



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
GENDER AND CHILD AFFAIRS DIVISION

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For Immediate Release

PRESS RELEASE

Children and Youth Day of the Americas

Port-of-Spain: The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State with responsibility for Child Affairs and the staff at the Office of the Prime Minister joins in the observance of **Americas Children and Youth Day** on June 9th. This observance provides an opportunity for acknowledging the situation of children and youth in the Americas, including Trinidad and Tobago, while evaluating the developments made in the promotion and protection of their rights.

On May 10th 2017, the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) agreed to the designation of June 9th as Americas Children and Youth Day in keeping with Resolution CP/RES. 1081 (2113/17). This decision was also taken in light of the ninetieth anniversary of the Inter American Children's Institute, which is a specialised organisation of the OAS focusing on the promotion, protection and the full respect for the rights of children and adolescents in the region.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago continues to work on improving the quality of life for children and youth. For the 2018 observance, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) has embarked on the simultaneous distribution of child rights and child protection brochures and workbooks to primary and secondary schools throughout the country. The OPM also continues with the promotion of its online educational resources, including the child abuse poster '**Act F.A.S.T**', the child rights booklet '**My Book of Rights and Responsibilities**', the child abuse workbook '**Child Abuse is Everybody's Business**' and the children's services directory '**A Guide to Child Friendly Services**'.

For the period 2017 to 2018, the OPM successfully engaged in several programmes and initiatives aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the nation's children. These include the Community Residences Development Programme; the Child Abuse Prevention Initiatives; the National Child Policy; the National Children's Registry; the Parent Skills Training Programme; the Child Rights Ambassador Programme and the U-Report Training Workshop. The OPM has also drafted the policy to establish the Office of the Children's Commissioner in keeping with Article 4 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This Article requires States to "***undertake all appropriate legislative, administrative and other measures for the implementation of the rights recognized in the present Convention***".

The OPM looks forward to its continued partnership with the Inter American Children's Institute and the rest of the OAS States to ensure that our boys and girls are treated fairly and protected. For more information on our educational resources, please visit <http://www.opm-gca.gov.tt/>.

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