



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

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MEDIA RELEASE

TTPS, “Be SMART, Think Before Choosing Gun Violence”

As the vibrant rhythms of Carnival fill the air and the nation prepares for the celebration of the Greatest Show on Earth, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) urges all citizens and visitors to embrace peace and non-violence.

The TTPS has observed a concerning rise in altercations escalating to gun violence, and we implore individuals to have restraint, think about the consequences of your actions, choose dialogue and responsible conflict resolution and if the tensions are running too high simply walk away from what could be a dangerous and deadly situation.

Throughout this Carnival season we have promoted our **SMART** campaign, advising and encouraging the public to practice **SAFETY MEASURES AGAINST REAL THREATS**, so this Carnival when tensions run high, these are the best times to be **SMART**.

Remember that a moment of anger can have lifelong consequences:

Think twice, three times or even four times if needed, be **SMART** before resorting to violence. It's never the right answer and can shatter lives in an instant.

Our Carnival is a celebration of life, our creativity, our passion and unity. Leave the weapons behind and embrace the true spirit of Carnival.

We know we are in a period where alcohol consumption is high. We know alcohol consumption can lead to conflict and when firearms are added to the mix, this has the potential to be a recipe for disaster.

To those who are holders of Firearm User's Licences:

Remember the immense responsibility you hold. Treat your firearm with the utmost respect and only use it in legal self-defence situations.

Members of the public are asked to like and follow the TTPS via our [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for the latest news and information on matters of interest to the general public.

And to those who are in possession of illegal firearms, we will be out in our numbers, if you are caught in possession of illegal firearms, you will be arrested, charged and while others are enjoying their Ash Wednesday cool down you will be facing the courts.

Think **SMART** before you act. In the heat of a moment, taking action with a firearm can have tragic and irrevocable consequences.

Here are some **SMART** ways to manage conflict:

Walk away: Sometimes, removing yourself from a tense situation is the best course of action.

Talk it out: Talk calmly and openly with the other person to try and understand their perspective.

Reach out for help: If you feel overwhelmed or unable to resolve a conflict on your own, seek help from a trusted friend, or family member.

The TTPS stands ready to ensure a safe and enjoyable Carnival for all. If you witness any crime or suspicious activity, do not hesitate to report it to the nearest police station or by calling 555, 911 or 999.

Be **SMART** and have a safe and unforgettable Carnival 2024.

Corporate Communications Unit

February 10th, 2024

END