



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services launches its Parenting Workshops for 2022

In keeping with its drive to strengthen families and promote healthy family life, the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services has officially launched its Parenting Workshops for 2022. The event took place yesterday, August 22 at the Mt. Hope/ Mt. Lambert Community Centre. Through the Ministry's Parenting Unit of the National Family Services Division (NFSD), four virtual workshops will be hosted in conjunction with three community workshops. These workshops will provide ways for participants, such as parents, caregivers and guardians, to better understand the challenges of parenting and empower them with knowledge and parenting education.

Delivering the feature address, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services was pleased to announce the details for the rollout of the virtual workshops which includes:

1. Parenting for Men;
2. Co-Parenting;
3. Parenting and Family Violence;
4. Parents in the Know

Providing further context to the Programme, Minister Cox also stated that the Community-based sessions will target communities referred to by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service as critical. This includes communities of St Joseph, Chaguanas and La Romaine and will be held following the virtual workshops, in September 2022.

According to Minister Cox, "When we look at what is happening within families across Trinidad and Tobago, there is cause for concern. There are reports of some parents who physically and sexually abuse their children. Some abandon and neglect them, leaving them to take care of themselves. We have heard of instances where parents no longer provide the basic needs of food, shelter and clothing for their children, instead gang leaders are stepping into these parental roles".

Minister Cox further noted that part of redirecting children's behaviour lies in resetting the parental GPS system, which is the primary objective of these parenting workshops. "These workshops seek to equip parents with the parenting skills and knowledge needed to meet the unique needs of their child. We encourage parents to look at the SPICES: Spiritual, Physical, Intellectual, Creative, Emotional and Social needs of their child or children" said Minister Cox.

During the event, participants from previous workshops gave testimonials on how the Ministry's Parenting Programme positively impacted their parenting style.

Also in attendance were the Ag. Commissioner of Police, McDonald Jacob; Permanent Secretary of the MSDFS, Sheila Seecharan; Deputy Permanent Secretary of the MSDFS, Jasmine Pascal; President of the San Juan Businessmen Association Mr. Jason Roach; and Assistant Director of the National Family Services Division, Ms. Kathleen Sarkar.

Ag. Commissioner of Police, Mr Jacob, lauded the Ministry for this initiative and expounded on the importance of modelling positive behaviour patterns, in order to set a good example for their children.

Biological parents, would be parents, step-parents, foster parents, caregivers, guardians or other persons interested in registering for the parenting workshops, should contact the Ministry's Parenting Unit at nfsdivision@social.gov.tt or call 623-2608 extension 6702, 6704, 6705 & 6711.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services remains committed to promoting healthy and functional families, in an effort to ensure that no one is left behind.

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For more information:

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Minister Cox delivers remarks at the launch of the Parenting Programme



CoP McDonald Jacob and Minister Cox share a light moment after the official launch of the Parenting Programs



(l-r) Previous Grandparenting Workshop participant Martin Samuels, Assistant Director of the National Family Services, Kathleen Sarkar, Minister Cox, PS Sheila Seecharan of the MSDFS and representative of 'Men Can' Kevin Frederick



Chairman of Vision on Misison, Gerald Wilson; Ag. Commissioner of Police Mr McDonald Jacob; Minister Cox; and Director of Vision on Mission Fitzroy Frederick