



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO APRIL 2, 2022

March 31, 2022

Priority: HIGH

Social Development commemorates World Autism Awareness Day!

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services joins with the international community on the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. World Autism Awareness Day is an opportunity to raise awareness and acknowledge the many achievements of persons and families within this community, and applaud the many obstacles that they continue to overcome.

This year's theme, *'Inclusive Quality Education for All'*, spotlights the necessity to foster inclusive, quality education for people on the autism spectrum, so that they can fulfil their potential and achieve sustainable success in the labour market.

In her message to the national community, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services stated that the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and intensified glaring inequalities around the world, including severe repercussions on the lives of persons with disabilities. In this regard, Minister Cox emphasised on the need to ensure equality and equity in the provision and development of plans and services to all persons with disabilities, so that they too, can continue to lead fulfilling and industrious lives.

In endorsing and supporting this year's theme, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services continues to maintain partnerships with public and private entities, as well as, advocacy groups in Trinidad and Tobago, where efforts are made to sensitize, raise awareness and promote the interests of this community.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services is pleased to extend best wishes to the Autistic Community, and urges all citizens to support autistic persons, their families, friends and well-wishers.

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