



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A message from Senator the Honourable Donna Cox- International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Port of Spain--- Each year on December 3rd, the global community observes the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPwD). This annual observation seeks to increase public awareness about the abilities, efforts and achievements of persons with disabilities.

This year's theme, "*Transformative solutions for inclusive development: the role of innovation in fueling an accessible and equitable world*" encourages persons to remove the attitudinal, physical and technological barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from becoming active members of the public or private workforce. It recognizes the link between knowledge and skills that must be acquired by persons with disabilities in order to access employment in an innovative, rapidly changing world.

In her message to the national community, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services encouraged all employers to embrace the use of assistive technology by persons with disabilities, in an effort to create a more inclusive work place. She further stated that the Ministry continues to work collaboratively with international and local organizations towards increasing accessibility, removing barriers that hinder persons with disabilities from being included, amending existing legislation and creating new ones that will uphold and advance the rights and dignity of all persons with disabilities, and their ability to participate in the continued development of Trinidad and Tobago.

In full appreciation of this year's theme, the Ministry is hosting several initiatives to reaffirm our commitment to promoting inclusion and celebrating the diversity of persons with disabilities who make meaningful contributions to our society. This week, the Ministry hosted a Performance Competition for persons with disabilities that provided an opportunity for them to highlight their abilities, and bring awareness on how they feel about *Human Diversity* and their need for inclusion.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services reiterates its commitment to helping,

empowering and transforming the lives of the most vulnerable amongst us, including persons with disabilities and takes pride in exhibiting their diversity.

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For more information:

Corporate Communications and Education Unit
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
(868) 623-2608; Ext 5403/5404
cceu@social.gov.tt