



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

Minister Cox discusses best practices in Social Services with US Chargé d’Affaires and Regional Representative of USAID/ESC

Minister of Social Development and Family Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, on Thursday, June 2, 2022, met with the US Chargé d’Affaires and Regional Representative of USAID/ESC to exchange ideas in the sphere of social protection for vulnerable persons in Trinidad and Tobago. Joining the meeting was Mr. Shante Moore, Chargé d’Affaires, Embassy of the United States of America, the Regional Representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Mr. Clinton White and USAID ESC Regional Office Programme Management Specialist (Rule of Law) Ms. Sharon Ramsaran. Also present at the meeting were Permanent Secretaries at the Ministry, Jacqueline Johnson and Sheila Seecharan.

The meeting took place at the Ministry’s Head Office, St Vincent Street Port of Spain and included cordial discussions on opportunities for exchange programmes and initiatives as well as greater collaboration to address social challenges faced by the vulnerable in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting also formed part of the Minister’s ongoing strategy to form alliances and collaborate with various Missions and Embassies toward a more responsive and multifaceted social services delivery.

During the meeting, Minister Cox took the opportunity to provide relevant and pertinent information about the Ministry’s various programmes, grants, and services. She expressed that the Ministry continues to place emphasis on developing and executing programmes and services that protect and assist vulnerable and marginalized groups in society. “The Ministry through a people-centered approach has a key role to play in the development and implementation of policy for Families; Social Protection Programmes and Grants; Poverty Eradication; Social Displacement; Integrated Social Service Delivery; and NGO/Government relations,” said Minister Cox.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for Mr. White to share information on the USAID’s regional development strategy, produced to guide USAID’s programmes which will provide critical assistance to the region. Its focus is to support a safe, prosperous, and resilient Caribbean region that assists its vulnerable populations and promotes accountable institutions and economic

development. USAID's work in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean (ESC) region directly supports United States foreign policy priorities to promote sustainable development growth programmes.

From the discussions held, all parties agreed that there were tremendous opportunities for best practices in developing healthy, functional families; as well as strengthening policies and strategies to help transition persons from welfare to a state sustainability.

In closing, Minister Cox extended her gratitude to the Embassy of the United States of America and USAID for their continued support in the areas of sustainable, social development.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to enhancing the lives of the vulnerable, through a network of integrated and accessible social services.



Minister Cox presents a token of appreciation to Regional Representative of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Mr. Clinton White



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