



The Bulletin

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Our Monthly Achievement Report

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BILL AMENDMENT

On June 22, 2020, the **Domestic Violence (Amendment) Bill, 2020** (“the Bill”) was introduced in the Senate by the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs on June 3, 2020. The Bill seeks to amend the Domestic Violence Act Chap. 45:56 and to provide for emergency protection orders. The Honourable Ayanna Webster Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister led the debate during the Fifth Session of the Thirty-fifth session of the Senate on the Amendment Bill. The introduction of the Bill followed an announcement by the Attorney General of his intention of introducing legislation to amend the existing Domestic Violence Act to provide additional protection for the numerous victims of domestic violence in Trinidad and Tobago. The Bill primarily seeks to: **amend several key definitions; expand the category of persons who can apply for protection orders; make provision for emergency protection orders; and establish the National Domestic Violence Register for Domestic Violence complaints.**

Amendments Re-defined

The following new definitions were inserted in the appropriate alphabetical sequence: “**Adult**” means a person who is eighteen (18) years of age and over. “**Dating relationship**” means a relationship where the parties do not live together in the same household, but may be engaged in romantic, intimate or sexual relations.

“**Domestic relationship**” means the relationship between an accused and a person, where the person is either a spouse or former spouse; a cohabitant or former cohabitant; a child/dependent; a relative; a person who has agreed to marry the accused whether or not that agreement has been terminated; “**Relative**”, in relation to a person, means any of the following who is related to the person by family relationship, kinship or adoption: father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, father-in-law or mother-in-law; a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson, stepdaughter, son-in-law or daughter-in-law; a brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, stepbrother, stepsister, brother-in-law or sister-in-law; an uncle, aunt, uncle-in-law or aunt-in-law; a nephew or niece; or cousin.



The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State (Office of the Prime Minister) during the Domestic Violence Amendment Bill debate.

Protection Orders

Clause 4 of the Bill revokes and substitutes section 4 of the Act to expand the category of persons able to apply for a Protection Order. “The new section 4 now empowers children under the age of sixteen (16) years old, an adult in a residential institution and the Children’s Authority to apply for a Protection Order. Presently, a child may only apply for a Protection Order through a parent or guardian or someone in place of a parent.” This amendment also provides that the Court may issue a Protection Order in respect of that child, where during proceedings it becomes aware that a child has suffered, is suffering or is likely to suffer from domestic violence. **Clause 5** amends section 5 to empower the Court to grant an Interim Order or a Protection Order on the basis of a single act or omission or where a single threat has been made by the respondent.

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DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

The Office of the Prime Minister Gender Affairs Division, held a three (3) day Domestic Violence Capacity Building Workshop at Conference Room 1, Level 21, Tower D, International Waterfront Complex, Wrightson Road, Port-of-Spain. Over twenty-five (25) participants were engaged in the interactive sessions which took place from June 15 to 17, 2020. The **main objective** of the sessions were to: introduce participants to some basic concepts in gender and related terms; increase gender awareness when working with Domestic Violence survivors; clearly define reporting roles of staff; understand domestic violence and its impact on good relationships; understand adverse childhood experiences and how they impact the effects of trauma. Participants shared their experiences from the workshop below.

“The training was very informative especially with regard to the National Policy on Gender and Development. The open discussion was most engaging by both presenters. My favourite part was when the Gender Training Officer emphasized the importance of understanding our individual roles and responsibilities within this new fraternity. We must support each other by ensuring we are all on the same page. My understanding was widened in considering the source of client referrals in administering care to persons. Overall the tone, flow of the training was very good and well planned.”

Counsellor



Ms. Patricia Hackett, Gender Training Officer at the Office of the Prime Minister was the Co-ordinator of the three day workshop.

“The training exceeded my expectation, having learnt about the National Policy on Gender and Development which guides this initiative. One of the things that I will carry forward is the need for self-care!”

Case Manager

“One of the things that stood out for me from the training was the fact the men are also victims of domestic violence and gender-based violence. It was good to learn that the Domestic Violence Shelters initiative also caters especially for men who have been victims of domestic violence. My favourite part focussed on the need for us to treat others with the love and respect in dealing with our clients. As a Caregiver I know, “you must the passion to love and lead not only with your mind but with your heart.”

Caregiver

“The different types of communication was a stand out for me in this training session and how this relates to the conversation of understanding and treating the different types of domestic violence. I really enjoyed the rapport experienced among colleagues. I think that this work is so crucial in helping persons get the help they need to be re-integrated into society.”

Cook

“The training was a good refresher on gender rights, the legislation that grounds this work and as well on domestic violence. We saw an increase in domestic violence during COVID-19 and the need for the shelters. My favourite aspect of the training was the importance of effective communication within the team and with clients. I would love to see in going forward, partnership with private agencies in pooling greater resources as we collectively do our parts in saving lives.”

Assistant Coordinator

“The workshop helped me in better understanding gender concepts and the need for effective communicating on the job. Although I love what I do this session motivated me to further keep on doing just that. I found it really beneficial!”

Handyman



Ms. Annemarie Quammie-Alleyne, Co-ordinator on the National Policy on Gender and Development (OPM) delivers her presentation.

“The training will further equip me with greater knowledge and confidence in executing my duties. Domestic violence is in no way normal and I will walk away with the need to be more sensitive to the issues when understanding all the factors involved. I really enjoyed the session on communication and the different perspectives on it. I believe that consistency is key when implementing what was learnt in this training.”

Security Officer

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP

Other Topics explored in the workshop include;

- Positive psychology, trauma informed care, learned helplessness with videos
- Types of abuse, types and stages of trauma, types of parenting
- Same stimulus different responses, learned helplessness, trauma informed care
- Interactive, informative, relatable
- Trauma and types of trauma:
 - ◆ The process of trauma (informed care), learned helplessness;
 - ◆ Trauma informed care, ACE’s i.e. Adverse Childhood Experiences;
 - ◆ ACE’s Parenting skills, types of trauma, 10 key ingredients for trauma (informed care);
 - ◆ Trauma informed care approach seeks to frame the client’s concerns by asking, “what happened to you” as opposed “to what’s wrong with you?” and the process of trauma-informed care
 - ◆ 3 E’s of trauma (Event/s, Experiences and Effect), importance of self-care
 - ◆ Learned support during and after trauma, different reactions to same situations



Did You Know?

Trauma is the psychological emotional response to an event or an experience that is deeply distressing or disturbing.

Examining the Effects of COVID-19 in Women’s Lives

The Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS) held an online seminar on June 18, 2020 for the technical staff of the National Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women (NMAW) in the Caribbean, whose central axis was the document "COVID-19 in women's lives: Reasons to recognize the differential impacts". Ms. Antoinette Jack-Martin, Director - Gender Affairs Division in the Office of the Prime Minister presented on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago and was supported by technical officers of the Gender Affairs Division.

The purpose of these webinars were to build on the information gathered during prior meetings with Ministers and High-Level Authorities on Women and Gender, the members of the Committee of Experts of the MESECVI and representatives of civil society, in order to explore the gendered impacts of COVID-19 in greater depth as well as share experiences and future plans.



Photo: Participants engaging in the online Seminar on "COVID-19 in women's lives".
 Photo courtesy the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

NACC Provides Hope



Centre: Mr. Ian Ramdahin, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister (National AIDS Coordinating Committee) posed with NGO partners who collected hampers for distribution in their communities.

As the Government continues its COVID-19 relief response, the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) has assisted with **two hundred and thirty two (232) food hampers to distribute to persons living with HIV and AIDS (PLHIV)** facing unprecedented challenges in sourcing food to meet their nutritional needs. While the current health crisis, is beyond doubt testing our resilience, on a positive note, it has also revealed something far greater – our strength in unity. Together with NGO partners, the distribution of hampers commenced and continued throughout the month of June. To date the following NGOs and individuals have collected food hampers for distribution in their communities; Trinidad and Tobago Community Positive

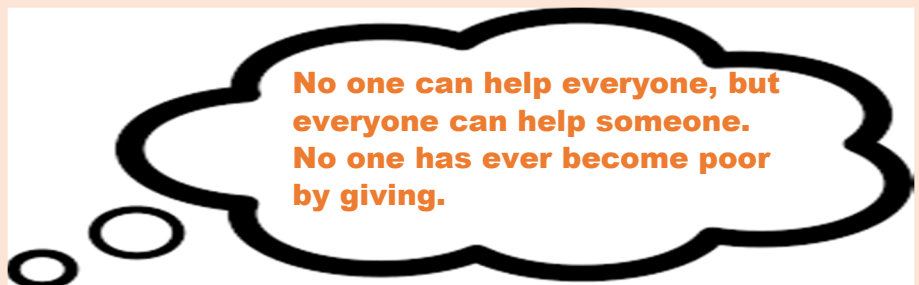
Women, GROOTS TT, Friends for Life, COMtalk International and some past residents of Cyril Ross Home. Within this activity the NACC and its strategic partners have also provided baby supplies to vulnerable communities affected by the global pandemic. The NACC sponsored hampers provided a supply of baby items to assist parents affected by HIV and AIDS in meeting the needs of their infant children. The hampers were distributed by NGOs partners in various communities across Trinidad and Tobago . Special thanks to all those who supported our efforts and our civil society partners who have led the HIV/AIDS response as it relates to the day to day needs of clients in these challenging times. The NACC will continue to support our partners as we work together to ensure that PLHIV have food, continue to access prevention and treatment services and provide psychosocial support to **#EndAIDSBy2030TT**.



Supporting the Needs of Infants



One Can, Two Can, Who Can? You Can !



Trinidad and Tobago Reports its Progress on AIDS

In 2016 at the High-Level Meeting countries agreed to “...provide to the General Assembly an annual report on progress achieved in realizing the commitments made in the present Declaration...”. This was built on three previous political declarations—the 2001 Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS and the 2011 Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Intensifying Our Efforts to Eliminate HIV and AIDS—the 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS mandates UNAIDS to support countries in reporting on the commitments it contains. The 2016 Political Declaration on Ending AIDS focuses on the five-year period ending in 2021, but it also covers the period of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (through 2030) and the integration of the global HIV response into the broader development agenda.

In June, 2020 Trinidad and Tobago has delivered its promise to submit the country’s report which assessed the achievements against the targets set in 2016. The report focused on the HIV and AIDS response in a given country its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to advance the efforts to end AIDS globally. The data provided in the report is essential to inform national responses, and will contribute to the global response to the epidemic. Additionally, the submission of the report provides Member States with the opportunity to share best practices, resources and knowledge on this global pandemic. The NACC will provide additional dissemination of information to provide updates to all national stakeholders.

Regional Support and Collaboration

From June 16 -17, 2020 the Pan-Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP), convened a virtual meeting of National AIDS Programme (NAP) Managers, Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Key Partners. The meeting focused on discussions surrounding the challenges and strategies that are being implemented in the region to respond to the disruption of services posed by the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic. As well as, the sustainability of the regional response and the critical role of civil society in supporting the continuity of care and reaching Key Populations.

Member countries and CSOs provided updates on the work that they are doing to respond to the disruptions and to sustain national responses. Participants were encouraged to continue to manage health resources wisely considering the numerous challenges faced by the region. As well as, strengthen the multi-sectoral collaboration, implement sustainability plans and to increase the use of data to guide strategic actions that will advance towards the UNAIDS 90-90-90 Targets. The NACC and its’ Secretariat represented Trinidad and Tobago in this important meeting. Other key agencies from Trinidad and Tobago also participated in this meeting.



Tune in to Power 102 FM every Tuesday from **July 14th 2020 at 10:00 a.m.** for the **SPEAK: A Conversation for Men** series.

Hear men discuss the real issues that impact views on manhood and the influences that shape male identities.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to be a part of a much needed conversation as we change the narrative and provide a platform for you to SPEAK!

This series is sponsored by the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs Division).

Our Voice is Strong...

THE LAUNCH OF THE GENLEA HANDBOOK

The OAS-Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) hosted a Webinar for the **Launch of the GENLEA Handbook** on June 26, 2020. The handbook comes on the heels of an increase in illicit drug production and trafficking in the Americas which has led CICAD to focus on improving the capacity of the Organization of American States (OAS) member states to counter drug trafficking, the production and trafficking of illicit drugs as well as obstruct the alteration of chemicals used in the manufacturing process.

The Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for the Gender and Child Affairs Division, Ms. Jacqueline Johnson, welcomed the invitation to address attendees of the launch with her presentation forming part of the day's itinerary focused on the **Strategies and Good Practices for Strengthening Gender Equality in the Security Sector**. Also in attendance were the technical officers of the Gender Affairs Division.

The **Inter-American Program for Strengthening Gender Equality in Counterdrug Law Enforcement Agencies (GENLEA)** is focused on the creation of an inclusive workplace that can effectively counter drug trafficking in the Americas by increasing gender equality in OAS member states' counterdrug law enforcement agencies. The intention of the GENLEA Program is to promote equal opportunities for all officers dedicated to countering drug trafficking, and recruiting and keeping the best talent in drug law enforcement agencies. The GENLEA Program adheres to the OAS Hemispheric Drug Strategy 2010, which necessitates the implementation of gender mainstreaming in the formation of policies and measures addressing the world drug problem. Similarly, this initiative is aligned with the Outcome Document of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016) and the OAS Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs (2016-2020), which recommend the incorporation of a gender perspective into all stages of the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of drug policies and programs, ensuring the involvement of women in said activities. The **GENLEA Handbook** offers strategies which OAS member states may consider when fashioning their gender equitable law enforcement agencies to effectively counter drug trafficking, such as: setting up a gender mainstreaming unit; conducting a gender assessment or audit; developing a plan of action and implementing a monitoring and evaluation system.



Ms. Jacqueline Johnson

Permanent Secretary (Gender and Child Affairs)

Office of the Prime Minister

The **Handbook** also comprises of good practices for attaining gender balance such as by improving recruitment, selection, retention, and integration, as well as promotion of personnel; Good practices in fostering a non-discriminatory organizational culture through training, sensitization and awareness measures, visibility and recognition given of the work carried out by women; Good practices related to agency policies, maternity and paternity that could be implemented by the Department of Human Resources; as well as good practices in increasing female leadership within the agency, by creating mentoring programs and establishing associations and support networks.



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