



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

May 22, 2024

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Priority: **HIGH**

### **Ministry of Social Development and Family Services hosts Seminar for Women with Disabilities on Sexual and Reproductive Health**

“It is observed that some women with disabilities encounter numerous challenges, and limited access to essential information services, education, and preventive services, that are required for them to lead healthy sexual lives,” said Minister of Social Development and Family Services, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox at a Seminar on Reproductive and Sexual Health for Women with Disabilities. The event was held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad.

During her feature remarks, Minister Cox conveyed to attendees that challenges faced by women with disabilities can heighten the risks of sexual exploitation, assault, or abuse throughout their lives, as highlighted by the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities, hence, the importance of seminars and sensitization sessions such as these.

Recognizing the need to promote a more inclusive society, the Minister shared that the Trinidad and Tobago Disabilities Bill is nearing completion. “The Draft Bill was shared with several organizations and invaluable comments and recommendations were received from eighteen (18) Government Ministries, the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago, three (3) Statutory Bodies, ten (10) Non-Governmental Organizations, and persons with Disabilities. The Ministry is nearing completion of the final draft of the revised Bill. Noteworthy, provisions of the Draft Bill include but are not limited to. Protection from discrimination; access to Education; The Right to work and employment; Access to Healthcare, Housing, and Auxiliary social services and the right to an adequate standard of living.”

The Seminar featured presentations on the cost of having a family and the benefits of strong parent-led households, common menstrual problems among women and difficulty becoming pregnant, gynaecological cancer screening and surgery for women and the challenges, sexually transmitted

infection/diseases, prevention, diagnosis and treatment, contraceptive choices and HIV/AIDS prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Participants also had the opportunity to access various services including, blood glucose testing, HIV testing, breast examinations, mental health services, vision screening, dietary/nutrition services, and HPV immunization facilitated by the North West Regional Health Authority.



*Minister of Social Development and Family Services Senator the Honourable Donna Cox delivers the feature address at the Seminar on Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women with Disabilities.*



*Minister Cox, flanked by the Ministry's Executive, attend the Seminar on Sexual and Reproductive Health for Women with Disabilities held on May 22, 2024. Pictured also are Mr. Michael Reid (third from right), Deputy Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Health, and Dr Rohit Doon (second from right).*



*Participants also had the opportunity to access various health services at the Seminar.*