



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

EMBARGO JUNE 23

Wednesday, 22 June 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

MSDFS observes International Widows Day 2022

Port-of-Spain --- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, in keeping with our mandate to help, empower and transform lives, joins with the international community in recognition of International Widows Day 2022.

International Widows Day, observed annually on June 23rd, seeks to highlight issues affecting widows around the world and addresses the need to develop resources and policies to empower them.

In her message to the national community, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services stated that through the Ministry's National Family Services Division, free counselling and psychosocial support is available to help widows cope with stress, grief and trauma related to their partner or spouse.

According to Minister Cox, "Widows whose household income is inadequate to provide for their children or themselves have an opportunity to access the Public Assistance Grant so they can provide for their children. They can also apply for the Sowing and Empowerment through Entrepreneurship (SEED) grant to pursue a course or purchase equipment to start a business. The Ministry also intends to guide this group through the transition of becoming self-sufficient income-earners."

Minister Cox further noted that despite the challenges widows face, they must be commended for their strength and determination as they continue to love, nurture and care for their children and take care of their households.

The Ministry remains committed to helping, empowering and transforming the lives of widows who are recognized as one of the most socially and economically vulnerable groups and are often left unseen and unsupported after the death of their partner or spouse.

END

