Advance version

Distr.: General
18 September 2026

Original: English

Human Rights Council
Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
Fifty-third session
Geneva, 2–13 November 2026

National report submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21*

Trinidad and Tobago

Advance version

* The present document is being issued without formal editing.

Introduction

1. The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago hereby submits its National Report for the Fourth (4th) Cycle Universal Periodic Review (UPR) before the Human Rights Council (HRC). The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) is pleased to inform of the significant advancement in human rights protections achieved in response to the recommendations accepted in the 3rd UPR Cycle. Significant legislative, policy, institutional and operational advancements have been made to ensure the protection and enjoyment of all fundamental rights and freedoms in accordance with our human rights treaty obligations and as enshrined in our Constitution.

I. Methodology

A. National Monitoring, Implementation, Reporting and Follow-Up (NMIRF) – noted recommendations 109.31 and 109.36

2. The recommendations from Trinidad and Tobago's 3rd UPR Cycle were circulated and requests for submissions made to all Government Ministries and Agencies.

B. Key agency and relevant stakeholder consultation

3. The International Law and Human Rights Unit (ILHRU) in the Office of the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago (OAG), is the national mechanism responsible for reporting and following up on the recommendations received from human rights bodies. As such, the ILHRU has prepared the 4th Cycle UPR. A consultative approach was adopted, with stakeholder consultations being convened from 16 April 2026 to 1 May 2026, with all Government Ministries and Agencies, including independent institutions such as the Police Complaints Authority and the Ombudsman. Similar consultations were conducted with the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), regarding the administration of Tobago affairs.

4. A wide cross-section of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) across both islands were also invited to participate. The criteria established for choosing civil society organizations for consultation was based on longevity, levels of activity and geographical reach. The master NGO list received from the Companies Registry was broken down into a smaller list of organisations which engaged in activities under the major thematic areas mentioned in the UN Recommendations List and a Trend Analysis prepared by the country; inter alia women, children, persons with disabilities, SDGs and climate change. Timelines were established, with agencies invited to provide further written input on progress and planned actions within their mandates.

II. Developments since 3rd cycle

Elections

5. On 28 April 2025, National General Elections was held in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. The United National Congress (UNC) obtained the majority vote, winning 26 seats, to the People National Movement's 13 seats. The Honourable, Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar, S.C., M.P, became Prime Minister for the second time, since first serving in 2010–2015. The Tobago People's Party (TPP) won both Tobago seats in the national Parliament.

6. On 12 January 2026, Tobago House of Assembly (THA) elections saw the ruling Tobago People's Party (TPP) win all 15 seats; with party leader, Mr. Farley Augustine, being re-elected as the Chief Secretary of the Assembly.

Advance version

Cooperation and follow-up with treaty bodies

Noted recommendation: 109.30

7. Trinidad and Tobago continues to place importance on remaining compliant with its international treaty reporting obligations. To that end, in October 2023, a delegation from the Office of the Attorney General defended the country's Fifth Periodic Report for the International Convenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) before the Human Rights Committee in Geneva, Switzerland. This report was in abeyance 21 years prior to its submission in 2021.

8. In June 2026, Trinidad and Tobago submitted its Combined 8th and 9th Periodic Reports for Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Reponses to the List of Issues in consideration of the Initial Report on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) is being prepared for submission ahead of the Constructive Dialogue carded for August 2027.

9. Notably, under the strategic leadership of The Honourable, Kamla Persad-Bissessar S.C., Prime Minister, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago secured a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for the 2027-2028 term. The country's campaign was focused around three (3) strategic pillars:

(a) Curbing the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons;

(b) Women and Children, Peace and Security; and

(c) Artificial Intelligence and Global Security.

10. Trinidad and Tobago continues to adopt a merit-based process of appointing national candidates to United Nations Treaty Bodies, with the most distinguished candidate being selected.

III. Implementation of recommendations from 3rd cycle

A. Cross cutting issues

Human rights and climate change

Accepted recommendations: 108.9, 108.10, 108.11, 108.12
Noted recommendation: 109.52

11. Trinidad and Tobago is particularly vulnerable to the environmental and developmental impacts of climate change. The GORTT, recognising this urgent domestic and global threat, accepted several recommendations on the implementation of effective climate action and disaster risk reduction policies, with a view to strengthen local communities' resilience.

12. Trinidad and Tobago has signed and ratified several key international climate agreements including: (i) the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); (ii) its Kyoto Protocol; and (iii) the Paris Agreement. These international principles have been broadly incorporated into the domestic legislative and policy frameworks, by the Ministry of Planning (MoP), through:

(a) The Environmental Management Act, Chapter 35:05;

(b) The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP);

(c) The National Environmental Policy (NEP);

(d) The 2026–2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP); and

(e) The National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

13. The **updated National Climate Change Policy (NCCP 2025)**, adopted in June 2025, incorporates relevant provisions of the Paris Agreement. The NCCP 2025 provides a

Advance version

comprehensive framework for mitigation and adaptation while recognizing climate change as a significant threat to human health, livelihoods, and overall quality of life. The policy emphasizes the protection of fundamental rights such as access to food, water, and a safe environment, and promotes equitable participation by ensuring that vulnerable groups, including the elderly, youth, and marginalized communities, are actively included in decision-making processes. It also supports a transition toward a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy, with particular emphasis on advancing the National Adaptation Plan and strengthening health system resilience.

14. Climate considerations have been integrated into national development strategies across key sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture, and water resources, as well as through broader environmental governance frameworks. The National Environmental Policy (NEP), particularly its provisions on climate change mitigation and adaptation and comprehensive environmental and disaster management, outlines complementary initiatives to support sustainable development and risk reduction. In parallel, Trinidad and Tobago's 2026–2030 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which is before the Cabinet, promotes resilience by minimizing climate impacts on biodiversity and enhancing the benefits that ecosystems provide to people.

15. Further, the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) focuses on reducing vulnerabilities and ensuring an adequate adaptation response to global warming. The NAP satisfies Article 7 of the Paris Agreement.

16. The GORTT also advances inclusive and participatory governance as a cornerstone of its climate strategy, actively engaging NGOs, community groups, and the private sector in climate-related initiatives to foster public involvement and empowerment. Trinidad and Tobago's implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030) reinforces an all-of-society approach to resilience.

B. Civil and political rights

1. Constitutional and legislative framework

Accepted recommendations: 108.1, 108.5

17. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GORTT) remains committed to protecting the fundamental rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Chapter 1:01 (Republican Constitution) for all persons, without discrimination by reason of race, origin, colour, religion or sex.

18. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Special Reserve Police and Police Complaints Authority) Act, 2021 was assented to on 19th July, 2021 and is awaiting Presidential Proclamation. Effectively, the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) is now able to receive and investigate legitimate complaints of disciplinary misconduct by Special Reserve Police Officers and Municipal Police Officers, which were previously non-actionable. The Authority can now make recommendations for disciplinary action for consideration by the Commissioner of Police and the Assistant Commissioner of Municipal Police.

19. The Miscellaneous Provisions (Administration of Justice) Act, 2020 was operationalised by way of Presidential Proclamation on 24 December, 2020. Effectively, the PCA is now listed as an interested party in Coronial Proceedings and must be given notice of proceedings involving the death of a person which is, or has been, the subject of an investigation monitored, audited or carried out by the Authority. The Authority is able to witness evidence being given first hand. Consequently, enabling the Authority to discharge a key function of making informed recommendations for creation, reform and improvement of police procedures.

Advance version

2. National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)

Accepted recommendation: 108.2
Noted recommendations: 109.32, 109.33, 109.34, 109.35, 109.37

20. Consideration has been given to the possibility of establishing a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) properly accredited under the Paris Principles.

3. Right to life, liberty and security of person

Accepted Recommendation: 108.13

21. The GORTT remains committed to ensuring the safety and security of its people through the implementation of a robust legislative and policy framework to combat the scourging rates of violent crimes, particularly homicides, gang-related activities and home invasions, and ultimately address the root causes of criminality. Domestic legislation prioritizes the protection of life and property, public safety, and the rule of law.

22. On 20 January 2026, the Home Invasion (Self-Defence and Defence of Property) Act, 2025 (Act. No.11 of 2025) was operationalized by Presidential Proclamation. The Act establishes the offence of home invasion, and in that context, enables the occupants of a dwelling to utilize defensive force, including deadly force, when acting in self-defence, defence of others and their property. The Act makes it clear that an occupant has no duty to retreat from a home invader at his dwelling house. The penalty for commission of this offence is conviction on indictment to a fine of $500,000 dollars and to imprisonment for 20years. The penalty may be increased to conviction on indictment of a fine of $750,000 dollars and to imprisonment for 25years in cases where aggravating circumstances exist, such as the perpetrator is (a) acting as a gang member; (b) as a participant in an organised criminal activity; or (c) in the presence of a child, senior citizen, person with a disability or otherwise vulnerable person.

23. To safeguard proportionality, Section 6 (2) of the Act requires the Court to take into account several mitigating factors when determining whether the defensive force used was reasonable in the circumstances. *Inter alia* (a) the nature of the force or threat; (b) the imminence of the threat and whether there were alternative means of responding to the potential use of force; (c) the occupant's role in the incident; (d) the used or threatened use a weapon, firearm, or an explosive device; (e) the size, age, gender and apparent physical capabilities of the parties to the incident; (f) whether any parties has a mental disorder within the meaning of the Mental Health Act; (g) history between the parties…(k) possibility of retreat…amongst others.

4. Administration of justice

24. Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to implementing legislative measures to relieve judicial backlog in the criminal justice system. In this regard, the proclamation of The Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) Act, 2011, as amended ("AJIPA") on 12 December 2023, has materially changed the prosecution and management of indictable criminal matters in Trinidad and Tobago. AJIPA repealed and replaced the former preliminary enquiry system which proceeded before the Magistrates' Court. The new pre-trial procedure for indictable matters falling within the AJIPA framework, is managed in the High Court through a structured process in which the prosecution is required to place the indictment, witness statements, documentary evidence and exhibits before the Court within fixed timelines. The Master then determines, at the sufficiency hearing, whether the evidence discloses a prima facie case that an indictable offence has been committed and by the accused.

25. This reform has significantly removed the preliminary enquiry bottleneck; ensured prosecutorial readiness from the sufficiency stage; reduced the need for oral evidence and witness attendance at the pre-trial stage; as sufficiency hearings are generally conducted based on written submissions and documentary evidence unless otherwise directed by the Court.

26. AJIPA has tangibly reduced delay in matters proceeding to trial. At the opening of the 2025/2026 Law Term, the Honourable Chief Justice acknowledged that AJIPA had yielded

Advance version

measurable improvements in the processing of criminal matters, noting that 73% of AJIPA matters and 62% of pre-AJIPA matters were determined without a trial. Judge-alone trials have also become an increasingly important feature of the criminal justice landscape, with 16% of AJIPA matters and 25% of pre-AJIPA matters being determined through that process. These statistics illustrate the capacity of the current framework to process complex criminal matters in a fraction of the time required under the previous procedural model, thereby enhancing judicial efficiency and the timely administration of justice.

27. Beyond delay, AJIPA has strengthened the case management system of the High Court. Under the Criminal Procedure Rules, 2023.

28. The Honourable Attorney General has acknowledged the notable successes in speeding up trials since AJIPA's introduction. While recognising that challenges still remain, particularly with respect to police access to judicial officers during urgent investigations. Since its proclamation, the Act has been amended three times with the aim of addressing these challenges. The Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) (Amendment) (No. 2) Act, 2024 ensured that the Indictable Offences (Preliminary Enquiry) Act, the former system, remains legally effective solely for the purposes of extradition proceedings, with effect from 12 December 2023, thereby clarifying that the abolition of the preliminary enquiry system did not inadvertently disrupt the Republic's obligations under its extradition treaties. The Administration of Justice (Indictable Proceedings) (Amendment) Act, 2025 subsequently addressed jurisdictional questions regarding the roles of Magistrates and Justices of the Peace within the new High Court-led system, with a key provision allowing Justices of the Peace, under specific conditions, to exercise concurrent jurisdiction with Masters to grant bail, fix the amount of bail and take recognisances.

5. States of emergency

29. In Trinidad and Tobago, to address serious threats to public safety, particularly escalating gang violence, firearm-related offences, organised criminal activity and retaliatory killings various States of Emergency have been declared as extraordinary constitutional measures. The Emergency Powers Regulations (“the Regulations”) granted enhanced powers to law enforcement agencies to allow for rapid intervention against suspected gang activity and disruptions of criminal networks; ultimately protecting citizens from harm.

30. The Regulations empower members of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) and the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force (TTDF) to conduct searches of persons, vehicles, vessels and premises without warrant establish security checkpoints and arrest individuals where reasonable suspicion exists. Preventive detention of persons considered to be a threat to public safety is facilitated under the Regulations, pursuant to Section 7 of the Constitution. Notably, no curfews were imposed.

31. The Emergency Powers Regulations operate within the confines of the Republican Constitution which seeks to preserve rule of law and prevent arbitrary exercise of state power. The Regulations are buttressed by procedural safeguards to ensure fairness and proportionality. The Regulations provides that initial detention cannot exceed 48 hours. Detention can be subsequently extended upon the authorisation of a Magistrate or a police officer ranking as Assistant Superintendent or higher for up to seven days to facilitate inquiries. The Regulations further permit the Minister of Homeland Security to issue a Preventive Detention Order (PDOs) if it is in the interest of public safety or in the defence of Trinidad and Tobago. A person against whom a PDO is issued, may be detained for the duration of the SOE, unless released earlier.

32. The right to due process is also firmly enshrined within the emergency powers framework. Consistent with Section 11 of the Constitution, persons detained under PDOs, may apply to the Review Tribunal (“the Tribunal”). The Tribunal appointed under the authority of the Chief Justice and chaired by an attorney-at-law, may make recommendations on continued detention to the Minister, who retains discretion to accept said recommendations. The existence of the Tribunal reflects an important Constitutional safeguard against arbitrary detention and re-emphasises a right of hearing and appeal for detainees to challenge their continued detention.

Advance version

33. To safeguard access to justice, detainees have a right to legal representation, before the Tribunal. Where the detainee is unable to afford counsel, the Tribunal may assign counsel through legal aid, in the interest of the justice.

34. Further, while ordinary bail procedures and writs of habeas corpus are limited for persons detained under PDOs, individuals retain the right to seek constitutional redress and judicial review where there are allegations of inappropriate exercise of power by public authorities, as affirmed in CV2025-03973 *Denesh Maharaj v Assistant Superintendent of Police (Ag.) Anthony St. Clair and the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago [2026] HC* (reference is made to paragraphs 45-46, 49-53, 62-63).

35. As a safeguard to proportionality, where allegations of police misconduct arise, there are two bodies internal to the TTPS that investigate such claims. The Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) investigates serious police misconduct, including excessive use of force; while the Police Complaints Division (PCD) investigates disciplinary matters. Where allegations of police misconduct involve very senior officers such as the Commissioner of Police, the matter is referred to the Police Service Commission (PSC).

36. Additionally, the Police Complaints Authority (PCA), functions as an independent civilian oversight body, to investigate criminal offences involving police corruption and serious police misconduct, resulting in death or serious injury. The Authority's thorough investigation of complaints falling within its remit, involves several stages, ending in recommendations on the appropriate course of action. Evidence gathered by the PCA, may be furnished to the DPP for the prosecution of a crime involving a police officer or committed by civilian in relation to the Police Service; and/or such evidence may be furnished to the Commissioner of Police (COP), the Assistant Commissioner or the Police Service Commission (PSC) to be used in the internal investigation of serious police misconduct of officers resulting in disciplinary action.

37. The work of the PCA not only bolsters police accountability but reinforces public confidence in independent oversight. Findings that substantiate allegations are referred to relevant stakeholders; while findings that disprove allegations serve to vindicate legitimate law enforcement conduct. Both outcomes contribute to improved policing standards and strengthened public trust.

38. Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to protecting citizen's Constitutional freedoms of expression, thought and political participation, in accordance with Sections 4 (e), (g), (h), (i) and (j) of the Republican Constitution. During a SOE these rights may be subject to limitation in the interest of achieving the State's primary obligation to ensure public safety and the protection of all persons.

6. Rule of law and impunity

Accepted recommendation: 108.15

39. Matters involving police-involved shooting and the excessive use of force are investigated both internally by the Professional Standards Bureau (PSB) and independently by the Police Complaints Authority (PCA). Investigations have resulted in several police officers being arrested, charged and convicted by the Courts.

7. Criminal justice reform and conditions of detention

Accepted recommendation: 108.14
Noted recommendations: 109.62, 109.63, 109.64, 109.65, 109.67, 109.68

40. As part of the GORTT's commitment to comprehensive criminal justice reform, critical focus has been placed on legislative and policy implementation to address prison overcrowding, pre-trial detention, improve detention conditions and facilitate inmate and detainee rehabilitation and reintegration. The Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Act, 2026, was assented to on 29 April 2026 and is awaiting Presidential Proclamation. The Act introduces a "split sentencing" regime which authorises the courts to impose sentences where an offender serves a defined period of incarceration followed by a subsequent mandatory term of supervised probation. Offenders who breach probation conditions are required to

Advance version

serve the entirety of their original sentence. Successful completion of probation allows the offender to apply to have their records sealed, removing barriers to employment and travel.

41. The Parole Act, 2026, was passed by the House of Representatives on 13 May 2026 and in the Senate on 19 May 2026 and is awaiting Presidential Proclamation. It establishes a Parole Board, comprising of 9 members appointed by the President. The Board will operate independently and is responsible recommending the early release of prisoners who meet strict eligibility criteria.

42. The intended long-term cumulative effect of these pieces of legislation, is the reduction of custodial sentences by introducing alternatives of split sentencing and supervised early release, which will significantly relieve the overburdened and overcrowded prison system. The prioritisation of rehabilitation aims to significantly reduce recidivism rates and ensure proper reintegration into society.

43. In a similar vein, the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act, 2026, further supports offender rehabilitation by allowing certain convictions to become spent or expunged where the offender has not been reconvicted of a serious offence within a defined period, thereby reducing barriers to reintegration into society. Presidential Assent was granted on 1 June 2026 and the Act is currently awaiting proclamation.

44. In relation to conditions of detention, the Trinidad and Tobago Prison Service (TTPrS) meets UN Standard Minimum Rules by ensuring that health, hygiene, nutritional and social needs of inmates are provided on a daily basis. The TTPrS has embarked on physical facility upgrades at the Remand Prison facility at Golden Grove to improve detention conditions.

45. Additionally, the Eastern Correctional and Rehabilitation Centre is now being used as an intake facility to ensure accurate inmate classification.

46. TTPrS continues to deliver religious, educational, skills training, cultural and recreational and other rehabilitative programmes to inmates and detainees, through collaboration with several internal and external stakeholders. These include: the Offender Management and Corrections, Programs and Industry Department; the Welfare Department; inmates' families and relatives; the NGO Vision-On-Mission. Moreover, TTPrS continues to forge national, regional and international partnerships with correctional professionals and agencies, geared towards improving institutional and staff capabilities for the better management and control of all categories of inmates.

8. Good governance and corruption

Accepted recommendation: 108.8

47. The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act, 2015 (as amended) was fully proclaimed on 26 April 2023, by way of Legal Notice 106 of 2023. The OPR is fully functional and exercises its powers pursuant to the parent Act.

9. Human trafficking and contemporary forms of slavery

Accepted recommendations:108.16, 108.17, 108.18, 109.19, 108.20, 108.21, 108.22, 108.23
Noted recommendations: 109.62, 109.70, 109.71, 109.72

48. The Ministry of Homeland Security, through the Counter-Trafficking Unit (CTU), continues to work assiduously to strengthen the existing legislative, policy and procedural framework to combat human trafficking. The CTU focuses on prevention efforts, protection mechanism, investigation, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators; while providing adequate assistance to victims, particularly women and children through partnerships with the public sector and international organisations. The National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons is currently being updated.

49. For the period 2013-2024, there were 85 persons before the court for trafficking and other related offences. Significantly, Trinidad and Tobago recorded its first conviction for the offence of trafficking in persons in 2023 and its second in 2025. While there appears to

Advance version

be disproportionality in conviction rates verses prosecution rates, convictions are affected by several factors, including:

(a) the unwillingness of victims to co-operate in police investigations;

(b) a desire for repatriation to the country of origin;

(c) or a preference for repatriation to a new country;

(d) Victims cannot be forced to assist the police. Pursuant to **section 39 of the TIPs Act**, the Minister must facilitate the safe return of victims of trafficking (VOT) and any accompanying dependent children to their countries of citizenship or lawful residence;

(e) Victims who assist in investigations which results in a prosecution; may choose to return to the country of origin pending trial.

50. Notwithstanding same, the CTU continues to take concrete steps to secure more convictions by strengthening its evidence and intelligence gathering capacity and carrying out more intelligence-led operations to dismantle trafficking networks operating in Trinidad and Tobago. The CTU continues to partner with local law enforcement agencies, including various specialised united within the TTPS, Immigration Division, Customs and Exercise Division, the Strategic Services Agency and the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force to conduct operations. Additionally, the Unit partners with regional countries and agencies for information exchange.

51. As it relates to victim support, section 37 of the TIPs Act stipulates that all VOTs are entitled to inter alia housing and medical assistance. Additionally, in instances where there may be an imminent threat to the safety of a VOT, they may be entitled to relocation; a new identity and documents establishing identity; new residence; and protection of confidentiality of identity and location, pursuant to section 33. Long-term support services, include educational and vocational opportunities to equip victims with skills to obtain employment and self-sufficiency to "restart" their lives.

52. Optional and voluntary repatriation is available to all victims and may occur within a short period post-rescue; at the end of the police investigation, or upon completion of the entire criminal prosecution. Pursuant to section 39, where a victim wishes to be repatriated, the Minister will facilitate same through the appropriate Embassy. With respect to minor victims, the Children's Court must make an order for repatriation. This is done once a Suitability Assessment Report is completed by the victim's home country and there is a recommendation for reunification/reintegration. The CTU continues to place the well-being of victims as a central pillar of its work.

53. The CTU has taken steps to not only strengthen its investigations into the substantive offence of Human Trafficking, but also Money Laundering under the Proceeds of Crime Act, Chapter 11:27. It is intended that any and/or all "criminal property" will be seized in accordance with existing Asset Recovery frameworks, thereby financially crippling trafficking networks.

C. Economic, social and cultural rights

1. Labour rights and right to work

Accepted recommendations:108.45, 108.53, 108.56, 108.6

54. Protecting the right of workers and employees remains a high priority for the GORTT. The national minimum wage of Trinidad and Tobago was increased from $17.50 TTD to $20.50 TTD per hour, effective 01 January 2024. In 2025, the Minimum Wage for Public Sector workers was further increased to $22.50 TTD.

55. In December 2025, the GORTT ratified the Memorandum of Agreement signed by the Public Services Association (PSA) and the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), for a 10% wage increase spanning 2014–2019. Approximately 25,000 employees in the Civil Service, the Statutory Authorities and the Tobago House of Assembly will benefit from this settlement.

Advance version

56. Alignment with international standards on maternity, paternity, parental benefits and protection for nursing mothers in the workplace is of high importance to GORTT. On 6 May 2026, the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Bill 2026 was introduced in Senate and proposes several novelty protections to the employment landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. The Bill proposes to provide paid breastfeeding breaks for mothers until the child attains 12 months of age. While granting 14 days paid paternity leave; and paid parental leave for an adopter, prospective adopter or guardian of a child under the age of one (1) year. *When the Bill is passed it will become the Maternity, Paternity and Parental Leave Act.*

57. On 14 April 2026, The Retrenchment and Severance Benefits (Amendment) Bill, 2026 was passed in the Senate and is being read in the House of Representatives for the purpose of modernising the statutory framework governing by redundancy, strengthening consultation and notice requirements, providing for payment of wages in lieu of notice, revision of severance benefit rates, and the replacement of obsolete retrenchment terminology with redundancy terminology.

58. National labour legislation applies to all workers, inclusive of registered migrants. The Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro Enterprise Development (MLSMED), through the Labour Inspectorate Unit (LIU) and the Conciliation Advocacy and Advisory Division (CAAD), continues to enforce labour legislation and standards to ensure the protection and welfare of all workers including registered migrant workers. Labour Inspectors investigate complaints and conduct routine inspections to monitor and verify compliance with minimum wage and other terms and conditions of work. While, the Conciliation Advisory and Advocacy Division facilitates mediation/conciliation of disputes for workers, including migrants, Trade Unions and Employers.

59. Further, the MLSMED has partnered with local organisations and international agencies to enhance its assistance to registered migrant workers. The MLSMED signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the NGO, Living Waters Community (LWC), which creates a referral pathway to the LWC for migrant workers with complaints to seek redress from the Industrial Court, as required. Through partnerships with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), brochures on the work of the LIU and CAAD have been translated into Spanish, to sensitise migrant workers of their employment rights and responsibilities.

2. Right to an adequate standard of living (poverty, social security, food, water and sanitation)

Accepted recommendations:108.24, 108.25, 108.26, 108.27, 108.28, 108.29, 108.30, 108.31
Noted recommendations: 109.51, 109.52

Poverty reduction and social services

60. The GORTT has adopted the National Development Policy guide for Trinidad and Tobago (NDPG). The NDPG focuses on creating economic growth, job creation, social justice through strong leadership and prioritising the needs of every citizen. The GORTT intends to achieve these goals through the implementation of legislation, policies, programmes and measures.

61. Through improved access to social security services, food, housing, water, sanitation and land, the GORTT intends reduce poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion in Trinidad and Tobago.

62. The Ministry of the People, Social Development and Family Services (MPSDFS), continues to provide an extensive suite of grants, programmes and services to the most vulnerable citizens. The Public Assistance Grant (PAG) provides financial aid to vulnerable citizens whose household income are deemed inadequate. Elderly citizens, aged 65 years and over, receive financial support through the Senior Citizens' Pension, once they meet the qualifying criteria. The Food Support Programme provides temporary food assistance to vulnerable families with limited or no income, administered through an electronic monthly cash transfer facility via a Food Support Card.

Advance version

63. The MPSDFS also provides several Home Repair Grants. The Minor House Repair Assistance Grant provides up to $15,000.00 TTD in materials for repairs/upgrades of dwelling homes and up to $20,000.00 TTD in materials in the event of a disaster. The Sanitary Plumbing Assistance Grant provides up to $15,000.00 in materials to upgrade/repair toilet facilities for the dwelling home. The House Wiring Assistance Grant can assist in providing material alone ($15,000.00 TTD) or both material and labour ($25,000.00 TTD) for electrical wiring or rewiring dwelling homes.

64. To further protect vulnerable groups from the effects of rising inflation and economic hardship; in July 2025, Cabinet approved the establishment of an Inter-Ministerial Committee to review and make recommendations on the current structure of the MPSDFS' Standard Means Test (SMT) which is the principal tool used to assess the eligibility criteria for several social services. In February 2026, Cabinet approved the Committee's recommendation to increase of the indigence, poverty and vulnerability lines to poverty indicators to reflect the following:

- Poverty Line: Increased from $1,439.02 to $2,044.23 per adult equivalent per month.
- Indigence Line (Extreme Poverty): Increased from $553.47 to $783.23 per adult equivalent per month.
- Vulnerability Line: Increased from $1,798.78 to $2,555.29 per adult equivalent per month.
- Standard Means Test (SMT) Updates: Introduced a new internet connectivity deduction of up to $316 per household per month, recognizing digital access as an essential need.

65. Thus, effectively expanding the administrative eligibility criteria for the aforementioned social services from 01 June 2026.

66. In acknowledgement of the disproportionate impact of vulnerability on youth, the MPSDFS is also pursuing the development of a National Child Poverty Reduction Strategy, expected to be finalised by November 2026. This strategy will be integrated into a broader, comprehensive National Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Public utilities

67. The Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU) continues to prioritise universal and equitable access to safe and affordable potable water through the provision of several policies, programmes and initiatives. During the last UPR review cycle, the MPU implemented a number of initiatives aimed at improving service delivery to unserved and underserved communities throughout the country. To date, these initiatives have benefitted over 150,000 citizens. In 2025, the National Water Sector Evolution Programme (NWSEP) was implemented in 2025 to improve the levels of service to customers by providing a minimum 24 hours water supply for 3 days per week through locating new water sources, reducing non-revenue water loss and optimizing water treatment plants.

68. Trinidad and Tobago maintains near-universal access to electricity, with continual investments aimed at improving reliability and service quality. The MPU has placed emphasis on addressing disparities in access to essential services among vulnerable and marginalised populations through the integration of social development initiatives as highlighted in the Social Sector Investment Programme 2026. The Utilities Assistance Programme (UAP) provides continued access to basic utilities such as water and electricity for eligible citizens. The programme covers:

(a) Bill Assistance – subsidizes the Water and Sewage Authority (WASA) and Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) bills for low-income customers;

(b) Solar Panel Assistance – provides solar panels to low-income households in remote communities without access to the electricity grid; and

(c) Water Tank Assistance – provides water tanks and fitting to low-income households and community-based facilities to ensure access to safely store water.

Advance version

Food, security, support of livelihoods

69. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) continues to undertake policies, programmes and initiatives to strengthen national food security and support livelihoods. These initiatives are supported by investments in ICT systems, agricultural infrastructure, water management and flood control, farmer training and development, and commodity development along the value chain. Collectively, these interventions contribute to retooling farmers, promoting technology-driven farming, increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing livelihoods, and responding to the needs of stakeholders.

70. Financial support programmes remain central to the MAF's interventions. These programmes enhance farmers' access to fiscal incentives and support the expansion of mechanised farming activities. These include:

(a) Agricultural Incentive Programme;

(b) Agricultural Finance Support Programme;

(c) Fisheries Incentive Programme; and

(d) the Flood Damage and Disaster Assistance Programme.

3. Right to adequate housing and land

Accepted recommendation: 108.31

71. Regarding the equitable access to land, the Ministry of Land and Legal Affairs (MLLA), through the Land Settlement Agency (LSA), launched Phase I of the Land for the Landless Programme (LFLP) in January 2026. The LFLP is a critical policy intervention aimed at addressing the persistent demand for residential land and the challenges associated to equitable access to State land by providing a structured and lawful alternative to squatting through the facilitation of affordable and secure access to residential lots for landless citizens. The programme was created to empower low- and middle-income citizens, State employees and recent tertiary graduates through the facilitation of residential lots at a subsidised cost to citizens meeting the eligibility criteria.

4. Right to health and sexual and reproductive health

Accepted recommendations:108.32, 108.33, 108.34, 108,35, 108.36, 108.37
Noted recommendations: 109.73, 109.74, 109.75, 109.79, 109.77, 109.81

72. In Trinidad and Tobago, universal access to primary healthcare is facilitated through the public health system. Universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health is also guaranteed pursuant to the National Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Policy (2020). A broad range of services are provided to women and girls such as contraception, safe miscarriage care, maternal health care (antenatal, delivery and post-natal), prevention and treatment of infertility, prevention and treatment of all sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including HIV, reproductive cancers, comprehensive sexuality education (CSE), and services to address sexual and gender-based violence.

73. Since 2015, the Ministry of Health (MoH) has adopted a "Treat All" policy, which ensure that all person diagnosed with HIV are offered immediate access to antiretroviral therapy (ART) regardless of clinical stage. Free and universal access to HIV prevention, testing, ART, viral load monitoring and psychosocial support services are provided through the public health care system. The provision of these services ensures inclusive access to HIV services for all persons within Trinidad and Tobago.

74. Further, adherence to the Charter of Patient's Rights, guarantees equitable access to treatment without discrimination, protection of privacy and confidentiality, and respect and dignity in all healthcare institutions.

75. The legalisation of abortion is not currently under consideration by the GORTT. There is need for extensive public consultation on this issue before any legislative changes occur.

Advance version

5. Right to education

Accepted recommendations:108.7, 108.38 108.54
Noted recommendations: 109.76, 109.89

76. In Trinidad and Tobago, universal education is enshrined in section 76 (1) of the Education Act, Chapter 39:01 and guarantees every child of compulsory school age free and equitable access to education without discrimination. The GORTT continues to ensure that all students can attend school within reasonable geographic reach through the equitable distribution of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), primary and secondary institutions.

77. The Ministry of Education (MoE) provides additional support in the form of transportation, school feeding programmes, devices and grants that remove economic and social barriers to participation. Inclusive provision is ensured through access to special education services for students with diverse learning needs.

78. The education system provides equitable learning opportunities and multiple developmental pathways, including academic and technical vocational options, supported by ongoing curriculum reform, resource provision, and system level monitoring to address disparities and strengthen outcomes for all learners.

79. Participation in tertiary education is facilitated through annual offering of National Scholarships and National Bursaries made available to students who are citizens of Trinidad and Tobago that have sat the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) for 2 consecutive years in Form 6, including the year of award. Additionally, the Ministry offers the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) which is a low interest loan facility that covers tuition and non-tuition expenses related to tertiary education for citizens who have a continued period of residency of at least 3 years prior to application.

D. Rights of specific persons or groups

1. Women (Violence Against Women; Sexual & Gender-based Violence & Advancement of Women)

Accepted Recommendations: 108.39, 108.41, 108.42, 108.43, 108.44, 18.46, 108.47, 108.48
Noted recommendations: 109.83, 109.82, 109.87

80. The GORTT acknowledges that women and children, continue to bear a disproportionate burden of harm in cases of domestic, sexual, intimate and gender-based violence. Accordingly, Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken affirmative legislative reform, policy adoption and institutional strengthening as a means of implementing the recommendations received in the 3rd Cycle relating to the protection of women from all forms of violence.

81. The Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020 introduced significant reforms to close existing procedural and other gaps including, *inter alia*:

(a) Expanded the definition of domestic violence to include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and financial abuse;

(b) Recognised the occurrence of domestic violence in a broader category of relationships to better suite the cultural realities of Trinidad and Tobago, including spouses, cohabitants, visiting partners and extended family members;

(c) Provides civil remedies and protection for victims of domestic violence; and

(d) Allows for Protection Orders, Occupation Orders, and other interim orders to safeguard survivors.

82. **The Sexual Offences Act, Chapter 11:28,** was first amended by **Act No. 19 of 2019** which was operationalised by Presidential Proclamation and effected on 1 January 2020. The Act was subsequently amendment in 2021 by **Act No. 13 of 2021** which was assented to and

Advance version

is awaiting Presidential Proclamation. When read in tandem, these amendments re-established the National Sex Offender Register and the Public Sex Offender Website, with Section 46 of the consolidated Sexual Offences Act, Chapter 11:28 distinguishing between the National Sexual Offender Register and the Public Sex Offender Website.

83. The National Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence (2023-2027) was introduced and serves as the primary national framework guiding prevention, protection, prosecution and partnership efforts. The Action Plan adopts human rights-based and gender-responsive approach centred around survivors. It is grounded upon the following strategic pillars:

(a) Prevention and social norm change;

(b) Protection and survivor support services;

(c) Justice system strengthening; and

(d) Data collection, research and accountability.

84. The plan also promotes coordinated multi-sectoral action among Ministries, the Judiciary, the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), NGOs and civil society.

85. The National Workplace Policy on Sexual Harassment (NWPSH) in Trinidad and Tobago (2019) was laid in Parliament on 8 March 2019 and is currently being executed through an associated Implementation Plan. The Policy applies to all public and private sector employers and prospective employees and workers in Trinidad and Tobago.

86. In August 2022, the Ministry of Health (MOH) launched the National Clinical and Policy Guidelines on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Sexual Violence (SV) as a critical health care response. The Guidelines provide actions and recommendations for the clinical care of women subjected to IPV and SV. Specific goals include:

(a) Strengthening the capacity of health-care providers to deliver a minimum package of clinical services for women subjected to violence;

(b) Developing standards of care and assist health-care providers to better identify and respond to the needs of women subjected to violence; and

(c) Strengthening the health systems response and the delivery of high-quality care for women subjected to violence.

87. The TTPS continues to work diligently to ensure that cases of domestic violence, sexual violence and gender-based violence are thoroughly investigated and prosecuted. As the primary investigative mechanism, the TTPS established the Special Victims Department (SVD) which amalgamates three units; the Gender-based Violence Unit (GBVU), the Sexual Offence Unit (SOU) and the Child Protection Unit (CPU). The SVD investigates all received reports of violence against women and girls, especially, domestic, gender-based, intimate partner and sexual violence, breaches of protection orders and rape. Officers attached to the Unit receive continuous training to enhance their ability to effectively and sensitively respond to reports of violence and to take the appropriate criminal procedure measures to prosecute suspects.

88. Additionally, the Crime and Problem Analysis (CAPA) Branch of the TTPS collects data on crimes committed against females disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, and type of offence.

89. The Gender Affairs Division, Ministry of the People, Social Development and Family Services (GAD MPSDFS), as the line Ministry on gender issues, has adopted a multi-sectorial approach to survivor support. The GAD has collaborated with the Victims and Witness Support Unit (VWSU), TTPS to formalise referral pathways; better coordinate social services for survivors of violence; and continuously train officers. Through this work, the VWSU is able to provide court accompaniment to survivors and other referrals for navigating the justice system. Moreover, through the Spotlight Initiative, 75 judges and judicial officers, as well as more than 200 interdisciplinary team members received training on strengthening access to justice and case management of domestic violence matters.

Advance version

90. Regarding the provision of shelters for survivors, the GAD conducted an assessment of the number of domestic violence shelters across Trinidad, their occupancy rates, and their capacity. As of 2023, there were a total of 3 shelters and 4 transitional homes operational. It was noted that both the shelters and the transitional homes are highly utilized and were almost at full capacity at the time of the assessment.

91. In an effort to ensure the availability and accuracy of data collection and monitoring of cases of gender-based violence, the GAD launched the "Umbono" Central Registry for GBV Data in January 2025. Umbono is a centralised data management system designed to improve the collection, analysis and reporting of GBV cases, which aims to harmonise administrative data across agencies to inform policy and strengthen accountability. The data collected will support evidenced-based decision making and reporting domestically and internationally.

2. Children (Definition, general principles, protection; protection against exploitation)

Accepted recommendations: 108.49, 108.51, 108.52, 108.53, 108.55, 108.56, 108.57
Noted recommendation: 109.88

92. The protection of the rights of children remains a significant priority to the Government. Since the proclamation of the **Miscellaneous Provisions (Marriage) Act, 2017** which immediately harmonized and unified the legal age to contract to marriage in Trinidad and Tobago to eighteen (18) years for both males and females; there have been no known reports of child marriage in Trinidad and Tobago.

93. The National Child Policy (2020-2030) continues to be implemented in phases, through various programmes and projects across Ministries and Agencies, all aimed at promoting child rights, strengthening child protection and supporting the overall well-being of children.

94. The Children's Authority, MPSDFS plays a critical role in protecting children from violence and abuse, providing special protection for children deprived of a family environment, providing safeguards in adoption; and recovering and reintegrating child victims. In light of same, the Authority led the development of the National Interagency Protocol for Child Abuse Prevention and Management (NIPCAP-M) and continues in its efforts to promote coordinated intervention among agencies within the child protection system.

95. The Authority maintains a 24-hour National Hotline to receive reports of child abuse, neglect, exploitation or other circumstances where the child may need care and protection.

96. The Regional Case Management Unit (RCMU) Emergency Response Team provides 24-hour field intervention where children are assessed to be in imminent danger, including safety assessments, medical referral, provision of psychological support and removal from unsafe environments where required. Where children cannot safely remain in their home environments the Authority seeks regulated alternative care options including: placement in the national foster care system; regulated children's homes; residential placements with another relative or guardian; or adoption in the instance where reunification with the biological family is not feasible or in the best interest of the child.

97. The MLSMED through the Labour Inspectorate Unit (LIU) continues to monitor and enforce legislation pertaining to the prevention and elimination of child labour for persons under sixteen (16) years and the prohibition of hazardous forms of work for persons under eighteen (18) years. The LIU coordinates investigations of all complaints of child labour, including reports of hazardous work, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

98. In furtherance of this commitment, the National Steering Committee for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour has coordinated the development of a Draft National Child Labour Policy, which is currently being reviewed by the MLSMED, prior to submission for Cabinet's consideration. In addition, the Committee has developed Draft Light and Hazardous Work Lists to protect children under 18 years from labour exploitation.

Advance version

3. Persons with disabilities

Accepted recommendations: 108.58, 108.59, 108.60, 108.61, 108.62, 108.63, 108.64, 108.65

99. A draft Disabilities Bill was developed by the MPSDFS in consultations with several key government stakeholders including other Ministries, the Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC), Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT), NGOs and civil society stakeholders. The finalised draft must go through the relevant parliamentary processes.

100. In the absence of specific legislation, persons with disabilities enjoy Constitutional protection of their fundamental human rights, pursuant to sections 4 and 5 of the Republican Constitution. The Equal Opportunity Act, Chapter 22:03 provides protection from discrimination on the ground of disability status in key areas, such as, education, employment, provision of goods and services and accommodation. Aggrieved persons may seek redress through the Commission and the Equal Opportunity Tribunal (EOT), where applicable.

101. Additionally, the revised National Policy on Persons with Disabilities (2019) remains operational and guides actions on social inclusion and equal opportunities for persons with disabilities in education, employment, health and rehabilitation, accessibility and justice and legal protection.

102. Adults and minors with disabilities continue to have access to the Disability Assistance Grant and the Disability Assistance Grant for Minors respectively, through the MPSDFS. Other grants under the MPSDFS' General Assistance Grant portfolio ae available to persons with disabilities and their caregivers, once eligible, including: Pharmaceutical, Dietary, Rental Assistance, School Support, Education, Prosthetics, Minor House Repairs, and the Sowing Empowerment through Entrepreneurship Development (SEED) grants.

103. The MPSDFS has implemented several measures to ensure the right to accessibility in all areas for person with disabilities. In 2025, the MPSDFS developed an Accessible Events and Spaces Guidelines & Inspection Checklist, applicable to the public and private sector. This complements the existing 2014 Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) TTS/ICC A117.1. Accessible and Usable Building and Facilities standard. In July 2025, the MPSDFS and the Ministry of Housing discussed working collaboratively to provide accessible housing for persons with disabilities in keeping with the aforementioned standard.

104. Access to transport for persons with disabilities, is provided for through the Elderly and Differently Abled Mobile Service (ELDAMO), as well as, free bus-passes for recipients of Disability grants, provided through the MPSDFS.

4. Migrants, refugees, asylum seekers

Noted recommendations: 109.66, 109.90, 109.91, 109.92, 109.93, 109.94, 109.95, 109.96, 109.97, 109.98, 109.99, 109.100, 109.101

105. Although Trinidad and Tobago acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, the provisions have not been incorporated into the country's domestic legislation, directives or policies framework. Further, the National Policy to Address Refugee and Asylum Seeker Matters 2014, ceases to be operational. In the absence same, the Immigration Act, Chapter 18:01 governs any matters pertaining to legal and illegal entry into Trinidad and Tobago.

106. In 2026, the GORTT issued Legal Notice No. 41 of 2026 which sought to reform the process for migrant regularisation in Trinidad and Tobago, widening its scope beyond persons of Venezuelan nationality. The new Migrant Registration Framework (MRF) requires compulsory registration for migrants 16 years and over within the jurisdiction whose immigration status is irregular: (i) due to the expiration of entry certificates; and (ii) those who failed to present themselves to an Immigration Officer after entering through an illegal place of entry.

Advance version

107. Under the new MRF, approved migrants will be granted a Minister's Permit allowing them to remain and work in Trinidad and Tobago for a period of up to 1 year, valid until 31 December 2026. Additionally, children of approved migrants will be granted Student Permit Exemptions allowing them to remain in the country and be integrated into the school system. Registration occurred via online and in-person methods.

108. Regarding detention, persons found to be in contravention of the Immigration Act, Chapter 18:01 may be subject to deportation proceedings as described in Part III of the Act, irrespective of their nationality. Persons who have entered illegally are screened and assessed by an Immigration Officer, to determine whether deportation should be considered. In the instance where a person may be a victim, the Division engages relevant stakeholders such as Counter Trafficking Unit, to aid in the safety of the individuals. Additionally, in appropriate instances, Orders of Supervision are utilised as alternatives to detention to prevent arbitrary deprivation of liberty, while awaiting a determination of their immigration status.

109. The rights of detainees and their well-being are adequately provided for during detention. All persons are screened and referred accordingly when indicators of vulnerability are detected or suspected. Detainees are afforded medical care, as the IDC is equipped with a team of Emergency Medical Technicians who provide a 24-hour service and a Medical Doctor who visits once weekly. Detainees are provided with three well balanced meals per day, taking into account special dietary needs. The IDC is equipped with portable water and sanitation facilities.

110. Detainees have a right to legal counsel of his/her choosing and the right to communicate with counsel. A network of NGOs, often through referral pathways, provide legal representation to detainees, including the Living Waters Community (LWC) and Caribbean Network for Human Rights (CCHR).

111. Regarding the principle of non-refoulement, the GORTT does not support deportation of persons where they may suffer persecution, torture, ill-treatment or other serious human rights violations.

IV. Noted recommendations

A. Ratification of and accession to international instruments

Noted recommendations: 109.1, 109.2, 109.3, 109.4, 109.5, 109.6, 109.7, 109.8, 109.9, 109.10, 109.11, 109.12, 109.13, 109.14, 109.15, 109.16, 109.17, 109.18, 109.19, 109.20, 109.21, 109.22, 109.23, 109.24, 109.25, 109.26, 109.27, 109.29, 109.38

112. Accession to the United Nations Convention Against Torture (UNCAT), Optional Protocol to UNCAT, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance are matters for the consideration of the GORTT.

113. Existing legislative, policy and institutional frameworks in Trinidad and Tobago support the implementation of the ICCPR, CEDAW or CRC to protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of vulnerable groups.

114. Consideration has been given by the MLSMED to the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). Currently, an extensive review of the Convention; possible obligations for Trinidad and Tobago; and existing domestic measures that enables compliance is on-going.

B. Cooperation and follow-up with special procedures

Noted recommendation: 109.28

115. Trinidad and Tobago is not considering the adoption of special procedures at this time.

Advance version

C. Death penalty

Noted recommendations: 109.53, 109.54, 109.55, 109.56, 109.57, 109. 58, 109.59, 109.60, 109.61

116. The death penalty remains a lawful sanction in Trinidad and Tobago as reaffirmed by the Judicial Council of the Privy Council (JCPC) in *Jay Chandler v The State of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago [2022] UKPC 19.* The JCPC upheld the constitutionality of the mandatory death penalty for murder, finding that it is appropriately considered saved law through the application of section 6 of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. However, there has been a de facto moratorium on executions since 1999, due to the JCPC's judgment in *Pratt and Morgan v The Attorney General for Jamaica (1993),* which requires the State to carry out a death sentence within 5 years of conviction. Where the State is unable to do so, there will be the automatic commutation of the sentence to life imprisonment.

117. Furthermore, the Republican Constitution enshrines several safeguards to protect the rights of persons sentenced to death, including: right to due process and access to legal representation at all stages of the appellate process. Moreover, persons sentence to death may make an application to the Advisory Committee on the Power of Pardon by virtue of section 89 of the Constitution, for the grant of Presidential pardon free or subject to lawful conditions.

D. Equality and non-discrimination and sexual and gender-based violence

Noted recommendations: 109.39, 109.40, 109.41, 109.42, 109.43, 109.44, 109.45, 019.47, 109.49 and 109.46, 109.48, 109.78, 109.80, 109.84, 109.85, 109.86 (respectively)

118. Trinidad and Tobago does not support discrimination of any vulnerable group. Section 4 and 5 of Republican Constitution protects fundamental rights and freedoms all persons. The Equal Opportunity Act, 2000 (EOA) currently excludes protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

119. In lieu of specific legislation, in March 2022 the EOC issued a LGBTI+ Workplace Policy to prohibit discrimination against all workers, clients and customers because of their actual or perceived gender identity, sexual orientation, sexual characteristics or their association with persons deemed to be in the LGBTI+ status group. These guidelines aim to ensure that workplaces are safe, supportive and inclusive for LGBTI+ employees and support their full participation in the workplace without being subjected to offensive or discriminatory behaviour, including harassment or bullying.

V. Expectations of the State

120. The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken as far as possible to implement the recommendations it accepted during the previous review and the Fourth National Report reflects these efforts. To that end, the Government welcomes the consideration of the present Report by the Human Rights Council and remains committed to consistently improving the promotion and protection of human rights in Trinidad and Tobago.

Advance version