



## MEDIA RELEASE

March 15, 2022

Priority: HIGH

### Ministry of Social Development salutes all Social Workers as World Social Work Day commemorated

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services joins the international community in the celebration of World Social Work Day, which highlights the achievements of social workers, and provides an opportunity to increase the visibility of social work while recognising the contribution to the future of societies, social justice and human rights for all.

This year's theme is ***“Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind”***, which presents a vision and action plan to create new global values, policies and practices that develop trust, security and confidence for all people and the sustainability of the planet. ‘Co-building’ also highlights the need for the social work profession to work alongside others, engaging other social work networks and the community they work within; to contribute to the establishment of values and principles, which enable all people to have their dignity respected, through shared futures.

In her message to the national community, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development assured that the Ministry continues to serve and advocate for the vulnerable in our society. She further expounded that the Ministry's mandate has been expanded to one which encourages resilience and self-sufficiency. “Coupled with the experiences of COVID-19, priority has also been placed on utilizing the expertise and insights of Social Workers to develop and implement policies, programmes and services, that support and transition our vulnerable from dependency to advancement and overall, a better quality of life” said Minister Cox.

The Minister's message also highlighted that “Issues of mental health, work-life-balance and health and well-being have now become core areas of focus for those in the social work profession. Therefore, engagement of our partners in the Ministry of Health, Education, Labour and Finance and the Economy, Academics, among others, is very important at this time. A ‘whole of Government approach’ is needed at this time. In this regard, I call on all Social Workers to collaborate! – Each One, Teach One!” In saluting the social workers in the country, the Minister said that the commemoration provides the opportunity for all social workers ***to have their say in designing the kind of eco-social world they wish to see and live in***, and encourages them to ‘Go out and build it!’

The Ministry will host a special virtual symposium on **Thursday March 17, 2022 from 9:00 am**, under the theme:” Now is the Time for Social Work”, where areas such as the changing paradigm of social work, self and the social worker, gender and social work, as well as education in social work for the future world will be discussed. The Webinar is free to all members of the

public. Persons are required to register for the Webinar via the Ministry's website: [www.social.gov.tt](http://www.social.gov.tt).

The Ministry recognizes and applauds all social workers, both at the Ministry and across the country, who continue to demonstrate care, concern and commitment in our efforts towards building an 'eco-social world' in Trinidad and Tobago.

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