



THE HONOURABLE AYANNA WEBSTER-ROY  
MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR GENDER AND CHILD AFFAIRS AND  
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For Immediate Release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Challenging the Triple Threat: GBV, Teen Pregnancy and HIV**

The Gender and Child Affairs Division in collaboration with the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC) held an interactive dialogue focused on the “**Triple Threat Affecting Women and Girls: Gender-Based Violence, Teen Pregnancy and HIV.**” The hybrid panel discussion which took place on December 11, 2023 targeted youth organizations and the wider public.

The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, in her opening remarks encouraged attendees to ask for help if they are facing challenges and to not be afraid to ask questions. She highlighted the importance of preventative measures, along with challenges faced by young women and girls in dealing with HIV and teen pregnancy.

The featured topics included: psychosocial support in the response mechanism; medical management of sexual assault; the referral pathway; and survivor empowerment. Moderating the discussion was Dr. Ayanna Sebros, Technical Director of the NACC. Speakers included:

- Ms. Denise Jittan-Johnson, Clinical Psychologist, Rape Crisis Society;
- Ms. Krista Soraya Ali, Clinical Psychologist, Children’s Authority of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Ms. Ava Rampersad, Executive Director, Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago;  
and
- Ms. Anika Plouden-Corentin, Founder, Chosen Hands.

The session conducted on the heels of Human Rights Day (December 10) was held in recognition of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, which also includes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25) and World AIDS Day (December 1). The Division and the NACC continues to streamline its collective efforts for the empowerment of key populations whom may be otherwise marginalized due to the effects of the issues highlighted.

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