



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

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Minister Presses for T&T to Be a Safe Haven from Violence**

*“Trinidad and Tobago **must** become a place where every person can live a life free from violence!”*

This was the impassioned plea from the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister with responsibility for Gender and Child Affairs (GCA) and Central Administrative Services Tobago (CAST), at the **John Dial Sensitisation Session** held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2024 at the John Dial Community Centre, John Dial, Tobago.

Speaking with residents of East Tobago, Minister Webster-Roy, Member of Parliament for East Tobago affirmed that Trinidad and Tobago should be an international standard of what a safe place from violence should look like. She further called on every person present to lend their voice, online or on the street corner, to talk to persons, encouraging everyone in our circle of influence to stand **United Against Domestic Violence and Child Abuse** and save our country.

Both adults and children, and several community groups from John Dial, Goodwood, Charlotteville, Glamorgan, Roxborough and Argyle benefitted from information on how persons and civil society organisations (CSO) can access the following:

- **Survivors’ Transformation Empowerment Programme (STEP)** grants to empower survivors of domestic and gender-based violence. Persons and CSOs can visit [www.opm\\_gca.gov.tt](http://www.opm_gca.gov.tt) for the application forms. **Applications are open now.**
- **In the Know on the Go** a child protection, abuse awareness and prevention initiative hosted in communities as a partnership with Members of Parliament, Village Councils or CSOs. Organisations, youth groups are invited to request the hosting of In the Know.
- **Barbershop** initiative involving open dialogue with teen males and young men in community centres and schools, as well as training for CSOs on gender equality, gender-based violence and other gender related issues. Schools, communities and organisations are invited to request Barbershop sessions and training.

The Gender and Child Affairs continues to implement initiatives designed to help citizens to be better version of themselves. Citizens are reminded that protecting each other needs every person’s effort to reduce the incidence of domestic violence and all forms of child abuse.

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