



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

### **Ministry hosts World AIDS Day Prize Giving Ceremony**

*Port-of-Spain* --- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services joins today with the global community in recognition of World AIDS Day 2020. World AIDS Day, held each year on December 1st since its first establishment in 1988, is an opportunity to celebrate and support global efforts to prevent new HIV infections, increase HIV awareness and knowledge, and support those living with HIV/AIDS. Under the theme, “Global Solidarity, Shared Responsibility”, the Ministry’s HIV/AIDS Co-ordinating Unit hosted a brief ceremony at the MSDFS Head Office on St. Vincent Street in Port-of-Spain.

Minister of Social Development and Family Service, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, during the feature address said, “My insight and respect for the community of Persons Living with HIV has grown admirably; so much so that I continue to take a more critical look at the policies, legislation and certainly, the operations of the Ministry's HIV Unit with a view to doing more within our remit. It is the responsibility of this Ministry to guarantee that persons within this community are not only afforded the necessary access to programmes, grants and services but also, assured of our commitment towards the establishment of an inclusive and enabling environment with the knowledge and competencies of all staff at the helm.”

During her remarks at the ceremony, Minister Cox congratulated the winners for their enthusiasm and recognition given to their personal and professional development.

Prizes were distributed to Ms Karyn Reyes, Ms Tessa Pascall, Ms Ormila Sookdeo and Ms Mariah Celestine, winners of the HIV/AIDS Ribbon Hunt, HIV Knowledge Passage, HIV Word Search and World AIDS Day 9-0 Competitions. Entertainment was provided by UTT Music student, Ms Tijuana Hernandez during the brief ceremony. The Ministry’s HIV/AIDS Co-ordinating Unit was highly commended for their exciting series of activities which truly instilled a need among all employees to develop more positive and enabling attitudes, values and behaviours towards the community, particularly within the context of the new normal.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to proactively exploring opportunities to ensure that no one is left behind.



*Winners Row - Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Deputy Permanent Secretary Vijay Gangapersad and HIV/AIDS Coordinator Ms Maria Cruickshank-Gibbs (Second right) take a photo with the World AIDS Day Competition Winners.*



*Minister Cox takes a photo with staff from the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit following the World AIDS Day Prize Giving Ceremony.*

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**For more information:**

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