



## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Police Administration Building,  
Corner Edward & Sackville Streets, Port of Spain  
Telephone: 1 (868) 625-8395 Facsimile: 1 (868) 625-7133  
Email: [corporatecommunications@ttps.gov.tt](mailto:corporatecommunications@ttps.gov.tt)

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Police, Mediators, Social Workers Join Arms to Tackle Conflict**

Several volunteer mediators, social workers, counsellors and other members of civil society heeded the call of the Community Conflict Resolution Centre (CCRC) to join arms to tackle the scourge of conflict and violence within communities.

At its first meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> at the St. Joseph Community Centre, St. Joseph, there were over 50 volunteers and professionals in attendance who pledged their support to assist the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service's (TTPS) fight against crime, particularly domestic violence and conflicts.

Since registration began on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 169 volunteers enlisted, spanning organisations such as the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine Campus, the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC) and various non-governmental and faith-based organisations.

The CCRC is a partnership between the St. Joseph Police Youth Club, headed by Leader, WPC Sascha Williams-Goddard, who is also the Coordinating Officer of the CCRC, and Ms. Jeneice De Coteau, founder and senior mediator of the Officium Training Ltd.

According to Ms. De Coteau, the CCRC intends to reduce the number of incidents of violent crime across the country through outreach and sensitisation activities, training and assisting with various school intervention programmes.

All volunteers are to undergo a full on boarding process which comprises of verification or vetting, followed by an orientation programme before being integrated into the staff of the centre.

Commissioner of Police (Ag.), Mc Donald Jacob, commended the volunteers for their "willingness and commitment" to supporting the crime-fighting efforts of the TTPS by offering their time, skills and experiences in their respective fields.

Referring to the recent report of homicide where a woman allegedly stabbed her male companion at their Prizgar lands home, CoP (Ag.) Jacob called upon those present to "put their skills to work by reaching the communities and teaching life skills and anger management among other skills to those vulnerable groups who really need the help of state agencies and service providers."

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He also indicated that TTPS is partnering with key stakeholders such as the Ministries of Social Development and Family Services, Education, Youth and National Services and the TTPS' Community Justice Clinic.

Also in attendance were Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Operations, Joanne Archie, ACP (Ag.), Criminal Division, Sharon Gomez-Cooper, Superintendent of Police (Ag.), North-Central Division, Area West, David Powder, Coordinator of Social Work Practicum at UWI St Augustine, Dr Cheryl-Ann Boodram, Head Mediation Unit, UWI, Mrs Ann Diaz and Lecturer, USC, Dr Kenneth Niles.

**SEE ACCOMPANYING PHOTOGRAPHS**

**Corporate Communications Unit**

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