



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 of Social Development and Family Services opens Caribbean Sociological Association's E-Conference

Port-of-Spain --- Senator the Honourable Donna Cox earlier today gave opening remarks at Day One of the Caribbean Sociological Association's 2nd Virtual Conference, which is being held during June 15-17, 2022. Under the theme: "*The Sociology of Crisis and the Crisis of Sociology*", this e-Conference presents an opportunity for discourse among leading and emerging scholars and researchers from across the Caribbean diaspora, as well as the UK, USA, Canada, India and Africa on a wide range of critical social issues. Among these issues are abuse of children, women, men, sex trafficking, suicide, the treatment of immigrants, the transgender community, as well as the impact of COVID-19 on education and health.

The Conference will also look at the new biography on our own Trinidadian born, soca singer, actor, record producer and songwriter, Machel Montano as told by his mother Lady Elizabeth Montano. Films dealing with domestic violence against men and against women by Nigerian/Trinidadian film maker, Oyetayo Ojoadein, film lecturer at COSTAATT as well as the contributions of Dr. Talia Esnard, Head of the Behavioural Sciences Department and other academia of the University of the West Indies would also be highlighted.

Emphasizing the Ministry's shift to a multifaceted and responsive approach to the delivery of social programmes and services, Minister Cox expressed that a necessary component to achieving this objective, is working towards the stability of the family. She also added that a core area of priority for the Ministry is the provision of support to vulnerable families.

The Minister further informed that the MSDFS is presently embarking on finalizing its key strategic policies which is intended to address the current changing social environment in which the institution of the family is being threatened, namely, the National Family Policy of Trinidad and Tobago and the accompanying National Parenting Policy. She also shared that the Ministry

continues to implement various aspects of its national Social Mitigation Plan which was developed to cushion economic impacts on vulnerable populations in the country. Part of the roll out will also include a National Register of Persons with disabilities, as the Ministry takes a closer look at its approach to research related to targeting in general.

As the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services works assiduously towards fulfilment of its mandate to address the social challenges of poverty, social inequality, and social exclusion, the Ministry will continue to collaborate with both governmental and non-governmental organisations in the pursuit of initiatives that directly address issues that affect the family as well as to support the transition of its clientele from dependency to becoming more independent and creating a better quality of life.



Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox opens Caribbean Sociological Association's E-Conference



Minister Cox virtually attends the Caribbean Sociological Association's E-Conference



Minister Cox engages with Mr. Roy McCree (PhD, SALISES, The University of the West Indies - The UWI), President of the CASA.

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