WINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY WHAT'S HAPPENING!

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Countering Human Trafficking through Public Education

As it seeks to fulfil its mandate to address Human Trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of National Security's Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) has been and continues to actively collaborate with Civil Society in raising awareness about the phenomenon in our country.

Just last Thursday 18 January 2018, the CTU partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) to engage participants at a Town Hall meeting in Tobago. Discussions included the vulnerabilities of primary school children in Tobago to abuse, exploitation and trafficking, as well as Human Trafficking incidents in Tobago.

Director of the CTU Ms. Alana Wheeler explained the workings and operations of the Counter Trafficking Unit as well as its successes. She noted that public officers and Tobagonians have been charged and brought before the courts in Tobago for Human Trafficking. Ms. Wheeler spoke strongly on the need to sensitize and protect the children and youth of Tobago, as vulnerabilities of these age groups can eventually lead to the occurrence of child sex tourism. In this regard, she also shared key messages to identify and prevent sexual grooming of children as well as monitoring their use of social media.

In the coming weeks, the Counter Trafficking Unit will continue to work with the TTTI to conduct a series of Town Hall meetings in various communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago.







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Promoting a culture of Peace and Lawfulness among our Youth

The Citizen Security Programme (CSP) continues its drive to positively influence the youth of Trinidad and Tobago, as they partner with the Oral Tradition ROOTS Foundation to conduct Season Two of *Abyssinia - a Journey of Change*, a dynamic social intervention approach to educate our youth on issues such as drugs, gangs and violent extremism.

The Journey of Change speaks openly about real-life experiences and the social realities of persons who were formerly involved in a life of crime and violence. The purpose is to show young people the stark reality and consequences of becoming involved in crime and deviant behaviour, in the hope of transforming their attitudes towards more positive life outcomes.

Season One took place in 2017 and was so well received by students and staff of the twenty schools visited, that the Abyssinia team was invited to revisit the same schools to engage the entire student population.

On Thursday 25 January 2018, the team was invited to engage specially selected Form Two students of the Morvant Laventille Secondary School to present on Conflict Resolution. Using their unique brand of intervention, the presenters helped students to understand alternative methods to conflict resolution. The students were very receptive to the facilitators and engaged in discussions willingly and openly.

The Journey of Change will continue after the Carnival Season as it is expected to engage many more schools throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Season Two is being sponsored by the United Kingdom Commonwealth Secretariat.

The CSP continues to be a proud partner of this interactive project as it continues to "Promote a Culture of Peace and Lawfulness."

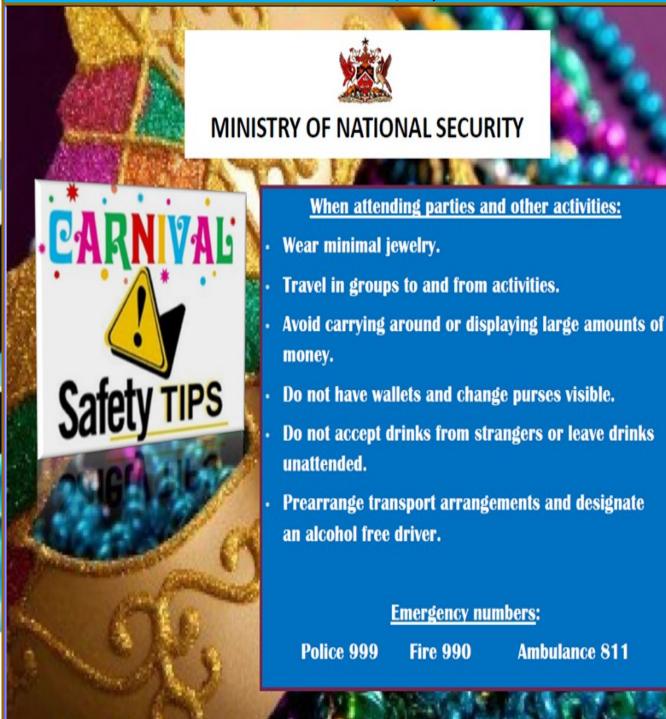




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