



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

MEDIA RELEASE

May 4, 2022

Dear Editor / Head of Department,

Teachers to receive UNICEF-sponsored training in Positive Behaviour Management

As the Ministry of Education (MoE) continues to develop and implement strategies to reduce incidences of violence in schools, it has collaborated with the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) to conduct the first phase of a training programme titled, "Positive Behaviour Support" (PBS). This programme will be executed through the MoE's Teacher Education, Performance and Professional Development Division (TEPPDD), and seeks to sensitise and train educators to use proactive strategies to deter students from displaying inappropriate and/or violent behaviours. The programme targets School Supervisors, Principals, Deans of Discipline and two teachers each of twenty-eight (28) selected Primary and Secondary schools in Trinidad.

The Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) training programme will be conducted virtually on May 6th and 12th, 2022, and will address key issues such as the impact of teacher bias on discipline, understanding factors that influence student behaviour, contrasting Positive Behaviour Support with traditional forms of discipline and recognizing the limitations of traditional discipline. Participants will also identify five (5) strategies they can use in their schools to manage student behaviour. What is also critical, from the teacher's perspective, is the need for them to develop self-awareness and establish a self-care plan, guidance for both of which are included in the training programme.

Education Minister, Dr. the Hon. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, continues to work with partner Ministries on an all of government approach to the reduction of school violence. "There is the need for discipline, positive behaviour management, social work intervention and strategies aimed toward reformation. Though school violence is not new nor unique to Trinidad and Tobago, our goal must be its elimination, and therefore with the support of UNICEF, our partner Ministries, teachers, parents and students, we can change the trajectory of our current reality."

According to Dr. Lisa McClean-Trotman, Social and Behaviour Change Specialist, UNICEF Office for the Eastern Caribbean Area, *"Positive discipline or Positive Behavioral Management (PBM) is a strategy that has been used across the Eastern Caribbean as a way of preventing emotional and physical violence in children. It encompasses proactive strategies which prevent violence, as well as reactive strategies which help to respond to inappropriate behaviour in non-violent ways."* One of the activities under the Trinidad and Tobago Spotlight Programme is to sensitize educators on positive discipline in virtual as well as face-to-face settings.

This programme has a history that dates back to September 2017, when the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) launched an ambitious partnership to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls worldwide called the Spotlight Initiative (SI). The Initiative aims primarily at ending all forms of violence against women and girls (VAWG), targeting those that are most prevalent and contribute to gender inequality across the world. It continues to deploy targeted, large-scale investments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, the Pacific, and the Caribbean, aimed at achieving significant improvements in the lives of women and girls. Grenada has already benefitted from this transformative initiative.

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