



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday, 9th November 2022

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

“Ministry to lift clients from a state of dependence to independence” says Minister Cox at meeting with US Charge d’Affaires

Earlier today, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services met with Shante Moore, Charge d’Affaires, Embassy of the United States of America to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to discuss critical matters in the sphere of social development and family services. The meeting took place at the Ministry’s Head Office on St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain. Also present at the meeting were Saleem Boochoon, INL (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs) Programme Specialist in the US Department of State; and a team of Technical Officers from the Ministry.

Meeting discussions were centred around strategies for collaboration by both parties, with a focus on a more integrated approach in order to meet their various mandates. Among the matters discussed included, the creation of a memorandum of understanding with respect to data sharing on the Social Security System for Ministry clients pending approval of core social grants, particularly Senior Citizens’ Pension; possible training for social workers; and ways to address the uptake of violence being perpetrated against Persons with Disabilities and older persons in Trinidad and Tobago.

Another area discussed was the refurbishing and outfitting of transitional facilities. According to Minister Cox, “The Ministry is working feverishly to establish transitional facilities which will allow persons, specifically victims of domestic violence, to reintegrate into society and be provided with ongoing support.”

From the discussions held, Mr Moore agreed that there were tremendous opportunities for training and exchange in several areas including programmes for social workers and clients of the Ministry; as well as strategies to help transition persons from welfare to a state of resilience, self-reliance and sustainability. Minister Cox also placed emphasis on strengthening the Ministry’s social safety net to better serve the most vulnerable persons, in order to lift them from a state of dependence to

Colonial Life Building, 39-43 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad, W.I.

Telephone: (868)-623-2608

www.social.gov.tt

Follow us: Facebook



independence.

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

-END-

For more information:

Communications Unit

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

(868) 623-2608; Ext 5402/5407

cceu@social.gov.tt



Minister Cox discusses possible collaboration with Shante Moore, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the United States of America to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



Minister Cox expresses her gratitude to Shante Moore, Charge d'Affaires, Embassy of the United States of America to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago