



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

MEDIA RELEASE



November 15, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: HIGH

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services Launch its 2023 Parenting Programme

Port of Spain--- The 2023 edition of the National Parenting Programme was launched today, 15th November, 2023 by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) at the Belmont Community Centre, Jerningham Avenue, Belmont, Port of Spain. Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services delivered the feature address while Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Erla Harewood-Christopher delivered remarks as a key partner, on behalf of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Recognizing the invaluable and fundamental role parents play in the family, the Ministry, through its Parenting Unit continues to support parents through its various programmes and services as they are responsible for planning, executing and delivering Parenting Workshops throughout Trinidad and Tobago. “Other Departments of this Ministry, other Ministries and Agencies have provided us with sufficient evidence to indicate that there is a parental crisis in our country at the moment, and as a responsible Ministry, we cannot and will not give up our responsibility to intervene and provide tangible solutions” stated Minister Cox.

The Parenting Programmes aim to provide parents with the skills needed to navigate through situations and develop appropriate parenting styles, develop and practice effective discipline strategies and encourage children to become resilient. Additionally, Minister Cox expressed, “by increasing the number of parents exposed to these topics, we believe that there can be a qualitative impact on the lives of their children. We believe that through positive parenting, the scourge of juvenile delinquency, or even the many fights amongst school children, particularly girls, can be curbed.”

Supporting the Ministry’s Parenting initiative at the event, Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Erla Harewood-Christopher expressed, “These workshops could not have come at a more critical time as it is desperately needed to support other efforts being undertaken that are geared at remedying the deviant behaviours we are witnessing almost on a daily basis, that is affecting the welfare and productivity of our young people.”

Displays following the official launch saw participation from Childline, Gender Based Violence Unit, Victims and Witness Support Unit, Gender Affairs Division, The Parenting Company and the National Family Services Division of the Ministry. Today's launch also encompassed performances by singer, Neisha Guy as well as dancer, Stashelle George-Jaggesar.

The Parenting Workshops will be held virtually and in-person, over the coming weeks, targeting parents, grand-parents, foster parents, single parents and guardians. Following this, parenting support groups will be formed at the community level. The Ministry pledges its continued support to all parents and stakeholders, relative to the promotion of, and access to information and assistance for proper parenting.

The public is encouraged to see press advertising or visit the MSDFS' website at www.social.gov.tt for further information on the upcoming Workshops.



Minister Cox (centre) is joined by (l to r) Mrs. Lenor Baptiste-Simmons, Permanent Secretary (MSDFS), The Honourable Symon de Nobriga, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister - Communications, The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister – Gender and Child Affairs, The Honourable Lisa Morris-Julian, Minister in the Ministry or Education, Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Erla Harewood-Christopher and Mr. Ryan Ramcharan, Permanent Secretary (MSDFS) for a photo.



Minister Cox, Commissioner of Police, Mrs. Erla Harewood-Christopher, The Honourable Ayana Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister - Gender and Child Affairs and Permanent Secretary (MSDFS) listen attentively to a representative from The Parenting Company.



Minister Cox delivers the Feature Address at the Launch of the Ministry's Parenting Programme, 2023.

-END-

For more information:

Corporate Communications and Education Unit
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
(868) 623-2608; Ext 5400-5411
cceu@social.gov.tt