



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
GENDER AND CHILD AFFAIRS DIVISION

Levels 20-21, Tower D, International Waterfront Centre, 1A Wrightson Road, Port of Spain
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago TEL: 627-1163

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For immediate release

PRESS RELEASE

LAUNCH OF THE CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING WORKSHOP AND CHILD ABUSE WORKBOOK

Port-of-Spain: On Tuesday 15th May, 2018, the Office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and UNICEF launched its Child Protection Training Workshop and Child Abuse Workbook at the Couva West Secondary School. This training is an integral aspect of the overall child abuse awareness campaign and long term strategy to empower officers attached to the Student Support Services Division within the Ministry of Education. The objectives of the workshop are:

- To increase officers awareness of child abuse;
- To provide training on the appropriate procedures to be used in the prevention of child abuse;
- To teach stakeholders prevention and protection protocol; and
- To contribute to raising public awareness of child abuse;

The launch commenced with welcome remarks from Mr. Bertrand Moses, Coordinator Child Development, Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs) and the Honourable Ayanna Webster – Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister. The Honourable Dr. Lovell Francis, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education delivered the feature address.

Minister Webster- Roy shared the experiences that shaped her youth and the valuable impact that her Guidance Officers had on her growth and development. She encouraged participants to utilize the acronym act **FAST** which means **F**: tell a trusted family member; **A**: contact the Children's Authority or police; **S**: seek help from Student Support Services Officers attached to your school and **T**: telephone the child protection hotline at 996 or 131.

In his address, Minister Francis emphasized that *the approach to protecting children is not an all of Government approach but it is all of society working together to protect children. Each person has the responsibility to save a life.* He further reminded officers that *they are aptly positioned to shape the universe of a child under their care and protection.*

After the addresses, Minister Webster –Roy symbolically launched the Child Abuse Workbook by presenting it to Angelie Ramcharitar, a student of the Couva West Secondary School. The Workbook is an anti-child abuse booklet which seeks to educate children on types of child abuse



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and their rights. The workbook uses interactive games such as crosswords and fill in the blank sentences to teach children emergency contacts and critical child protection agencies.

The Office of the Prime Minister thanks all stakeholders and officers from the Student Support Services Division for joining us on the journey to improve our child protection system in Trinidad and Tobago. For a free copy of the workbook, members of the public can visit our website at www.opm-gca.gov.tt.

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For further information contact:
The Corporate Communications Unit
Tel: 627-1163