



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Universal Periodic Review

Mid-term Progress Report by Trinidad and Tobago on its implementation of recommendations made in October 2011

(September 2014)

Recommendations that enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago

UPR Recommendation	Status of Implementation
<p>WOMEN'S RIGHTS</p> <p>1. Continue promoting equality, participation and empowerment of women in public policy-making and decision-taking (Nicaragua);</p>	<p>The Government of Trinidad and Tobago considers the growth in participation, promotion of equality and empowerment of women as critical factors in the achievement of its goal towards sustainable development. The following relate to the advances in women's rights as it relates to women's overall participation in national leadership and decision making:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inter-Parliamentary Union's world classification of women elected to Parliament ranks T&T as 36th with a 28.6% representation in the House of Representatives and 19.4 % of the appointed seats in the Senate as of 1 April 2014 • In local government, women account for an average of 32% of mayors, aldermen and local councilors. • A 2009-2010 survey conducted by the Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women, found that women comprised an average of 29% of members on boards and commission of all statutory bodies, state enterprises, special purpose companies, listed private companies, credit unions and trade unions. • In 2014, the High Court has 13 female judges, while three women serve as Justices of the Court of Appeal roster with a view to increasing the number of Court of Appeal judges to address the increasing case load. The Magistracy is supported by 40 women of a total complement of 56 Magistrates, led by Trinidad and Tobago's first female Chief

	<p>Magistrate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1955, there were only 12 female police officers. In 2012, this number has increased to 1700 women police officers. A woman acted as Commissioner of Police for the first time in March 2014. Several female Officers have been promoted to senior positions including one (1) Deputy Commissioner of Police and four (4) Assistant Commissioners of Police. • <u>All officers, female or male, have equal opportunities for training and promotions. In specialist units, women police officers participate in the same rigorous training and duties as their male counterparts.</u>
<p>2. Reinforce women’s rights within the labour market (Brazil);</p>	<p>The Government has recognized the need to reinforce women’s rights as it relates to their position in the labour market. Although the number of women in employment has increased, women are still not equally represented in the labour force, nor are they rewarded equitably for their work despite having attained higher education levels.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that in the Government Sector, unequal remuneration for work of equal value does not exist between men and women, nor are their conditions of work different. The remuneration for persons holding offices in the Government Sector is determined by classification of occupation. Therefore, both men and women employed by the Government receive the same remuneration based on the classification of offices held by individuals.</p>
<p>3. Maintain its efforts in favour of prevention, punishment and</p>	<p>As regards the eradication of all forms of violence against women and gender-based violence, the Government has adopted a multi-faceted approach:</p>

eradication of all forms of violence against women (Argentina);

4. Strengthen legislation and policy measures aimed at preventing and addressing violence against women (Brazil);

- A multi-sectoral Committee on Domestic Violence produced a Procedural Manual for Police Officers and a Report including comprehensive recommendations for addressing domestic violence. The Procedures Manual was approved by Cabinet.
- The Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development conducts ongoing training and public education using various media, to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence. A large volume of publications is produced each year aimed at public information and sensitization.
- The National Domestic Violence Unit of the Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, operates a Hotline 24 hours, seven days a week and receives approximately 30,000 calls annually. The Hotline provides information, active listening support, and referrals to shelters and counselling services, as well as referrals for rapid intervention by the Police. It is geared toward victims of rape, spousal abuse, and other forms of violence against women and men.
- Nineteen Domestic Violence Community Drop-in Centres have been strengthened, with social workers and Counsellors receiving increased remuneration, support and training. The Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development plans to develop standards/ guidelines/ tools to improve the performance of the Drop-in Centres. The Ministry is also in the process of setting up three new Shelters, two for female victims of domestic violence and one for male victims.
- NGOs supported by Government agencies provide eleven Shelters for female victims of domestic violence, and a rape crisis centre. Counselling services, support

groups and resource facilities are also available within communities to assist in the prevention and treatment of domestic violence.

- The Institute of Gender and Development Studies (IGDS) at the University of the West Indies implemented a highly successful “Breaking the Silence” project which conducted research and raised awareness nationally and in communities on the incidence of incest.
- The Government Information Service (GIS) Radio Unit produced and broadcasted a series of radio programmes that focused on violence against women and addressed traditional stereotypes regarding the role of women and men in society. Specific programmes that encouraged the public to discuss these issues and become proactive in finding solutions included: “Women Can,” “Balancing the Sexes/Female Empowerment,” “Family Time, Let’s Talk,” “Domestic Violence,” “Domestic Violence – What is Love?,” and “Healing our Families.”
- The Family Court initiative, which was piloted in 2003, provides victims of domestic violence with access to mediation and redress. Currently the Judiciary is in the process of reviewing the Family Court project with a view to expanding it throughout Trinidad and Tobago. Victims of domestic violence are able to have their cases heard in the Family Court, in an environment that is more private, and less adversarial than the Magistrate Courts or the High Court.
- Increased sensitization on the ***Domestic Violence Act, 1999*** which provides Protection Orders for victims, as well as penalties, fines and possible imprisonment for breaches of the Protection Order.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased media attention to domestic violence has resulted in a clear shift in public opinion from views of the past, which considered domestic violence in the home as a private matter. • A Central Registry on Domestic Violence and Child Abuse was successfully piloted by the Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development, through the Sir Arthur Lewis Institute for Social and Economic Studies (SALISES) of the University of the West Indies. The Central Registry, which is expected to be established in the near future, will collect, collate and analyze data on gender-based violence as a basis for informing policy and programmes aimed at reducing gender-based violence. • Increased emphasis has been placed on the implementation of Masculinity Programmes to equip men with strategies to cope with their changing roles and responsibilities, encourage shared family responsibilities, and reduce the incidence of gender-based violence. • Participated actively in the negotiation of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which is the first ever Treaty to recognise the link between gender-based violence and the international arms trade. Trinidad and Tobago has submitted its candidature to host the Secretariat of the ATT.
<p>HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS</p> <p>5. Investigate allegations of possible human rights violations by public</p>	<p>In Trinidad and Tobago, the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) is the body responsible for investigating claims in relation to human rights violations by public security officials. Since the appointment of a new Director in 2010, the PCA has had significant progress in bringing rogue police officers to justice:</p>

<p>security officials and reinforce the capacity to sanction those responsible and avoid impunity (Mexico);</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the period 2011-2012, the PCA was able to record an impressive 103 per cent increase in completed investigations. • The PCA has also been raising public awareness of its mission and mandate through a series of community outreaches. As a result, not only are citizens now more aware of the roles and functions of the agency, but the PCA has also heard directly from the public at these sessions about matters they need to address. • The PCA was given more teeth with the proclamation of the Police Complaints Authority Act 2006. This new Act, which replaced the Police Complaints Authority Act, 1993, established the PCA as an independent corporate body with the power to investigate complaints within its remit without the involvement of the police. • Under the former authority all complaints were submitted to the Police Complaints Division (PCD) of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service for investigation. Now an independent team of investigators looks into all matters, ensuring that police are not investigating police.
<p>ERADICATING THE SCOURGE OF VIOLENCE</p> <p>6. In line with an earlier recommendation made by the Human Rights Committee, exercise the full authority of the law and all</p>	<p>One of the highest priorities of the Government is dealing with the increases in violent crime. In this regard, both long-term and short-term approaches have been adopted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of Emergency A State of Emergency was declared in August 2011 after a dramatic surge in crime. During this period, the TTPS and the Defence Force were able to drastically decrease

means at its command, while ensuring respect for human rights, to eradicate the scourge of violence (Ghana);

7. While carrying out measures to combat violence, ensure full respect for human dignity and the protection of human rights (Hungary);

criminal activity as well as carrying out various raids to seize guns, ammunition and illegal drugs.

- **Legislation**

The *Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011* was enacted to punish the offence of human trafficking and other related offences. It was assented to in 2011 and came into force on 2 January 2013. This waiting period between 2011 and 2013 was to allow for the setting up of specific infrastructure in the Act such as the Counter-Trafficking Unit which became operational in 2013.

- **Police/Army initiatives**

In 2013, the Government initiated an increased effort between the Defence Force and the Police Service in the fight against crime. Cooperation between the army and the police involved the conduct of increased joint police/army patrols in criminal hot spots around Trinidad and Tobago. This has had a significant impact in the levels of crime, allowing residents in hot spot communities to feel safer in their homes.

- **Establishment of the Private Security Network Commission (PSNC)**

The PSNC is a functional partnership between the Police Service and members of the Private Security Industry. Under this partnership, security practitioners would be in a position to transmit relevant information for appropriate law enforcement action. A total of fourteen (14) accredited private security companies were initially accepted to participate in the Network and the process is continuing.

- **Traffic Wardens**

In March 2011 the first traffic wardens were appointed. Traffic wardens assist the police with enforcing traffic regulations so as to allow police officers to fight crime in high risk

areas. Under the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act, traffic wardens are appointed by the Police Commissioner to assist with enforcing traffic laws but are not given the power to arrest violators.

- **Meet the Troops Initiative**

This initiative provides the opportunity for members of the Defence and Protective Services and all agencies under the Ministry of National Security to meet and hold discussions with the Minister of National Security, at locations across Trinidad and Tobago. This initiative is mutually benefiting, allowing officers a chance to personally meet and discuss their issues with the Ministers, while allowing the Ministers the opportunity to meet and listen to the officers directly, and share the Government's strategic vision.

- **CCTV Surveillance System**

In November 2012, Cabinet approved a major anti-crime initiative to place hundreds of closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras in strategic locations throughout the country to increase surveillance and assist law enforcement agencies to monitor and catch criminals. The Minister of National Security indicated that the first phase of this initiative will see 500 new CCTV cameras installed and activated alongside 389 existing cameras to provide surveillance coverage for specific crime hot spots.

- **SMS Texting**

This technology is utilized by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) to send out advisories as it relates to natural disasters, emergencies or other important alerts. Currently there are also plans to use the SMS system to alert persons in localized areas of risks or incidents. Persons may then be able to notify the authorities

through telephoning 555 or 800-TIPS. With the potential for many eyes on the community and alerting authorities, there is the likelihood that wrongdoers would be deterred or detected with greater frequency.

- **Coastal Patrol Vessels**

Discussions are ongoing with respect to acquisition of additional Coastal Patrol Vessels to supplement surveillance of our territorial waters.

- **Enhancing Law Enforcement:**

- i. To increase Police visibility and response and enhance deterrence, Surveillance Bays have been installed along the Uriah Butler Highway, in the first instance and a committee has been established to oversee implementation;
- ii. For greater communication and Police effectiveness: the Ministry of National Security began the process of equipping every police vehicle with a global positioning system (GPS) and linking with every police station through an appropriate technology platform. As of 27 May 2014, it was reported under the Strategic Plan for the Police Service 2014-2016 that GPS was installed in 797 Police vehicles to minimize response time to emergencies;
- iii. Joint operations using land and sea assets will be deployed more frequently.
- iv. Given the increasing demands on Police Officers and in recognition of the dangerous environment in which they operate, a National Recognition Programme will be developed to honour those officers who go above and beyond the call of duty;
- v. Establishment of the National Operations Centre (NOC) to coordinate various activities, including the formation of teams in respect of intelligence, operations and logistical support. This Centre serves as a dedicated platform for the launching of joint operations and the exchange of intelligence/information among the Defence

Force, Protective Services, and Intelligence Agencies;

- **Citizen Security Programme**

The Citizen Security Programme (CSP) aims to contribute to the reduction of crime and violence at a community level by addressing the most proximal and modifiable risk factors. In particular, the Programme focuses on five priority areas:

- i. Youth Fire-arm Related Violence.
- ii. Juvenile Delinquency.
- iii. Child Maltreatment.
- iv. Domestic Violence.
- v. Crimes Against Visitors (Tobago).

- **Hoop of Life Programme**

The Hoop of Life Community Basketball League 2012 is a Programme designed to provide an avenue for individual and team display of sporting talent and expertise, commitment to healthy sporting rivalry and the development of community peace, cohesion and prosperity. It is a community-centered approach to crime prevention and the improvement of community life. Its primary focus in the first instance, is on young people 16 years and over from communities which are challenged by high incidence of crime, violence and social disorder. In order to assess the benefits that are expected to be derived from the Programme, a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation is being done. This will involve gathering baseline data which will aim to identify the current crime situation in each area, the quality of life of persons involved in the league and the problems currently faced by persons in the area and those involved in the league among

other things.

- **Concerts of Hope**

The Ministry of National Security successfully launched and implemented a series entitled “Concerts of Hope.” This novel initiative is primarily based on a partnering between steel and brass bands from throughout the Protective Services, steel bands and cultural performances from respective communities across Trinidad and in Tobago. The “Concerts of Hope” fosters more meaningful community relationships between our uniformed officers and members of the communities throughout the country.

- **The National Mentoring Programme**

A National Mentoring Programme for “High Needs” youth has been spearheaded by the Ministry of National Security, in collaboration with other stakeholders. Mentoring at a national level was conceptualized as an effective strategy to aid “at risk” youth in their holistic development. Mentors help youth learn to understand and communicate their feelings, to relate to their peers, and to develop positive relationships with other adults. The desired end result is to assist and guide Trinidad and Tobago’s youth in becoming socially, psychologically, emotionally and economically balanced adults who contribute to society.

- **The National Adopt a School Programme, (NASPRO)**

The Ministry of National Security, in conjunction with the Ministry of Education, has also created the National Adopt a School Programme, (NASPRO). The Programme focuses on initiatives to be implemented during after-school and within regular school hours. Students will benefit from motivational talks, guidance counseling sessions, and after school clubs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Military-Led Academic Training (MILAT) Programme/ The Military-Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Reorientation Training (MYPART) <p>The Military-Led Academic Training (MILAT) Programme/ The Military-Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Reorientation Training (MYPART) is a social intervention programme designed to help at-risk young men aged 16 - 20 years. It seeks to provide a safe, structured and regulated setting within which at-risk young men receive positive mentoring and reinforcement, and rebuild their ambitions, hopes and dreams. The ultimate goal of the MILAT/MYPART Programme is to help trainees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Develop a Positive Character, (ii) Learn and enhance their Vocational and Military-based Training Skills, and (iii) Attain their Academic Certification in an alternative environment, in order to improve their chances of attaining a better quality of life.
<p>RIGHTS OF VULNERABLE GROUPS: LGBT / HIV</p> <p>8. Undertake proactive policies to promote the rights of individuals, especially with regard to their sexual orientation and HIV/AIDS status (Canada);</p>	<p>The Government continues to maintain the fight against HIV/AIDS with a view to significantly reducing new infections. As such, there have been several successes in the fight against HIV/AIDS. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease in number of newly diagnosed infections from 1,448 in 2008 to 1,390 in 2009, 1,154 in 2010 and 1,077 in 2011; • Considerable decrease in numbers of HIV infected infants born to HIV positive mothers (e.g. Tobago has achieved 0% infection in infants); • Significant increase in number of pregnant women tested and treated for HIV infection;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mainstreaming of HIV and AIDS in the Workplace Programme in Government Ministries and private sector, along with adoption of National HIV and AIDS Workplace Policy; • Significant increase in the number of HIV testing and treatment sites; • Significant increase in the provision of free anti-retroviral medication for those requiring it, allowing people living with HIV to live longer more productive lives; • Significant reduction in AIDS related deaths; • Establishment of a Human Rights Desk to investigate cases of HIV related discrimination; • Legislative review of national laws and their impact on persons living with HIV and high risk groups informing draft National HIV and AIDS Policy; • -Improved monitoring of the epidemic through strengthened surveillance and harmonisation of monitoring and evaluation indicators across implementing partners <p>The Government has developed the Trinidad and Tobago National Strategic Plan (NSP) which is now in its second cycle. The first NSP was developed in 2004 and was an important step in articulating a shared strategy among the various stakeholders to address the spread of HIV in the country. For its second cycle (2013-2018), the NSP seeks to consolidate the gains of the past strategic planning period to 2009 and to date, while addressing the weaknesses in the delivery of services, programme implementation and management, with a view to scaling up the response to meet local, regional and global targets for mitigating the spread of HIV.</p>
RIGHTS OF PRISONERS	With a view to addressing the problems faced within the criminal justice system, the

9. Continue promoting the process of penal reform, taking into account the international obligations that the State has undertaken in the field of human rights (Nicaragua);

10. Work to reduce the case backlog and address the inefficiencies in the judicial system that contribute to lengthy pretrial detentions and exacerbate difficult prison conditions (United States);

Ministry of Justice has developed several initiatives and policies as well as piloted several pieces of legislation before Parliament:

- ***The Administration of Justice (Criminal Proceedings) Bill 2011*** makes provision for the abolition of preliminary inquiries and the introduction of a sufficiency hearing. At the sufficiency hearing, evidence is submitted to Criminal Master in the High Court who will decide whether or not there is a prima facie case against the accused. It provides for a committal for trial by judge and jury within three months, redounding to significant cost savings to the citizen and the State.
- ***The Administration of Justice (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) Act 2012***, broadens the scope of the previous legislation to include additional categories of persons from whom intimate and non-intimate samples of DNA can be obtained. It also provides for the mandatory sampling of certain categories of accused persons and offenders. The principal objective of the Act is to make available to the police the results of DNA profiling, which is another tool now available to the State in the detection and prosecution of criminal offences. This piece of legislation is being supported with improved and additional resources that would lead to institutional strengthening of the country's Forensic and evidence-based interdiction capabilities. The training of the nation's law enforcement officers is being augmented to ensure that they can deliver within the new provisions of the law.
- ***The Sexual Offences Act, 1986*** is also being reviewed with the aim of introducing a National Sex Offenders' Registry. A policy drafted by the Ministry of Justice will speak to who will be the persons to be granted access to such a Registry, along with recommendations regarding usage and the disclosure of the names of persons on the Registry.

- ***The Legal Aid and Advice (Amendment) Act, 2012*** now gives juvenile persons and persons arrested for indictable offences access to legal aid regardless of the time of their arrest due to the introduction of a 24 hour Duty Counsel Scheme. Currently the Ministry of Justice is working to implement the infrastructural and institutional changes necessary to give effect to the new Scheme.
- ***The Administration of Justice (Electronic Monitoring) Act 2012*** has been assented to by the President and is awaiting proclamation. It establishes an Electronic Monitoring Unit under the Ministry of Justice. This Unit aims to supervise offenders who are serving their sentences in communities across Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Justice has considered the benefits to introducing an electronic monitoring system such as early detection of flight when granting early release to offenders, and relief to overburdened custody populations.
- The Ministry of Justice is also in the process of establishing a system of Parole and a Parole Board. The Board will make determinations as to the suitability of offenders for supervised early release from prison, after serving at least a minimum portion of their sentence as prescribed by the sentencing judge. The aim of this initiative is to aid an offender's re-entry into society, thus reducing recidivism and promoting rehabilitation. A policy has already been developed to guide the establishment of a system of Parole, which will inform the drafting of a Bill to be tabled before the Legislature.
- The Ministry of Justice has also proposed the replacement of the 1838 Prison Rules with new rules that provide for a system of merit and demerit to be applied to the remittance of sentences in the final third of an offender's prison term. Offenders

	<p>will be able to earn the remittance of their sentences if they demonstrate that they have received and applied the training in life skills, hygiene, courtesy, good manners, anger management, discipline, and personal development provided by Prison Authorities. Under the new arrangements, good behaviour will be awarded through a system of Early Limited Release allowing offenders to engage in productive work on the outside during the second third of their term.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Justice has also introduced in 2014, as a pilot project, adult and juvenile Drug Treatment Courts to explore treatment alternatives to incarceration for drug-dependent offenders. The concept of the Drug Treatment Court is to combine traditional justice processes with treatment options. The main driver behind the success of this Court is the offenders' willingness to accept responsibility for their addictions and agree to enter into Court supervised treatment. <p>Other initiatives in relation to protecting the rights of prisoners include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of four judicial complexes across Trinidad and Tobago to house courtrooms for both the Magistrates' Courts and the High Court. The intent is to carry justice to the people, as the complexes will be located outside busy city clusters and closer to the communities where citizens reside. • Continued implementation of the principles of restorative justice in the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service.
SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS	As part of the Government's Medium –Term Policy Framework 2011-2014 "Innovation for

11. Continue applying the country's strategies and socioeconomic development plans in order to advance towards the materialization of the Millennium Development Goals, (Cuba);

12. Further efforts aimed at combating extreme poverty (Brazil);

Lasting Prosperity" one of the strategic priorities, is focused on poverty reduction and human capital development. The Government continues to be committed to achieving the MDG's and raising the standard of living of the citizens, through several programmes:

- **Poverty Reduction Programme**

The Poverty Reduction Programme is coordinated and implemented by the Programme Management Unit in the Ministry of the People and Social Development. It supports the formulation of a National Poverty Reduction Strategy that is more responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable groups in society and serves as a forerunner to the implementation of a decentralized system for the delivery of social services to communities.

- **The Micro-Enterprise Loan (MEL) Facility**

The Micro Enterprise Loan (MEL) Facility is a community empowerment and poverty reduction initiative, which equips Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to actively engage in promoting sustainable livelihoods among the poor through the provision of micro loans and support to micro entrepreneurs. A grant is given to a CBO to on-lend to individuals in their communities. The individuals start new or expand existing micro-enterprises and repay the loans at a minimal interest rate.

- **The Regional Micro-Fund Project (RMPF)**

The Regional Micro-Project Fund (RMPF) under the Poverty Reduction Programme provides grants to Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs), Faith-Based Organisations (FBOs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) to finance Projects to benefit the poor and vulnerable in their communities. Organisations applying for grants under the

programme may also benefit from institutional strengthening, and capacity building support. These grants can also be used to fund joint projects between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Government Organisations.

- **Multi-Purpose Community Based Telecentre Project (MCT)**

The Multi-Purpose Community-based Telecentre Project is designed to provide persons in communities with access to information on Government programmes and services, using internet technology. The project provides persons, who cannot afford, with access to the World Wide Web and E-mail services, internet and computer software training, business centre services and e-government services.

- **Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme**

The Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP) is a short-term food assistance and development programme aimed at providing social protection, by promoting nutritional and food security to vulnerable households. The TCCTP will enable families in need to purchase nutritionally sound basic food items, thereby enhancing the health and dignity of those households and reducing the incidents of poverty. The programme is also developmental in nature, and seeks to improve the quality of life of the household through skills training and assistance in securing gainful employment.

- **Unemployment Relief Programme (U.R.P.) Social**

The Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) is a social safety net programme aimed at providing short term employment opportunities with the widest possible participation. The Programme focuses on the upgrade of physical and social infrastructure. It

	<p>promotes human development through skills enhancement initiatives, especially in disadvantaged communities. In this regard, cognizance is taken of poverty, crime, unemployment levels, gender-sensitizing issues, women, community, entrepreneurship, age distribution and other relevant demographics within each region. In addition, the URP Social will include training and skill enhancement opportunities for individuals enrolled in the programme, particularly single mothers of children with cerebral palsy. The programme is also being developed as an intervention strategy for crime prevention and will facilitate sustainable development for vulnerable persons.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Social Development Programme (NSDP) <p>This Programme ensures that needy citizens throughout the country have access in their homes to reliable and sustainable supply of pipe borne water and electricity, improved sanitary plumbing facilities and assist in providing simple, useful recreational facilities in underdeveloped communities. This is all in effort to raise the standard of living and quality of life of underprivileged citizens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet approved mortgage plan for low income earners <p>In April 2013, Cabinet approved a mortgage plan for people earning less than TT\$8000. This plan would make it possible for citizens earning less than TT\$8,000 a month to buy their first home, with zero down payment and at a two per cent interest rate for homes costing up to \$450,000.</p>
<p>13. Consider technical assistance in the provision of education infrastructure and in ICT development (Sri Lanka);</p>	<p>The Ministry of Science and Technology has secured technical assistance under the Commonwealth Connects Programme – Commonwealth Cybercrime initiative. This will facilitate the conduct of an in-country assessment as well as capacity building for members</p>

	<p>of the Judiciary, legal fraternity and law enforcement to equip them with the skills necessary to prevent and investigate cybercrimes and to prosecute/adjudicate over cybercriminal cases.</p> <p>Further, the Ministry of Education continues to receive technical and financial assistance from the Inter-American Development Bank for the implementation of a “Seamless Education Project”.</p> <p>The project has the following components: a) Improvement of the coverage and quality of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE); b) Improvement of the quality of primary education by revising the existing curriculum and testing and evaluation instruments, modernizing teacher education, and development of a strategy to introduce Spanish as a first foreign language on a national scale in primary education; c) Support for the implementation of MOE's policy to create an inclusive education system catering to students with different learning needs; and d) Strengthening of MOE to improve the management of the education sector, its monitoring and evaluation capacity, and project execution.</p>
<p>PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS</p> <p>14. Continue with its efforts to promote and protect human rights (Sri Lanka);</p> <p>15. Continue to build on its laudable achievements in promoting and</p>	<p>The Government of Trinidad and Tobago continues to be mindful of its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights and has structured its strategic vision for sustainable development with a specific focus on people-centred development. As such, the fiscal budget for each successive year continues to reflect this focus.</p>

<p>protecting the fundamental freedoms and human rights of the good people of Trinidad and Tobago (Nigeria).</p>	
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Recommendations that enjoy the support of Trinidad and Tobago and are in the process of implementation

<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Status of Implementation</p>
<p>CEDAW</p> <p>16. Harmonize its national legislation with CEDAW, in particular regarding the explicit prohibition of discrimination against women and carry out an inventory to ensure that the national legislative framework does not allow for direct or indirect discrimination (Mexico);</p>	<p>As regards CEDAW, there is no one piece of legislation that incorporates this Convention. In fact, the rights and obligations under CEDAW are incorporated and implemented through many pieces of legislation as according to the relevant subject matter. Individual Government agencies are responsible for the implementation of related International Conventions and the International Law Human and Rights Unit of the Ministry of the Attorney General is mandated with the responsibility of reporting on the implementation of International Conventions related to human rights.</p> <p>Review and reform of legislation continues to be an ongoing process. As such the</p>

	<p>Government remains committed to ensuring that all legislation that allows for direct or indirect discrimination against women would be reviewed and amended or repealed where necessary. The following statutes which discriminated against women have been recently repealed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Masters and Servants Ordinance, 1938</i> was repealed in 2012 by the <i>Miscellaneous Provisions (Maternity Protection and The Masters and Servants Ordinance) Act, 2012</i>. This Ordinance, was enacted while Trinidad and Tobago was under colonial rule and was heavily biased towards employers and designed to discipline and suppress workers. The terms defined under the Ordinance such as “servant” and “employer” were limited and did not reflect current circumstances in Trinidad and Tobago; • <i>The Employment of Women (Night Work) Act, 1939</i>, was repealed in 2004 by section 98(1) of the <i>Occupational Safety and Health Act, 2004</i>. This Act prohibited women from being employed in night work, except under certain circumstances as expressed under the Act. <p>The Government is continuing the process of reviewing legislation that is discriminatory against women. The following Acts remain under review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Widows’ and Orphans’ Pension Act, 1934</i>; • <i>The National Insurance Act, 1971</i>; and • <i>The Industrial Relations Act, 1972</i>.
<p>WOMEN’S RIGHTS</p> <p>17. Adopt measures so that traditional stereotypes referring to the roles of men and women in</p>	<p>The Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development has implemented several programmes with the aim of overcoming traditional stereotypes regarding the role of women and men in society. These programmes include:</p>

society and family can be overcome (Uruguay);

- **The “Defining Masculinity Excellence” Programme**

This Programme aims to address the gender stereotypes permeating the society. The objectives of the Programme include promoting healthy and positive relationships in the home between men and women; providing gender sensitization/training for males in various target groups; reducing the incidence of domestic and other forms of violence; increasing the number of boys staying in school to complete secondary education and further education; and providing men with the space to share their feelings and concerns openly and non-violently.

Since the Programme’s inception, over 1,000 men have been trained, several of whom are now in partnership with the Gender Affairs Division to target other men and boys. Additionally, a weekly radio programme was conducted utilizing the content of the Defining Masculine Excellence Training modules to reach men who cannot attend the programmes.

- **Distinguished Lecture / Workshop Series**

The Gender Affairs Division of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development also undertook a Distinguished Lecture/ Workshop Series which featured gender-based lectures by expert and renowned personalities. Lectures and workshops were held on subjects including: Gender and Health; Gender and HIV/AIDS; Gender and Education; Gender and Community Development; Gender and the Law; Women’s Leadership; Gender-Responsive Budgeting; Gender and Climate Change; and Masculinity and Manhood.

- **The Non-Traditional Skills Training Programme for Women**

This Programme is designed to provide specialized technical and vocational education and training to low-income and unskilled women and involves a total of 320 hours of

training on a six month part-time basis, and offers a stipend of \$TTD \$60.00 per day for three days per week, in the areas of:

- Construction: carpentry, masonry, plumbing, electrical installation, painting, tiling, brick-laying and site clerking;
- Woodwork/ Furniture: joinery, cabinet making, wooden toys and tourist items, upholstery;
- Automotive: automotive repair, auto body repair;
- Technology: computer repair; and
- Industrial Maintenance: small engine repair and maintenance, domestic appliance repair and maintenance.

Other programmes for women outside of the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development include:

- **Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA)**

This programme is operated through the Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs) and encourages women to pursue careers in agriculture. Through phase I of the programme, over 1,367 women have been trained in practical on-farm aspects of agriculture from 2005 to the present.

- **The Electrical Association for Women (EAW)**

The Electrical Association for Women (EAW) is a women's NGO with over nine (9) branches throughout Trinidad. The group conducts non-traditional courses in the safe and economical use of electricity. Training is offered to women in making circuit boards and fluorescent lights, and repairing small household appliances. Since 2007, the group has also offered courses in pottery, concrete works, making flower pots, and furniture. Additionally, outreach programmes are conducted on a continuous basis, where the

	<p>group goes out into the rural communities, in new settlement areas, and areas with growing demand and supply of electricity.</p>
<p>18. Intensify efforts to combat practices and beliefs that undermine human rights, including the rights of women and children (Indonesia);</p>	<p>The practice of child marriage still occurs in Trinidad and Tobago. This practice continues to be legitimized by several pieces of legislation that govern marriage under certain religious dominations. The <i>Marriage Act, 1923</i>, the <i>Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, 1961</i>, <i>Hindu Marriage Act, 1945</i> and the <i>Orisa Marriage Act, 1999</i> all allow for a person under the age of eighteen to be married with parental consent.</p> <p>In October 2011, the Prime Minister, in her address as Commonwealth Chair-in-Office at the opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) held in Perth in October 2011, gave a commitment to re-examine the law in relation to child marriages, with a view to changing it for the benefit of children and protecting their rights.</p> <p>Following this verbal commitment, the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development held several consultations with stakeholders such as a National Stakeholder Consultation on the “Standardization of the Legal Age of Marriage in Trinidad and Tobago” on November 4, 2011 and follow-up consultations with religious leaders of the Muslim, Hindu and Orisa faiths to discuss the issue. The outcome of these consultations has been fruitful with stakeholders being closer to a decision on policy and future legislation.</p>
<p>19. Further action to reduce maternal mortality (Sri Lanka);</p>	<p>The Minister of Health noted the decrease in the maternal mortality rate in Trinidad and Tobago from 66.3/100,000 live births (equivalent to 12 deaths in one year), to 55.3 in 2008 and 25.7 in 2009 and 46.1 in 2010.</p>

	<p>In March 2014, in a statement to the House of Representatives, the Minister of Health identified the health of pregnant women and their unborn and newborn babies as a priority. In this regard, the Cabinet appointed the Maternity Services Review Committee in 2011, a multi-disciplinary team, to review existing practices, identify deficiencies, assess causes of maternal and perinatal deaths, and recommend measures for the improvement of the access to and quality of services delivered to expectant mothers.</p>
<p>VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN</p> <p>20. Continue to strengthen legislation aimed at the elimination of gender based violence, including through public awareness campaigns (South Africa);</p> <p>21. Strengthen efforts to effectively implement the legislation in force on the subject of gender violence in order to reduce the current percentages of mistreated women. Put in place awareness raising campaigns to combat rejection in society and increase protection for victims (Spain);</p> <p>22. Police be trained to provide improved investigation and prosecution services to women subjected to violence including rape,</p>	<p>With regard to these recommendations, initiatives put in place to address these issues were discussed above under recommendations (3), (4) and (17).</p>

and that resources be made available to improve access to shelters (New Zealand);

23. Undertake more effective measures to address the problems of sexual abuse and violence against women and girls, including through strengthening of law enforcement and the judicial system and intensive media and education programmes aimed at increasing public awareness and sensitivity on the rights of women and girls (Malaysia);

24. Place high priority on measures aimed at combating violence against women in the family and in society, increase the population's awareness about violence against women as well as strengthen support programs aimed at the elimination of sexual violence and incest, and prostitution as a form of exploitation (Uruguay);

25. Address, as a matter of urgency, the reportedly widespread violence against women, including a pursue of appropriate public awareness raising campaigns against the

<p>traditional negative social attitudes and stereotypes (Slovakia);</p> <p>26. Raise public awareness to counter deeply rooted traditional patriarchal attitudes which lead to violence against women, as recommended by CEDAW (Israel);</p>	
<p>GENDER POLICY</p> <p>27. Continue its significant efforts to promote gender equality, in particular the implementation of the <i>“Draft National Gender Policy”</i> (Chile);</p>	<p>The National Gender Policy has been submitted to Cabinet for approval. Once it is approved, the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development will be responsibility for its implementation.</p>
<p>INTERNATIONAL REPORTING OBLIGATIONS</p> <p>28. Fulfill its international reporting obligations (Slovenia);</p>	<p>The International Law and Human Rights Unit (ILHRU) was established within the Ministry of the Attorney General to deal with Trinidad and Tobago’s human rights reporting obligations. Since the change of administration in May 2010, the ILHRU has made significant progress in preparing human rights reports such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Universal Periodic Review (submitted and reviewed in 2011); • Trinidad and Tobago’s Combined 4th, 5th and 6th Periodic Report under CEDAW (to be submitted 2014); • Trinidad and Tobago’s 3rd and 4th Combined Periodic Report under CRC (to be

	<p>submitted in 2014); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trinidad and Tobago’s 15th- 18th Combined Reports under CERD (in final drafting stages).
<p>PRISONERS’ RIGHTS</p> <p>29. Take prompt, appropriate, efficient measures towards the improvement of the living conditions in prisons and detention centres, including the inmates’ access to food, medical care and social services (Slovakia);</p>	<p>In November 2013, the Prime Minister appointed a special committee with a mandate to address the issues surrounding the living conditions of prisoners and the working conditions of prison officers. The Committee members included the Prisons Commissioner, the Inspector of Prisons, the Minister of National Security, the Minister of Justice, the Police Commissioner, the Chairman of the Police Service Commission as well as the general secretary of the Prisons Officers’ Association. As a result of the work of the Committee, an “action list” of initiatives was created, which is in the process of implementation.</p> <p>One of the major issues being addressed is that of clearing the backlog of cases at the Remand Yard, Port-of Spain.</p>
<p>HUMAN TRAFFICKING</p> <p>30. Enact draft human trafficking legislation to improve prosecution of trafficking offenders and protections for victims of forced labor and sex trafficking. (United States);</p> <p>31. Introduce further measures to raise public awareness about</p>	<p>In 2011, Trinidad and Tobago enacted the <i>Trafficking in Persons Act 2011</i> to deal with the crime of human trafficking and other related offences. In January 2013, the Counter Trafficking Unit established under the Act was set up to deal with the detection, investigation and prosecution of these crimes, thus enabling the Trafficking in Persons Act to be proclaimed and fully operational. Since the Counter Trafficking Unit became operational, it has charged several persons with human trafficking offences which are now ongoing in the Courts.</p>

<p>violence against women and children, and strengthen its activities and programs to focus on sexual violence and human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Canada);</p>	
<p>CHILDREN’S RIGHTS</p> <p>32. Undertake every effort to fully implement the Children’s Authority Act (Hungary);</p>	<p>Although the <i>Children’s Authority Act, 2000</i> is still not fully in force, and the Children’s Authority is also not fully operational, the Government has allowed for a partial proclamation of the Act to allow for the Children’s Authority Board to be appointed. Currently the Board is in the process of working out the infrastructure for the operations of the Children’s Authority which would allow for the Children’s Authority Act to come into force as well as for the <i>Children’s Act, 2012</i> to be proclaimed.</p>
<p>33. Continue to develop and implement measures aimed at protecting the rights of all children, particularly those in vulnerable situations (Singapore);</p>	<p>The Government of Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to protecting the rights of children, especially those in vulnerable situations. Since the change of administration in 2010, there has been special focus on the provision of free education and ensuring that all children especially those in rural communities have access to education e.g. through the provision of free transportation, meals, books, and uniforms.</p> <p>In addition, there have been landmark pieces of legislation passed to specifically protect the rights of children such as the <i>Children’s Act 2012</i>, and the <i>Trafficking in Persons Act, 2011</i>.</p> <p>However, the Government continues to be conscious of the challenges faced such as the rolling out of the Children’s Authority and continues to work towards the full</p>

	<p>implementation of this measure so as to ensure better protection for children in institutions and vulnerable situations.</p>
<p>34. Step up measures to curb the incidence of drug and alcohol abuse by children including through intensive public education awareness campaigns (Malaysia);</p>	<p>The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) of the Ministry of Health currently engages in initiatives aimed at educating end/or sensitizing children in pre, primary and secondary schools about the dangers of all kinds of substance abuse. These initiatives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• Pre-School Projects</p> <p>Pre-school projects focus on sensitizing managers, principals and teachers about the different types of drugs used and their harmful effects. They are alerted to the signs and symptoms of children exposed to drugs/substances and are provided with substance use and abuse prevention methodologies and approaches. NADAPP is currently working in collaboration with the National Drug Council, and the Ministry of National Security towards the development of pre-school education materials (workbooks, animations, games etc.). The primary beneficiaries of these initiatives are children aged 2 1/2 years to 5 years from private Early Childhood Care and Education Centres throughout Trinidad.</p> <p>• Primary School Initiatives</p> <p>These initiatives target pupils in standards 3 to 5 (ages 8-11 years) and include the conduct of drug education lectures, information dissemination, display booths, and quizzes that seek to educate on the adverse effects of drugs on the body. Also the media are used to convey information in dynamic ways that would encourage behavioral change.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary School Initiatives The secondary school initiatives include the use of song, dance, drama and poetry to portray drug free messages geared towards equipping students with the knowledge and skills to resist the temptation to use drugs. <p>At present, there is no special mechanism to ensure that children who engage in substance abuse have access to effective structures and procedures for treatment, counseling, recovery and social re-integration. This gap is to be addressed under a policy initiative currently being considered. With respect to the system of data collection and indicators relating to children up to the age of 18 years, NADAPP periodically conducts school-based surveys on the prevalence of drug use. The study population generally includes, but is not limited to vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The Ministry of Sport, through National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) implements the National Sporting Policy. This policy was amended to instruct that NSOs insert child protection and anti-doping clauses and policies into their constitutions and take steps to ensure enforcement.</p>
<p>35. Establish a modern Juvenile Justice System to consolidate the protection of the rights of children (Maldives);</p>	<p><i>The Children’s Act 2012</i>, deals specifically with the issue of child offenders. The Act provides for inter alia, release on bail, custody of children, committal to Community Residences and Rehabilitation Centres, involvement of parents or guardian, sentencing and detention, restrictions on punishment, and provisions for Juvenile Court and its proceedings.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice has also proposed the establishment of a Juvenile Offender Unit as put forward by the Offender Management Policy that will be staffed by competent</p>

	<p>professionals who will be responsible for the management of all issues pertaining to juvenile offenders. Juvenile offenders will be the focus of a wide range of intervention strategies that will combine rehabilitative and punishment aspects with intensive monitoring, in an effort to control and limit the opportunities for criminal activity. This Unit will make recommendations and implement policies for the determination of the best types of programmes and treatment for juvenile offenders.</p>
<p>36. Ensure that life imprisonment sentences cease to be administered to minors and juveniles (Slovakia);</p>	<p>Although the <i>Children’s Act 2012</i> expressly prohibits the use of capital punishment as a sentence for children, it does not speak specifically to a prohibition on life imprisonment. However, in a case where a child is given a custodial sentence, and the time of the custodial sentence extends beyond the time when he would have attained age eighteen, the High Court, on his attaining age eighteen, shall review the sentence.</p>
<p>37. Provide for a separation of juvenile offenders from adult inmates (Slovakia);</p>	<p>The <i>Children’s Act 2012</i>, under section 60, prohibits a child to be detained in an adult prison, or if he is so detained in any facility, he is not to be allowed to associate with adult prisoners.</p>
<p>38. Allocate adequate resources to strengthen services for children with disabilities, support their families, train professionals in the field and encourage the inclusion of children with disabilities into the regular educational system and their integration into society (Israel);</p>	<p>There have been several initiatives and programmes developed by the Government to encourage inclusive education for children with disabilities as well as to improve services available for disabled children and their families. These initiatives are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seamless Education Project <p>The Ministry of Education in conjunction with the Inter-American Development Bank</p>

planned a “Seamless Education Project” in which Inclusive Education was a major component. This project began in May 2009 and featured the establishment of fourteen (14) model Inclusive Education Schools (7 Primary and 7 Early Childhood Care and Education Centres). Included in the Seamless Education Project is provision for seeking technical cooperation for the training of professional staff. The first phase of the Project was three years 2009 to 2012.

- **Disability Assistance Fund**

The Disability Assistance Fund was established in December 2003 to assist persons with disabilities and/or organizations associated with persons with disabilities. The objective of this fund is to support and empower NGOs and CBOs that focus on the needs of persons with disabilities. Through the Fund, grants were provided in fiscal 2005 to approximately ten organizations totaling TT\$220,040.00 to assist those in need. This Fund also sponsored participants in a wheelchair sport tournament in Canada titled “PARROT”. The Fund also provided wheelchair accessible Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) buses to disabled persons; and provided assistive technology to three disabled persons locally. Sensitization workshops were also conducted for the drivers of the wheelchair accessible PTSC buses.

- **Resource allocation for Special Education Schools and Students**

Adequate resource allocation to both public and private special schools has also been a concern of the Ministry of Education. For all registered private special schools, the Ministry allocates resources as follows:

- Payment of cost of tuition;

- Partial funding of salaries of teachers;
- Provision of textbooks;
- Maintenance of buildings;
- Provision of nutrition services;
- Payment of utilities;
- Personal grants to parents of children with disabilities based on a Means Test

Over 50 NGOs in Trinidad and Tobago provide services for persons with disabilities (including children). The Ministry of the People and Social Development and Ministry of Health provide extensive funding support to several NGOs via annual subvention, and one-off grants. These include the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation, Trinidad and Tobago Association in Aid of the Deaf (DRETCHI), and Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The Ministry of the People and Social Development takes a very active role in developing and administering programmes that can assist children with disabilities. These initiatives include:

- Support for children with disabilities through the National Family Services Division;
- The provision of scholarships for health professionals in the field, to advance their training. This is also included in the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities; and
- The financing of an initiative which allows all children with disabilities within all levels of the education system (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary) to access personal assistance and support in areas such as taking notes and reviewing homework. A

pilot programme has been implemented, where payment is provided for thirty (30) students per month. The Ministry of Education identifies the recipients for this programme.

- **Advances in educational programmes**

Not only have there been improvements to the physical services and facilities for special education, but there have been advances in substantial educational programmes. These initiatives include:

- Supervision of educational programmes offered at private special schools registered with the Ministry of Education. Private Special Schools and Individual Education Programmes are monitored on an on-going basis;
- Employment of Braille Technicians and teacher aids in schools;
- Introduction of an Exceptionalities course for all teacher trainees/students at the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT);
- Ensuring that all education programmes are inclusive, accessible and responsive to children with special learning needs and children with disabilities. The education programmes offered to students are currently being reviewed. The programme of the new Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres caters for persons with special needs. Two of these centres, in El Socorro South and La Romaine have children enrolled. A special inclusive programme is being designed in collaboration with Student Support Services which caters for a potential 2,382 students in various educational districts;
- Scholarships for school leavers in the area of Speech Therapy; and
- Inclusion of a special course on diagnosing and prescribing for Special Education at the Certificate and Degree Programmes for ECCE qualification.

<p>RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BY SECURITY FORCES</p> <p>39. Take the necessary steps to ensure police and security forces operate with greater respect for human rights, such as including comprehensive human rights and rule-of-law components in training for security forces (United States);</p>	<p>In addition to its responsibilities for security and detecting and reducing crime, the Police Service has outlined in its Strategic Plan 2014 -2016 a strategy to continue improving the level of citizen centred service. This strategy involves training Police Officers in customer service, facilitating a Police Conduct and Discipline Outreach Caravan, increasing the use of technology in service provision, continuing the provision of Victim & Witness Support Unit services, delivering positive youth engagement via Police Youth Clubs, and building purposeful relationships with communities and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>PROTECTION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS: WOMEN, LGBT</p> <p>40. Increase measures to ensure that violence and discrimination against members of vulnerable groups, such as women and</p>	<p>The Ministry of National Security is currently engaged in the process of reviewing the Immigration Act and specifically addressing the issue of discrimination in the Act towards LGBT persons.</p>

<p>lesbians, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons, are both prevented and prosecuted (United States);</p>	
<p>SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS</p> <p>41. Intensify programs to combat crime and extreme poverty (Algeria);</p>	<p>With regard to these recommendations, initiatives put in place to address these issues were discussed above under recommendations (11) and (12).</p>
<p>42. Continue and strengthen current efforts to increase the accessibility and quality of health services and education for all its citizens (Cuba);</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education continues to improve the quality of education and education systems. As part of its strategic plan 2011-2015, the Ministry of Education developed three main goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To design and develop a quality education system: Twelve main priorities are aimed at improving the quality of the teaching and learning. 2) To transform the Ministry into a modern, high performing organization: Progress in education depends on effective governance and adequate national policies. Mindful of this, three organizational priorities have been developed for the transformation of the ministry into a high performing organization. 3) To engage stakeholders in the change and transformation process: Successful delivery in education relies on many people and organisations across the

community working together for the benefit of schools. The Ministry and its many stakeholders and benefactors continue to work progressively to improve the quality of education.

As regards health services, the Ministry of Health continues to implement new initiatives to improve access to and the quality of health services. Three important initiatives of the Ministry of Health include:

- United Nations Volunteer (UNV) Doctors to provide primary health care:
In June 2014, an initiative to procure thirty doctors from various countries belonging to the United Nations Volunteer Programme was signed between the Ministry of Health and the UNDP Resident Representative. The doctors will be assigned to primary healthcare facilities across Trinidad and Tobago over the next three years and will enhance the delivery of healthcare services. The volunteer doctors will be heavily utilized to develop and implement wellness programmes. They will conduct activities such as counselling on diet and habits, with a focus on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCDs). Through this initiative, the opening hours of health centres all over the country especially those in rural areas would be extended. This reinforces the commitment of the Health Ministry to ensuring that all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, regardless of economic circumstances will be able to access reliable and quality healthcare.
- Partners Forum Working Committee For Action on Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases:
In September 2011, the Minister of Health presented the instruments of appointment to members of the new “Partners Forum Working Committee For Action On Chronic Non-Communicable Diseases (CNCD) Prevention and Control. The

	<p>Partners' Forum is a new approach established by the Pan American Health Organisation / World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), under its Chronic Disease Program. The goal of the Trinidad and Tobago Partners Forum is to act as both a catalyst and a mechanism for multi-sectoral action to promote health and reduce the burden of chronic diseases on the population. With the appointment of this Partners Forum, Trinidad and Tobago has become the first in the region to implement this new approach spearheaded by PAHO.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Fernando Teaching Hospital: The San Fernando Teaching Hospital was opened in February 2014. The facility has 17 floors and is equipped with modern lecture halls, seminar rooms, laboratories and conference rooms, and rooms for outpatient clinics. It can also accommodate 216 beds and has services for x-ray, ECGs, EEGs, urology testing, ultra sounds, paediatric and gynaecology care.
<p>43. Finalize reforms of the educational system, notably by establishing mandatory schooling for children between 6 and 15 years of age (Algeria);</p>	<p><i>The Education Act, 1996</i> defines the meaning of “compulsory school age” as “any age between six and twelve years and accordingly a person shall be deemed to be of compulsory school age if he has attained the age of six years and has not attained the age of twelve years, and a person shall be deemed to be over compulsory school age as soon as he has attained the age of twelve years.”</p> <p>However, it has been proposed under the new <i>Children’s Act 2012</i> to increase the compulsory school age to between 5 and 16 years of age.</p>
<p>44. Continue to implement its policies and programmes aimed at</p>	<p>Recorded in the last UPR Report, Trinidad and Tobago has achieved universal primary and</p>

<p>promoting universal education and developing a knowledge-based society for long-term sustainable development (Singapore);</p>	<p>secondary school education. Free education is also available for early childhood care and tertiary education.</p>
<p>45. Include Human Rights education and training among its educational programmes, in accordance with the guidelines of the United Nations World Programme for Human Rights Education and Training, both in the first and second stages (Costa Rica);</p>	<p>Human rights education and training has not yet been formally implemented in school curricula.</p>
<p>RIGHTS OF OLDER PERSONS</p> <p>46. Adopt and implement the Draft National Community Care Policy to ensure health and social support serves to older persons in the community (Israel);</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health is currently still in the process of finalizing the Draft Policy.</p>
<p>47. Continue action in order to ensure the full exercise of human rights by the senior citizens of the country (Romania);</p>	<p>The Ministry of the People and Social Development continues to facilitate the various Government programmes that offer services and assistance to senior citizens including, among others, the Older Persons Information Centre (OPIC), which is a toll-free hotline providing information related to the elderly; the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP), whereby the Government funds 100% of the cost of medication for the treatment of certain non-communicable diseases; and the National Poverty Reduction Programme,</p>

	<p>which provides social welfare grants to persons 60 years and over.</p> <p>In addition to the many Government programmes that provide for the socio-economic needs of the elderly that seek to increase the standard of living of senior citizens, the Division of Ageing within the Ministry of the People and Social Development continues to be engaged in several public outreaches in an effort to educate the elderly on the opportunities available to them and their rights. These outreaches have been conducted both at the community level and the national level whereby older persons have the opportunity to learn and be educated about various issues affecting them.</p> <p>In 2013, the Division of Ageing hosted two National Human Rights Seminars with the aim of reaching out and educating as many senior citizens as possible on important human rights issues affecting them. These human rights seminars were held in both islands, in Trinidad and Tobago, as well as broadcast on television and the radio. The purpose of these seminars was not only to provide information, but also to raise awareness with a view to encouraging participation and enforcement of the rights of the elderly so as to prevent elder abuse and neglect.</p>
<p>IRREGULAR MIGRANTS</p> <p>48. Endeavour to sustain the maximum humane care for “illegal immigrants” and assist them to utilize, on a timely basis, the prevailing legal system in the country to address their situation (Ghana).</p>	<p>In 2009, the Government opened the Immigration Detention Centre (IDC). This facility was constructed within the context of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The purpose of the IDC is to operate as a short-term detention for non-nationals and not to be facilitated as a prison or correctional facility. The long term aim is to ensure that these migrants can be successfully repatriated to their respective countries after due process.</p>

The facility maintains the enjoyment of fundamental human rights for the detainees:

- Provision of basic accommodation that would ensure the well-being safety and respect for privacy and inherent dignity of all detainees;
- Provision of prompt and effective physical and mental health services to detainees;
- Provision of a classification system in terms of security risk, gender, disability and age in order to segregate detainees in accordance with standard practices;
- Provisions to allow detainees the freedom to express religious beliefs within the limitations of the necessary security arrangements;
- Provision of recreational activity services in order to maintain physical and mental health of the detainees;
- Provision for detainees with special needs to ensure safety and comfort;
- Provision of a high level of transparency, including visits by representatives of diplomatic missions, consulates and embassies; and
- Enforcement of security and disciplinary measures to ensure prevention of escapes, prevention of self-harm and the safety of detainees and staff.

The Ministry of Health, together with other stakeholders is currently engaged in developing a project to provide undocumented migrants who are living with HIV/AIDS with access to treatment and related services, without prejudice to their status.

It should be noted that public health care institutions and clinics provide all persons regardless of nationality with access to health care and health services free of charge.

Recommendations that Trinidad and Tobago agreed to examine

In October 2011, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago committed to examine during the 12th session of the Human Rights Council 52 recommendations. In March 2012, the Government gave an update relating to the 52 recommendations. Out of the 52, 24 recommendations could not be accepted at that time due to conflicts with existing domestic legislation; 25 of the remaining recommendations were considered for future implementation and 3 recommendations were noted for further consideration. The following refers to updates on the progress of 5 recommendations out of the 25 recommendations considered for future implementation.

UPR Recommendation	Status of Implementation
<p>NATIONAL GENDER POLICY</p> <p>49. Ensure the adoption and coordinated implementation of the National Policy on Gender and Development (Canada)</p>	<p>The National Gender Policy is currently before Cabinet for approval.</p>
<p>CHILD MARRIAGE</p> <p>50. Amend national legislation to endure the minimum age for marriage is in line with its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Israel)</p>	<p>In October 2011, Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar committed her Government to reviewing the marriage laws that provide for marriage of persons under the age of eighteen with the aim of changing the law so as to ensure that children’s rights are protected. Since that time, the Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development has been in consultation with all major stakeholders so as to bring consensus to the standardization of the legal age for marriage. Since the last consultation in 2013, the Government and stakeholders have</p>

<p>51. Legislation be introduced to ensure that the age of marriage is the same for males as for females (New Zealand).</p>	<p>made significant progress on these issues. (See recommendation 18).</p>
<p>CORPORAL PUNISHMENT</p> <p>52. Adopt legislation to prohibit corporal punishment in public and private schools (Costa Rica).</p>	<p>The <i>Children’s Act, 2012</i>, prohibits the use of corporal punishment in schools.</p>
<p>POLICE COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY</p> <p>53. Continue implementing measures to bring police officers responsible for abuses to justice, such as the amendment to the Police Complaints Authority Act, enabling investigation on criminal offences invoking police officers, like corruption and serious misconduct (Canada).</p>	<p>Since the appointment of a new Director to the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) in 2010, the PCA has been very active in its role in investigating police misconduct. The PCA has also not shied away from high profile cases such as the alleged police killings of three civilians in 2012, as well as investigations into the deaths of three pedestrians knocked down by an off-duty police officer.</p> <p>The PCA has also engaged in community outreaches, educating the public on its role in criminal justice.</p> <p>(See also recommendation 5).</p>
<p>MIGRANTS</p> <p>54. Strengthen the protection safeguards, in particular the control</p>	<p>In 2011, the Ministry of National Security initiated consultations in relation to developing a formal policy to deal with asylum seekers and refugees. In 2014, a Draft National Policy was approved by Cabinet. This policy provides a framework for Trinidad and Tobago to conduct</p>

<p>mechanisms that allow the detection of cases of migrants with special needs for international protection (Chile).</p>	<p>its own Refugee Status Determination procedure to ascertain claims for refugee status, a procedure which is currently conducted by the UNHCR in Washington D.C. The draft policy promotes the systematic development of this capability over a three year period through a phased approach.</p> <p>It is anticipated that the implementation of this policy will allow for Trinidad and Tobago to process asylum seeker and refugee applications more efficiently with a view to implementing legislation in the near future, and thus meeting its international obligations under the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol.</p>
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