



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Priority: **HIGH**

Social Development commemorates World Down Syndrome Day!

Port-of-Spain --- The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services joins with the international community on the occasion of World Down Syndrome Day(WDSD) on March 21. WDSD is dedicated to raising greater awareness, inclusivity, advocacy and support for persons who live with Down Syndrome.

The essence of WDSD is to raise awareness, change attitudes, raise expectations, support equality and champion inclusion. In other words, this day is essential to highlight that persons with Down Syndrome can achieve an optimal quality of life once they are given the support needed. This facilitates their participation in mainstream society and the fulfilment of their personal potential.

This year's theme, 'What Inclusion Means?', highlights the need for a path towards Disability Inclusion throughout all areas. Inclusion is the attitude, trend or policy of integrating all people into society, with an aim that all persons can participate and contribute to and benefit from all aspects of society. Inclusion speaks to ensuring that all individuals or social groups, especially those who face segregation or marginalization, can have the same possibilities and opportunities to fulfil their potential as individuals.

In her message to the national community, Senator the Honourable Donna Cox stated that she is pleased that the work of the Ministry has been congruent with the need to promote inclusion in Trinidad and Tobago.

According to Minister Cox, "It is our goal and commitment that persons with disabilities continue to be mainstreamed in all aspects of society, education, employment, sport, leisure and recreation."

Minister Cox further stated that the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services cannot achieve inclusion for persons with Down Syndrome or any other disability without the collaboration of each Ministry, Statutory Body, Agencies, NGOs and most importantly each citizen.

The Ministry remains committed to promoting the inclusion of the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities.

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For more information:

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