Government of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services in collaboration with The Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs)

SYMPOSIUM BOOKLET
NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON THE FAMILY 2018
“Supporting Families as the Bedrock of Society”

June 27th & 28th, 2018
University Inn and Conference Centre
St Augustine

www.social.gov.tt
www.opm-gca.gov.tt
Message from The Honourable Cherrie Ann Crichlow-Cockburn, M.P.
Minister of Social Development and Family Services

June 27th 2018 will mark the Inaugural National Symposium on the Family in Trinidad and Tobago. This hallmark event underpins our Ministry’s strategic goal of establishing stronger and healthier families. The recommendations which emerge from the discussions will set the stage for the development of a Green Paper on a National Policy on the Family for Trinidad and Tobago.

The support and protection of the family is enshrined in the Government’s Vision 2030 agenda for sustainable development. It is against this backdrop, that the Symposium is being held under the theme: Supporting Families as the Bedrock of Society. Several key areas were identified to stimulate discussion at the national level, formulate recommendations to accentuate positive aspects which emerge, as well as to confront and address the negative issues which our society is now facing. I am certain that the outcome of this discourse will provide fertile information to shape, direct and validate the delivery of social services through the National Family Services Division and other Divisions of the Ministry to support and protect the family unit.

The Symposium will also feature the launch of a national campaign on Values, Attitudes and Behaviours, an initiative which is designed to restore the value system in our country. This campaign will include several aspects in support of a call to action for social transformation and will include, inter alia, artistic and creative presentations, school competitions, endorsements from public personalities, various media messaging programmes and activities at the community and national levels, to influence behaviours; and generate positive values and attitudes among our citizenry.

As Honorary Chair of the Symposium it gives me great pleasure to welcome each and every one of you – representatives of CBOs, NGOs, FBOs, educators, business partners, Academic and other Divisions of the Ministry to support and protect the family unit.

The Office of the Prime Minister welcomes the opportunity to partner with the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and other key stakeholders to discuss the issues and challenges affecting the family and more importantly to co-create solutions which will ensure that the family remains the bedrock of our society. The Office of the Prime Minister remains committed to the development of families in this country given its mandate to ensure that each child achieves his or her fullest potential; that gender equality is achieved by 2030; and that domestic violence and HIV/AIDS are reduced, if not eliminated, by 2030. The achievement of this mandate necessitates careful consideration of family and family life, as the biggest obstacle to its attainment is the absence of an environment where there is healthy and happy family life.

While happy family life may be difficult for some to define, it is my view that you are enjoying family living when you know you are loved and someone is there for you no matter what and when you feel safe and secure, regardless of disagreements, challenges, stresses and failures. When you achieve a milestone or success in life, and it is celebrated, you know you have a family. When efforts are made to mould, coach and right your wrongs so that you can advance and develop, you know you have a family.

Family creates certainty for our children, our elderly, and the other vulnerable members of our society. The Office of Prime Minister has been supporting the development of families through its programme and policy initiatives which are geared toward developing family relationships based on love and care for each other. These programmes enhance the skills of parents and caregivers to care for children, encourage men to build positive relations with their spouses, children, friends and their communities, while fostering an understanding and appreciation of gender and gender equity and equality, all within a framework where the rights of children, men and women are promoted.

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The synergy, the passion and the focus of being united under one mandate of “Putting Our People and the Families of this nation First,” drives us and we remain resolute in our commitment to creating ‘healthier, stronger and stable families under God.’

We can do this together!

The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy
Minister of State

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The Tobago House of Assembly (THA) through the Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development (DHWFD) remains committed to leveraging all initiatives that contribute to the positive development of our families. As such, this national conversation is highly welcomed!

Our families are the foundation of our society and it is through the creation of an enabling environment for our families that we will realize that mandate. It is through our robust efforts that we will confront the myriad of ills such as crime, violence and exploitation which present significant challenges for our families and which restricts our attempts towards peace and inclusivity.

Cognisant of the challenges, the DHWFD with the support of a cadre of specialists has been providing a range of services under the Family Development Department, to assist our families at their various points of need. Through the establishment of two (2) Facilities Review Committees – one for Children and the other for the Elderly we continue to monitor the quality of service provided to the elderly and children.

The DHWFD continues to meet with special needs and stakeholders among the community of persons with disabilities on the Island, to cater to their needs as well as collaborate with the Children’s Authority and the Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago, to provide avenues of assistance for our families. Having regard to the complexity of the issues our families face, we explore the whole of government and the whole of society approach. All sectors of Government and society must be a part of this journey.

Each attendee at this symposium is encouraged to candidly contribute to this conversation over the next two days, as we work together to protect, support and strengthen the foundation of our nation.

Dr Agatha Carrington
Secretary of Health Wellness &Family Development
Tobago House of Assembly

Message from
The Secretary, Tobago House of Assembly
Division of Health and Wellness and Family Development

The Permanent Secretaries
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Message from
The Permanent Secretaries
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

Dear Participants and Stakeholders,

Thank you for joining us for the National Symposium on the Family. We have chosen the theme Supporting Families as the Bedrock of Society, as we have recognized the changing composition, dynamics, roles and functions of the family unit in Trinidad and Tobago and the need to provide the necessary support to each unit.

At the Ministry, we see our role as leaders in the development of resilient individuals, families and groups, by stimulating human and social capital through collaboration and the provision of innovative programmes and services. Over the years, our staff across the various administrative districts in Trinidad and Tobago have worked to build and enhance the living standards of the vulnerable in our country. Their work supports both individual and group participation, and the achievement of greater sustainability and self-sufficiency among our client base.

We encourage you to make linkages and create networks during the Symposium that will enable us to become more aware of what is available across the sector, whether governmental or non-governmental, so we are more empowered in our efforts toward building a robust tapestry of healthy and functioning families that stretch, not only across Trinidad and Tobago, but extends both regionally and internationally. The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services stands ready to assist all those concerned with nurturing a caring society, based on inclusion, equality and mutual respect.

Our offices are conveniently located across the length and breadth of Trinidad and in Tobago, and so, we invite you to make contact with us and share with us ways in which we can improve what we do. It is our sincere wish that over the next two days, we can all draw on each other’s experiences, set benchmarks and make recommendations that will assist the strengthening of families in our various communities and by extension, our country as a whole. In so doing, this event would have indeed accomplished its objectives and our coming together would have contributed to the national development agenda.

We thank you for your participation and do take the opportunity to extend sincere thanks to the staff of the Ministry and particularly, the Symposium Planning Team, for the hard work, dedication and commitment to the task over the several weeks of planning for the hosting of this Conference. We applaud you.

Jacinta Bailey-Sobers and Natasha Barrow
Permanent Secretaries, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
What is the Family Symposium About?

The Symposium aims to provide a neutral forum for the discussion of topics and issues that impact the quality of family life in Trinidad and Tobago. By facilitating such public discourse, it reafirms the family unit as a critical agent in the overall development of a nurturing and disciplined society for all citizens – especially the most vulnerable.

It is anticipated that the suggestions and recommendations will inform future policy and programme development.

What is the theme for the Symposium and Why this Theme?

Supporting Families as the Bedrock of Society is the theme that was chosen for this year’s event. It directly complements the efforts by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services to continuously identify and engage stakeholders to help, empower and transform all lives. The family is a principal stakeholder in this regard, due to its role in enabling healthy and progressive communities.

What are the Objectives of the Family Symposium?

1. To earmark the status and policy support for the family as urgent in the fulfillment of effective governance;
2. To stimulate further research on the family in Trinidad and Tobago;
3. To facilitate central and structured discourse amongst major stakeholders in the field of social services, resulting in a green Paper for a National Policy on the Family;
4. To support Government’s thrust for people-centered development as outlined in the National Development Strategy 2016 – 2030 (Vision 2030);
5. To launch a national campaign on Values, Attitudes and Behaviour, in recognition of the need to drive and support sustainable social transformation and development;
6. The development and branding of an annual national event which provides monitoring and feedback on policy implementation regarding the family.
About the Campaign

The launch of a national Values, Attitudes and Behaviours Campaign (VABS) is a response by the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services, in support of Government’s agenda for people-centred development during this period of social and economic recovery.

Under the National Development Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago (Vision 2030), it is recognised that the health, security and prosperity of all citizens, represent major challenges and opportunities for good governance. As such, emphasis must be placed on ensuring equality, equity and justice for all – including our most vulnerable. Every person must be so enabled to participate fully in the recovery process.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services therefore believes that in order to achieve these objectives, it is important that we engage our population in the reconstitution of civic-mindedness. As such, the launch of a national Campaign on Values, Attitudes and Behaviours, within the National Family Symposium provides an ideal opportunity to do so. After all, the family as the first and foremost socializing institution, is where we learn how to love, respect, value and care for others.

It is intended then for the campaign to facilitate meaningful change in the way that individuals, families and other interest groups treat and respond to each other. These changes most certainly will take precedence in the home but will extend to interactions during worship, within our education system, among our business and society and will redound to a more secure and disciplined society.

The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS) is the core social sector Ministry with responsibility for coordinating the implementation of Government’s social and human development objectives. The Ministry is mandated with responsibility for addressing the social challenges of poverty, social inequality and social exclusion. Particular emphasis is placed on developing and executing programmes and services that protect and assist vulnerable and marginalized groups in society such as women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly, the poor/indigent, the socially displaced, ex-prisoners, deportees and persons living with HIV/AIDS.

Guided by the tenets Helping, Empowering and Transforming Lives, the Ministry seeks to empower its clientele through rehabilitative and skill enhancement initiatives, which promote human prosperity in the context of sustainable development. The MSDFS is also responsible for developing, coordinating, monitoring and evaluating social sector policies and programmes to ensure sustainability, cultural relevance and economic viability.

OUR VISION
To be a dynamic, people-centred organization achieving sustainable human and social development.

OUR MISSION
The Ministry’s mission is to lead in the enhancement of lives, with emphasis on the vulnerable, through a network of integrated, effective and accessible social services.

CORE VALUES
Commitment, Compassion, Equity, Inclusiveness, Innovativeness, Integrity, Respect, Responsiveness

Office of The Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs)

Gender Affairs Division
The national focal point for gender and development that works to promote gender equity and equality through the process of gender mainstreaming in all Government policies, programmes and projects.

Child Affairs Division
All boys and girls are happy, healthy and confident that their rights are respected, protected and promoted to facilitate their holistic development towards achieving their fullest potential as active contributors to society.

OUR VISION
To be the hallmark of excellence in the Public Service.

OUR MISSION
We provide professional, coordinated, administrative and other support services to the Prime Minister in executing his constitutional responsibilities to Trinidad and Tobago.

CORE VALUES
Accountability, Commitment, Confidentiality, Diversity, Equity, Empathy, Integrity, Professionalism, Transparency

ABOUT US

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Wednesday 27th June, 2018

8:00 am Registration
8:30 am National Anthem - Jaime McLeod, San Fernando S.D.A. Primary
Invocation - Archbishop Barbara Burke, President of the Inter-Religious Organization (IRO)
Security/Housekeeping Announcements
Welcome Remarks - Natasha Barrow, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Social Development and Family Services
Greetings - Dianne Baker Henry, Administrator, Division of Health, Wellness and Family Development, THA
Remarks - Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State, Office of the Prime Minister,
Feature Address - Honourable Cherie Ann Chichi Now-Cockburn, M.P., Minister of Social Development and Family Services
The Launch of National Campaign on Values, Attitudes and Behaviours (VABs)
Edutainment – The Drama Making A Difference Company (DMADD Company)
Exhibition Opening and Official Tour
10:00 am Break
10:15 am Keynote Speaker – Supporting Families as the Bedrock of Society - Professor Rhoda Reddock
Open Forum (Q &A)
10:45 am Edutainment – Spoken Word - 2Cents Movement
11:00 am Panel 1 Discussion - Family Care and Responsibility
Acceptance and Respect of Persons with Disabilities by Relatives - Dr. Lenisa Joseph
Empowering Older Persons and their Family Caregivers - Dr. Jennifer Rouse
Q & A
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Warm Up Activity
1:10 pm Panel 2 – Family Relationships in the Digital World
Parenting Millennials and Post-Millennials Mr. Kevin Liverpool
Using Technology to Balance Work and Family Life Mr. Ronald Ramlogan
Q & A
2:30 pm Panel 3 – Men in Families
Child Maintenance, Custody and the Courts in Trinidad and Tobago - Mr. Rhondall Feeles
Sharing the Caring: Men’s Participation in Care Work and Family Life - Mr. Franklyn Dolly
Q & A
3:45 pm Recap and Closing Remarks - Moderator

Thursday 28th June, 2018

8:00 am Registration
8:30 am National Anthem
Invocation - Archbishop Barbara Burke, President of the Inter-Religious Organization (IRO)
Security/Housekeeping Announcements
8:45 am Welcome and Recap of Day 1 Mrs Vidya Pooransingh Director, National Family Services and Moderator
Edutainment - Spoken Word - 2 Cents Movement
Keynote Speaker, Family Resilience - Mrs. Diana Mahabir - Wyatt, MDW, Hon LLD (UWI)
Open Forum Q&A
10:00 am Break
10:15 am Panel 1 Discussion – Supportive Family Relationships
How Relatives Can Recognise and Support Children / Youth that are being Bullied
- Mrs. Raffeina Ali-Boodoosingh
Silent Victims: Relationships Violence and Families - Ms. Roberta Clarke
Family Support for Successful Transitions in School and Work - Mr. Gregory Sloane-Seale
Q & A
12:00 pm Lunch
1:00 pm Panel 2 – Promoting Resilient Families
Mental Health and the Family - Dr. Varma Deyalsingh
Meeting the Housing Needs of Families - Ms. Rosamund Pereira-Jacob
Towards a National Family Policy for Trinidad and Tobago - Dr. Innette Cambridge
Q & A
2:00 pm Panel 3 – Recap and the Way Forward
Recap of Days 1 and 2 - Ms Lyra Hollingsworth
The Way Forward: MSDFS Research - Ms. Hyacint Blake
The Way Forward: MSDFS Family Policy - Ms. Anitra Ramnarine
3:00 pm Final Open Forum – Feedback from participants
3:50 pm Closing Remarks - Mr Dennis Williams, Deputy Permanent Secretary
A former Deputy Principal of The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (August 2008 – August 2017), Professor Reddock began her academic career as a Lecturer at Cipriani Labour College from 1976 to 1978. She later went on to occupy the post of Associate Lecturer at the Institute of Social Studies, The Hague between 1979 and 1982, after which she began a Research Fellowship at the Institute for Social and Economic Research at The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine (1985), where she remains active today.

In 1990, Professor Reddock became a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology there, and soon emerged as the Head for The Centre for Gender and Development Studies (now the Institute for Gender and Development Studies) from 1994 to 2008. During her tenure as Deputy Principal at UWI, she was also conferred an Honorary Doctorate by The University of the Western Cape in Bellville for her outstanding contributions to research, scholarship and community.

On June 7, 2018, Professor Rhoda Reddock achieved another milestone in her career, when she was elected to serve on the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). It was also a historic achievement as Trinidad and Tobago’s first official candidate to the Committee.

Dr. Lenisa Joseph is the Programme Manager for the Caregivers’ Skills Training Programme at the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs). Her passion resides in working with families and children with disabilities, developmental delays and those at risk. Her training also includes Early Childhood Development, Special Education and Inclusive Education. These are also complemented by her experiences in program and policy development, monitoring and evaluation in Africa, Europe and the United States.

Kevin Liverpool is the Founder and Executive Director of the Fatherhood Resource Centre, which is an NGO that works to equip men to be better fathers. The main aims through his NGO’s work is to assist with the reversal of the damaging trend of family fragmentation and fatherlessness. His work also involves promoting gender equality through his work with men and boys, by helping them to understand their roles in preventing all forms of gender-based violence. Mr. Liverpool also advocates for children and youth in institutional care and manages a campaign encouraging foster care and adoption.

Rhondall Feeles is a Social Activist and Businessman. He is the Founder and President of the Single Fathers Association of Trinidad and Tobago and Vice President of the Trinidad and Tobago Automotive Dealers Association.

In 2014, Mr Feeles was appointed to serve as a member of the Child Protection Task Force. This was followed by another milestone in 2018, when he was awarded a Bachelor of Law from the University of London.

Dr Jennifer Rouse is the Director of Ageing at the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services. Her accolades include a double major in Social Work and Africana Studies from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC). In August 2001, she graduated with her Masters degree in Policy Sciences, with the area of concentration in Ageing Issues. She went on to achieve a Doctorate in Public Policy in Ageing in 2004. Her doctoral thesis was entitled: A Case Study in Ageing Policy in Trinidad and Tobago: The Role of Interest Groups in Defining New Policy Initiatives.

Franklyn Dolly is a seasoned Social Worker and Behaviour Change Consultant with over thirty years of experience in both fields. He specialises in Critical Incident & Post Trauma Management, Dispute Resolution, Conflict Management, Organisational Behaviour and Family Counselling.

He is the former Chief Executive Officer of Dolly and Associates, which he founded with his wife, Dr. Jennifer Holder-Dolly. The later now heads the organisation. Their consultancy services are geared towards facilitating the empowerment of individuals, groups, communities and organisations, so as to develop their fullest potential.
KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Diana Mahabir-Wyatt, MDW, Hon LLD (UWI)

A graduate of McGill University, Quebec, Canada. In 2001 she received a M.Sc. (Edu) from CSUH, specializing in online education and adult learning, and in 2012 was awarded an LLD (Doctorate of Laws - honoris causa) from the University of the West Indies. In that year, she was also awarded a Community Service Medal (Gold) for her work in the field of Human Rights, specifically for her work with women. She is also certified in Psychometric Testing, Media- tion, Executive Coaching, and Counselling.

Mrs. Mahabir-Wyatt was previously an Independent Senator in the Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago from 1991 to 2000. She was a founding member of the National Training Board of Trinidad and Tobago, and has also served on various other national committees and commissions including the National Productivity Council and the Family Court Committee. She also has previous experience as a Director on the Boards of several private companies and community based organisations, such as Servol Limited and Childline.

In 2017, she joined the Board of the ANSA McAL Foundation and was appointed the Foundation’s representative on the Regional Eminent Persons Panel on April 30, 2018.

Currently, she is the Chairman of the Board and an Executive Director in the consultancy firm of PMSL, where her portfolio includes the development of performance management systems and managing the human resource aspects of organizations.

Raffiena Ali-Boodoosingh is the current President of the National Parent Teacher Association (NPTA)in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mrs. Ali-Boodoosingh has a Bachelor Degree in Education and she strongly believes that the success of any school is rooted in stakeholder partnerships; especially those between the home and school. To demonstrate her support for healthy functioning families and their impact on society, the NPTA’s social programmes are at present, guided by the theme, Put Children First! Save the Nation!

Roberta Clarke is the President of the Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Between 2003-2017 she has worked in various capacities for United Nations’ Women. She is also an established Lawyer, a Commissioner with the International Commission of Jurists, as well as a Visiting Fellow with the University of the West Indies.

Gregory Sloane-Seale has been working with and on behalf of at risk youth at the community level for over twenty (20) years. He is the National Coordinator of the Citizen Security Programme (CSP) of the Ministry of National Security. The CSP’s main objective is the reduction in levels of crime and violence in specific high needs communities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Sloane-Seale was a member of the first National Plan of Action Committee for Children which was established under the Ministry of Social Development, and has been involved in Child/Youth Rights locally, regionally and internationally, since 1996. His work in Youth & Community Outreach, with an emphasis on Crime and Violence Reduction, is recognised both regionally and internationally.


Dr. Varma Deyalsingh is the current Secretary of the Association of Psychiatrists in Trinidad and Tobago. He is also the Registrar at the Baratiera Community Health and Wellness Centre, Vice President of the Medical Board of Trinidad and Tobago and Chair of the Central Branch of the Medical Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

Well known for his passion in the work that he does, Dr Deyalsingh is also a member of the Psychiatric Hospital Tribunal.
Rosamund Pereira-Jacob has worked with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development since 2007. She has served as Team Lead for the Ministry’s Service Improvement and Business Processing Management teams and has engaged in change management exercises and sensitization/work sessions. Ms. Pereira-Jacob graduated from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus with a B.Sc. Management/Tourism Management Degree with a Minor in Human Resources Management, Second Class Honours (Upper Division). She is also trained in service integration and project management and has seven (7) years of experience in the airline industry.

Dr. Innette Cambridge is a senior lecturer and co-ordinator for the Social Policy Programme of the Social Work Unit at the University of the West Indies. She has been with the programme since its inception in 1990. She has also developed a Disability Studies Unit which offers teaching, researching and outreach work.

Dr. Cambridge is a visiting professor to the University of Bordeaux, France, and a consultant to the All Africa Conference of Churches as well as UNESCO. In 2004, she was honoured with the UWI/Guardian Life Award for Excellence in teaching and is also a recipient of the Lenard Cheshire Award for her continued work in disabilities locally.

Ms. Leonard is an experienced and multi-disciplined media business professional, with more than thirty years of achievements regionally and internationally. This is complemented by her extensive experience in management and consultancy, where she has forged meaningful relationships with clients across public, private, community-based and non-governmental fields.

Her prior experience as a facilitator includes projects and events with the United Nations Development Programme, UNESCO, The University of the West Indies, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, iGovTT, the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation and the European Union.

She is also recognised for her expertise in marketing and sponsorship, radio and television production and broadcast, public affairs, as well as, leadership and mentoring.

Some of Ms. Leonard’s special interests include her love for Caribbean music and culture, West Indies Cricket and the Development Agenda for South-South issues.
MTS Plaza, Aranguez Road, Aranguez
623-2608 Ext. 1602 - 1607

107 Eastern Main Road, Tunapuna (opposite Royal Castle)
623-2608 Ext. 1702 - 1714

Eleanore Street, Chaguanas
623-2608 Ext. 2102 - 2107
and 6200 - 6203

Siparia Administrative Complex,
Corner Allies and High Street, Siparia
649-2428 or 649-1942

11 Richardson Street, Mahaica,
Pt. Fortin
623-2608 Ext 2630-2640
and 6000 - 6003

Tam Building, Glen Road, Scarborough,
Tobago
639-2673

Lot 11 Naparima Mayaro Road, Rio Claro
623-2608 Ext. 2502 - 2507

Omardeen Building, 59-61 Cipero Street,
Gooding Village, San Fernando
623-2608 Ext. 2302 - 2322

Marlsons Building, 97 High Street,
Princes Town
623-2608 Ext. 2402 - 2408 & 6500 - 6503

Corner Richmond and Duke Street,
Port of Spain
623-2608 Ext. 1000 - 1004 & 5900 - 5903

Corner Savi Street and Boodooville Circular, Sangre Grande
623-2608 Ext 1902 - 1908
and 1950 - 1951

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY SERVICES
SOCIAL WELFARE LOCAL BOARD OFFICES

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