



THE HONOURABLE AYANNA WEBSTER-ROY
MINISTER WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TOBAGO,
GENDER AND CHILD AFFAIRS, AND THE NATIONAL AIDS COORDINATING COMMITTEE
#13-15 St. Clair Avenue, Newtown 190126,
Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

February 7, 2025

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Continues Women, Peace and Security Collaboration with Canadian High Commission

“To make Trinidad and Tobago safer, we need the national community, every man, woman, boy and girl to see this as ‘all our work’.”

This was the critical need voiced by the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister - Central Administrative Services Tobago (CAST), Gender and Child Affairs (GCA), and the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC), as she met virtually with His Excellency Michael Callan, High Commissioner, High Commission of Canada and Her Excellency Jaqueline O'Neill, the Canadian Ambassador for Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) on Friday 7th February, 2025.

In addressing the local situation, Minister Webster-Roy raised concerns about the increasing incidents of gang and gun violence, across both islands. She also spoke on the Gender and Child Affairs' overarching plan to implement community-based interventions that will reduce such violence, through empowerment of women and youth to be positive change agents.

Through that community-engagement, there are several anticipated projects and services that will be implemented when the WPS National Action Plan is approved. These include sensitisation initiatives, specific gang reduction community projects, as well as financial aid to civil society organisations to implement appropriate projects.

Her Excellency O'Neill complimented Trinidad and Tobago on the on-going efforts to advance the WPS agenda and spoke of the various discussions held with representatives of various state agencies across the Caribbean. She further elaborated that their support approach is to ensure that governmental agencies understand the roles and responsibilities within the WPS Agenda.

While pledging the High Commission's continued support to the Gender and Child Affairs Division as long-term partners, His Excellency Callan offered to leverage their resources to sensitise and mobilise the diplomatic community to raise awareness on the strides made in advancing the WPS Agenda.

Minister Webster-Roy reminds the national community that all sectors, social service, education, legal, judicial and health sectors, civil society as well as our development partners, that every individual must do their part to ensure that positive behaviour change is affected for a safer Trinidad and Tobago.

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For further information, contact:
Corporate Communications Unit
Email: info_opmgca@gov.tt
Tel: 622-1625



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Image 1 – “To make Trinidad and Tobago safer, we need the national community, every man, woman, boy and girl to see this as ‘all our work’.” This was the critical need voiced by the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister - Central Administrative Services Tobago, Gender and Child Affairs (GCA), and the National AIDS Coordinating Committee, as she met virtually with His Excellency Michael Callan, High Commissioner, High Commission of Canada and Her Excellency Jaqueline O’Neill, the Canadian Ambassador for Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) on Friday 7th February, 2025.

Seen here in the photo left to right – The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister - Central Administrative Services Tobago, Gender and Child Affairs (GCA), and the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (top left); Ms. Elneda Dani, Senior Advisor to Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security (WPS), High Commission of Canada; Her Excellency Jaqueline O’Neill, the Canadian Ambassador for Women, Peace, and Security (WPS); His Excellency Michael Callan, High Commissioner, High Commission of Canada and Mr. Stuart Shaw, Counsellor, High Commission of Canada.

Bottom Row L-R - Ms. Sasonel Felix, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist; Office of the Prime Minister; Ms. Shelley-Ann Hart, Director Gender Affairs, OPM GCA; Mr. Kurt Meyer, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs (OPM GCA) and Ms. Anne-Marie Quammie-Alleyne, Project Execution Officer; Gender Affairs Division.