTT  
#ElderAbuseAwarenessTT #SocialStandsTT  
#SafetyforOlderPersonsTT #EndElderAbuseTT**

