



MEDIA RELEASE

Wednesday 6th March 2024

Priority: HIGH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister Cox, Down Syndrome Family Network meet to discuss legislation for persons with disabilities, other matters.

Port of Spain - Earlier today (Wednesday 6th March 2024), Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox met with members of the Down Syndrome Family Network (DSFN) to discuss matters related to Persons with Disabilities

Joining the meeting from the organisation was chairman and founder of the DSFN Mr. Glen Niles, Honorary Director Ms. Lisa Ghany, and Legal Director Ms. Laurina Ramkaran. Senior Legal Officer at the Ministry Ms Jennifer Juteram also joined the meeting. The meeting occurred at the Ministry's Head Office on St Vincent Street, Port of Spain, and was primarily centered on the promotion of the legislation for Persons with Disabilities.

During the meeting, Minister Cox emphasized that the draft legislation for Persons with Disabilities and the Socially Displaced Persons Act were two crucial pieces of legislation on the Ministry's priority agenda. She further added that the legislation for pilot is well on its way towards finalization for submission to the Legislative Review Committee bearing submissions and inputs from other agencies.

Minister Cox also suggested that practices and international standards must be adopted and tailored for the Ministry, especially as individuals with disabilities endure undue delays, in terms of processes and procedures.

The DSFN also provided the Minister with their review and recommendations for inclusion into the draft Bill. Both parties indicated that they were pleased that the document is progressing forward. The organization's upcoming Conference in commemoration of World Down Syndrome Day 2024, and other topics concerning Persons with Disabilities were also discussed.



Minister Cox meets with members of the Down Syndrome Family Network including (l-r) chairman and founder Mr. Glen Niles, Honorary Director Ms. Lisa Ghany, and Legal Director Ms. Laurina Ramkaran to discuss matters related to persons with Down syndrome and disabilities.



Senior Legal Officer of the Ministry Ms Jennifer Juteram updates the Minister and (l-r) chairman and founder Mr. Glen Niles, Honorary Director Ms. Lisa Ghany, and Legal Director Ms. Laurina Ramkaran of the Down Syndrome Family Network on the progress of the legislation on Persons with Disabilities.