



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 28 April 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Ministry condemns vandalism of C19 facility

Following the closure of the temporary shelter for street dwellers, located immediately beneath the Riverside Carpark, South Quay, Port-of-Spain in February 2021, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services recently received reports of alleged acts of vandalism at the facility. The Ministry wishes to condemn such actions and calls on perpetrators to desist from such behaviour.

The facility had been viewed as a proactive approach by the Ministry to provide short-term care and shelter for the most vulnerable under highly unusual and unpredictable circumstances given COVID-10 restrictions, and the fact that street dwellers were among the most high-risk populations for contracting the virus. However, as restrictions were lifted the facility was closed.

Since then, is noteworthy that plans are underway to hand over the space to the Port of Spain Corporation to be utilized to facilitate other needed services for the Street Dwellers population as efforts are made to reduce and manage street dwelling in the country.

The Ministry continues to engage various stakeholders in discussions related to the implementation of a continuum of care for street dwellers across the country. Should individuals and members of the public be interested in further information regarding the care and rehabilitation of street dwellers within their communities or public spaces, the Ministry's Social Displacement Unit can be contacted at 623-2608 ext. 5701 – 5705, from Monday to Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekly.

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