



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**Ministry of Social Development and Family Services**



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Priority: HIGH**

### **MSFDS hosts Thanksgiving Interfaith Service for its Social Workers**

**Port of Spain-** On March 17, 2024 the World observed and celebrated World Social Work Day under the theme '**Buen Vivir: Shared Future for Transformative Change**'. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) joined in this commemoration by hosting a Thanksgiving and Interfaith Service for all staff of the Ministry. The event took place today March 20, 2024 at the Murchison Brown Auditorium, City Corporation, Knox Street, Port of Spain at 10:00 am.

Music for worship was provided by the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service Band, who also performed inspirational songs. Prayers were offered by representatives from diverse faiths including Anglican, Hindu, Muslim, Spiritual Baptist, and Pentecostal denominations, invoking blessings upon the Ministry, the Minister and the Executive, its leadership, and the dedicated staff.

Senator the Honourable Donna Cox, Minister of Social Development and Family Services, in her brief address expressed that, *"the occasion of this Interfaith Service offers us an opportunity both for spiritual reflection and to refill our cups, as we continue to fulfill our vital roles and responsibilities here at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to the people of Trinidad and Tobago."*

She lauded the unwavering commitment of social workers towards building a more just and inclusive society, urging them to prioritize self-care as essential to sustaining their resilience and capacity for compassion. *"By nurturing your own well-being, you not only reinforce your resilience but also enhance your capacity to support and uplift those who rely on your guidance and compassion,"* Minister Cox affirmed.

One standout feature of the event was the opportunity for attendees to leave their fingerprint on a special solidarity canvas using blue, green, or purple ink. This act served as a symbolic demonstration of solidarity, bringing together individuals in a shared commitment to support, empower, and make a positive difference in people's lives, even amidst the challenges of the profession.



The MSDFS recognizes and celebrates the invaluable contributions of Social Workers in fostering resilience, innovation, and productivity within Trinidad and Tobago's communities.

**-END-**

**For more information:**

Communications Unit

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

(868) 623-2608; Ext 5400-5411

E: [cceu@social.gov.tt](mailto:cceu@social.gov.tt)



*Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox delivers brief remarks at the Ministry's Thanksgiving Interfaith Service hosted in commemoration of World Social Work Day*



*Minister Cox adds her fingerprint to the special solidarity canvas, symbolizing solidarity to aid, empower, and positively impact lives*



*Minister Cox takes a photo with members of the various religious denominations, including Apostle Terrence Honore' (far right) who served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event*





*Minister Cox and Family Service Social Workers attached to the National Family Services Division take a photo following the Service*



*Staff join together in praise at the MSDFS' Thanksgiving Interfaith Service*

