



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 of Social Development and Family Services launches HIV/AIDS Disclosure Brochure

Port-of-Spain --- In keeping with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services' mandate of helping, empowering and transforming lives, the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit launched its HIV/AIDS Disclosure Brochure on Friday March 5, 2021, at the Ministry's Head Office on St Vincent Street in Port of Spain. Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox was accompanied by an Executive team from the Ministry, which consisted of Deputy Permanent Secretary, Vijay Gangapersad and Chief Technical Officer, Michael Reid.

Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, during the feature address said, "The issue of disclosure remains paramount to the HIV landscape. Among the benefits derived from HIV disclosure, include improved medication adherence, care and support, it allows you to own your status, provides legal protection against discrimination, facilitates the empowerment of persons living with HIV; and creates opportunities for addressing psychosocial issues."

The Disclosure Brochure was launched at an opportune time coming at the heels of Zero Discrimination Day, which was recently commemorated on March 1st 2021, with the theme being "Zero discrimination against Women and Girls." This brochure provides a step-by-step approach to HIV disclosure and epitomizes the Ministry's motto of Helping, Empowering and Transforming lives, and will equip persons living with HIV to disclose their status in a safe environment. In so doing, this will contribute to the achievement of the 95-95-95 target, which seeks to help end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030.

The Minister commended the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit for its continued efforts in educating and transforming lives through information and creative channels and activities to engage and encourage conversations on HIV.

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



Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox joined by (L-R) Deputy Permanent Secretary, Vijay Gangapersad, Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit, Mrs Maria Cruickshank-Gibbs, and Chief Technical Officer, Michael Reid unveil the HIV/AIDS Disclosure Brochure during a brief ceremony today.



Minister Cox delivers the feature address at the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit's Disclosure Brochure launch at the Ministry's Head Office.



Minister Cox joined by (L-R) Mrs Maria Cruickshank-Gibbs, Coordinator of the HIV/AIDS Coordinating Unit, Chief Technical Officer, Mr. Michael Reid and Deputy Permanent Secretary Mr Vijay Gangapersad unveil the HIV/AIDS Disclosure Brochure.



Hands up high! - Minister Cox and staff show their support and solidarity by participating in the #ChooseToChallenge for International Women's Day which will be commemorated on March 8th.

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For more information:

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