



Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity

Public Hearing Summary

Friday November 24, 2017 at 10:43 a.m.

Topic:

Follow- up Inquiry into the Implementation of the Recommendations of the 2015 Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Diversity, the Environment and Sustainable Development **on the Examination of the Programmes and Services which Provide Support to Victims of Domestic Violence.**

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the public hearing:

- Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, MP – Chairman
- Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP – Vice- Chairman
- Mr. Dennis Moses- Member
- Mrs. Vidia Gayadeen Gopeesingh, MP - Member
- Dr. Dhanayshar Mahabir – Member

Witnesses who Appeared:

Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)

- Ms. Jaqueline Johnson Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Antoinette Jack-Martin Director, Gender Affairs
- Ms. Patricia Hackett Gender Training Officer, Gender Affairs Division
- Mr. Kwasi Cudjoe Coordinator, Male Programme, Gender Affairs Division
- Mr. Owen Hender Manager, Policy, Research and Planning

Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (MSDFS)

- Mrs. Jacinta Bailey-Sobers Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Vijay Gangapersad Chief Technical Officer (Ag.)
- Mrs. Vidya Pooransingh Director, National Family Services Division (NFSD)

Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS)

- Mr. Harold Phillip Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ag.), Crime and Support

- Mr. Deodat Dulalchan Deputy Commissioner of Police (Ag.), Operations
- Ms. Aisha Corbie Manager, Victim and Witness Support Unit
- Ms. Bernadette Sealey Victim and Witness Support Officer

Key Issues Discussed were:

1. The status of the recruitment to fill the vacancies in the Domestic Violence Unit;
2. The current number, adequacy and opening hours of safe houses in Trinidad and Tobago;
3. The status of the four shelters under construction/refurbishment by the Ministry of Works and Transport;
4. The response time of the TTPS after receiving a report of domestic violence;
5. The procedure by the VWSU after receiving a report of an incident of domestic violence;
6. The counselling services available at the NFSD and the VWSU for the perpetrators of domestic violence;
7. The need for strengthened coordination amongst the various stakeholders of domestic violence inclusive of the MSDFS, VWSU and OPM;
8. The factors that determine the choice of radio station and time slot for the 'Let's Talk' Radio Programme;
9. The various outreach initiatives done by the TTPS, MSDPF and OPM to sensitize the citizenry on domestic violence;
10. The current status of the Central Registry on Domestic Violence and the need for information sharing of the data collected by the Central Registry on Domestic Violence to other stakeholders of domestic violence;
11. The 24/7 availability of the VWSU personnel and shelters to victims of domestic violence;
12. The process used to track the enforcements of protection orders and response time of the TTPS to reported breaches to protection orders of perpetrators of domestic violence;
13. The current VWSU staffing and infrastructure at police stations; and

14. The placement of domestic violence victims into a shelter via a referral process through domestic violence hotline 800-SAVE.

View the Hearing:

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/v5rZFOsBpK8>

Contact Information:

You may contact the Committee's Secretary at jschumanrights@tparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2288/2627.

Committees Unit
November 27, 2017