



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 15 December 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Priority: HIGH**

### **Social Development concludes first Parenting for Grandparents Workshop**

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services through the National Family Services Division (NFSD) successfully hosted its first Parenting for Grandparents Workshop. This workshop held virtually, from November 29<sup>th</sup> to December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, was open to all ages of grandparents and aimed at providing information to assist them in making responsible decisions regarding the safety and well-being of grandchildren and other children under their care.

The Workshop falls under the Ministry's recently launched Grand Parenting Programme and aims at providing support to grandparents raising their grandchildren. During the launch, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, noted that many grandparents have willingly shouldered the responsibility of supervising remote learning, providing care, protection and emotional support for their grandchildren. Thus, the Ministry felt it was imperative to provide support to grandparents during these critical times.

There were fifty-three (53) participants, six (6) grandfathers and forty-seven (47) grandmothers, ranging in ages from forty-two (42) years old to seventy-five (75) years old who successfully completed the six-day workshop.

Topics for the workshop emanated from a focus group with grandparents hosted during the period 2020 to 2021. Topics included Self-awareness, Self-esteem, Self-understanding/Self-Care which challenged participants to think about how they were parented and how it influenced their parenting; Gender Socialization, Stereotypes, and Parenting where participants were taught how to differentiate between the terms 'sex' and 'gender', and how to identify gender norms and understand the role socialisation plays on gender stereotyping. Other topics included Stages of Child Development, Stress, Managing Parent/Grandparent Tensions; Understanding the Generational Gap, Discipline versus Punishment and Social Media Management and Cyber/Internet Safety. Families in Action facilitated these sessions.

The sessions were well received by participants with one participant noting that "the sessions were 'spot on'. The session also received many thanks for the "incredibly valuable information, engaging delivery style and insights."

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to host this programme geared towards building healthier functioning families. For further information on matters related to the grand parenting programme, persons may contact the National Family Services Division at 623-2608 ext. 6704 or 6705.