



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE

WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

to recommendations made in the

***Fourth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity
Second Session (2016/2017) of the Eleventh Parliament***

on

The Systems in Place to Protect Children from Abuse

Findings – Objective 1

To examine the adequacy of programmes and services for the detection, reduction and treatment of child abuse and teenage pregnancy

Recommendation 4.26: The Committee recommends the finalisation of the Trinidad & Tobago National Child Abuse Protocol: A Guide for Stakeholders by July 2017

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation.

Recommendation 4.27: The Committee recommends that the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) seek additional funding to address the infrastructural deficits at the Community Residences and Rehabilitation Centres.

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation.

Recommendation 4.28: The Committee acknowledges the programmes and services provided by the agencies and suggests that the agencies broaden programmes and sensitisation sessions to ensure a wider range of awareness amongst the population

Response: The TTPS will continue to utilise initiatives such as the Police Youth Clubs and Visits to Schools as well as social and traditional media to raise awareness amongst the population.



Recommendation 4.29: The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Education (MOE) introduce regular sexual education programmes and sensitisation sessions in primary and secondary schools, to minimise the number of students becoming sexually active during the ages of ten (10) to seventeen (17).

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation.

Recommendation 4.30: The Committee suggests that increased child sexual abuse sensitisation sessions be conducted in the South-Western area of Trinidad by the Children's Authority of Trinidad & Tobago (CATT) and the Trinidad & Tobago Police Service (TTPS).

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation. This will be pursued through the Community Policing Section of the organization.

Recommendation 4.31: The Committee recommends that the OPM increase the funding to the CATT to allow for increased child abuse programmes and services.

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation.

Recommendation 4.32: The Committee recommends that the MOE, the TTPS and the CATT take steps to reduce the critical shortage of qualified human resources at their facilities.

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation.



Recommendation 4.33: The Committee recommends that the Ministry of National Security, through the TTPS increase budgetary allocation for the Child Protection Unit (CPU) to increase the number of sub-units available in each division of the TTPS especially for the larger divisions.

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation. The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Child Protection Unit (CPU) has one sub-unit in each of the nine police geographical divisions. However if the sub-units are increased it is to be noted that funding and other provisions would also have to be made for increased staffing.

Findings – Objective 2

To determine the adequacy of legislation in protecting children from abuse.

Recommendations 4.38: Given the amendments to the child related Acts proposed in Schedule 5 of the Family and Child Division Act (FCDA), the Committee recommends that Schedule 5 of the FCDA be proclaimed as soon as possible to implement the amendments in the Act.

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation.

Recommendation 4.39: The Committee recommends the MOE create a policy that mandates the teaching of sexual education to the students in both primary and secondary schools.

Response: The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is in agreement with this recommendation.