



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

Minister Cox to participate in 45th Annual Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association

The Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox will participate in the 45th Annual Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in Turks and Caicos during the period July 21 to July 28, 2023. This year's conference is being held under the theme '*Building a Resilient Region in the Face of Global Challenges*'. This significant event brings together Parliamentarians from the Caribbean, the Americas and the Atlantic Region, and seeks to address matters that are relevant to, and impact on the region as a whole.

On July 22 and 23, Minister Cox attended the opening ceremony of the 13th Conference of Women Parliamentarians of the Caribbean, Americas and Atlantic Region. During the ceremony, Government officials discussed the critical role of women parliamentarians and women caucuses in democratic governance. Youth crime in the Caribbean and the role of women parliamentarians in combatting this regional challenge was also a focus in the ceremony.

Among other local Parliamentarians, Minister Cox will be part of open and productive discussion on issues that call for deliberation on variety of matters surrounding women in government and the impact of women in policymaking at the highest levels of our societies. The objective of this gathering is to promote gender equality in the work of the CPA, encourage women to stand for election by advocating the removal of barriers to their participation and facilitate their professional contribution as members. Some of the topics to be discussed include climate change; food security preparedness; natural disaster preparation; crime and security in the region; health care; and banking standards and best practices. It is anticipated that the collaboration will play a vital role in advancing the development of the region, and that leaders from around the world can share their opinions, experiences, leading to the exchange of knowledge and ideas. The Conference also serves as an opportunity to foster unity, cooperation, and solidarity among the participating countries, promoting a stronger and more resilient region.

By engaging in these meaningful discussions, it is hoped that practical solutions can be formulated to combat issues faced in the Ministry such as achieving food sustainability in crises, and combatting fraudulent practices.

The MSDFS continues to work diligently towards being a dynamic, service-driven organisation that delivers premium social services towards achieving sustainable human and social development, and looks forward to further meetings aimed at enhancing the lives of vulnerable citizens.

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For more information:

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Minister Cox with Turks and Caicos officials at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Women's Parliamentarian's Conference



Minister Cox attends the 45th Annual Conference of the Caribbean, Americas and the Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) in Turks and Caicos