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For immediate release

Minister Cox addresses International Family Law Caribbean Regional Conference

“The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services of Trinidad and Tobago continues to place priority on the protection and development of families within this nation.” said Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox during the opening ceremony for the International Society of Family Law’s (ISFL) Caribbean Regional Conference on Tuesday 13th December 2022 at the Magdalena Grand Beach and Gold Resort, Tobago.

The four-day event from December 13-16, 2022, is being hosted under the theme “*Safeguarding the Human Rights of Family Members from the Womb to the Tomb*”. Convened by Independent Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahye, the conference will see policy makers, social workers and other professionals discuss and share experiences on human rights and the family. Minister Cox was one among several distinguished speakers including the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago presenting at the opening of the ceremony that included local, regional and international jurists, social workers; researchers; policy makers and other professionals. Representatives of the Ministry’s National Family Services Division and Legal Department will attend the sessions.

During her remarks, Minister Cox said “This particular Conference is well positioned to bestow significant value towards achieving the Government of Trinidad and Tobago’s Strategic National Development Policy: “For the Promotion and protection of the family as the preferred unit of social organization.” More particularly, our Vision 2030 speaks to: The family as the foundation of the society contributing to its growth, development and stability.”

She further added that there is a need to address the multiplicity of factors that impact family well-being, including domestic violence, child sexual abuse, elder abuse, caring for and empowering persons with disabilities and that it is with this understanding that the Ministry regards the strengthening and supporting of families as key components in social policy which, in turn, would facilitate the development of long term solutions to these issues.

Minister Cox also noted that while the family has long been recognized as playing a pivotal role in the nurturing and socialization of all individuals, there are many factors which threaten the fabric of today’s family. As such, the Ministry’s focus continues to be on the finalization of several transformation initiatives including a register of vulnerable persons in addition to the implementation of the National Parenting Policy, the National Family Policy, policies on the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weekes O.R.T.T., President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago delivered the address to open the conference. Remarks were also delivered by Senator the Honourable Reginald Armour S.C, the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, the Honourable Farley Chavez Augustine and the Hon. Madame Justice Bernadette d' Souza, Chief Judge, New Orleans Civil Court, USA.



Minister Cox delivers remarks at the ISFL Caribbean Regional Conference on Safeguarding the Human Rights of the Family.



Minister Cox centre is flanked Conference Convenor, Independent Senator Hazel Thompson-Ahye (l) and the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs.



(l-r) The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs, Minister Cox and the Honourable Farley Chavez Augustine, Chief Secretary, Tobago House of Assembly attend the International Family Law Caribbean Regional Conference on December 13.



Minister Cox engages in conversation with staff of the Ministry following the opening of the conference. (l-r) Ms. Jennifer Juteram, Senior Legal Officer, Ms. Kathleen Sarkar, Assistant Director of the National Family Services Division and Ms. Mariah Celestine, Legal Officer.

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For more information:

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