



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Education Towers, No.5 St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad

Ministerial Response
to the
Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human
Rights, Equality and Diversity
on
the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago
with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child
Pornography

4. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (pgs. 38-39)

Objective 1: To explore the extent to which child prostitution and child pornography exist in Trinidad and Tobago.

Recommendations

4.15. The Committee concurs with the MOE recommendation on the need for inter- agency data sharing (APPENDIX III) and recommends that MOE, TTPS and CATT consider the creation of a protocol for inter-agency data sharing:

- **to facilitate the entry of statistics and ensure consistency in the number of cases reported/progress of cases specific to child prostitution and child pornography amongst stakeholders; and**
- **to accurately document the current extent of child prostitution and child pornography in Trinidad and Tobago.**

The Ministry of Education also recommends that the repository for national data for the cases of child prostitution and child pornography should be either the Child Protection Unit of the TTPS or the CATT. In addition, data of similar cases from the Ministry of Health can be obtained to avoid duplication.

4.16. The Committee recommends that the TTPS and the CTU collaborate to reconcile the contrasting data on child prostitution and child pornography by January 2020.

The Ministry of Education concurs with this recommendation.

4.17 The Committee recommends that the MOE collaborate with the CATT and TTPS in conducting their evidence based research into the issues of child prostitution and child pornography in Trinidad and Tobago by January 2020.

The Ministry of Education concurs with this recommendation and proposes that the research be conducted in collaboration with the following tertiary institutions: University of the West Indies (UWI), University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTATT).

Ministerial Response to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

Objective 2: To evaluate the efficacy of measures which discourage and penalise child pornography and child prostitution and treat victims of child pornography and child prostitution.

Recommendations

4.54. The Committee recommends that the Cyber Crime Unit of the TTPS establish and operationalise additional approaches to partner with social media providers and to utilise additional online tools such as social media networks, posts and chatrooms to register and monitor online usage for activities related to child pornography and child prostitution.

The Ministry of Education concurs with this recommendation.

4.55. The Committee recommends that the Cyber Crime Unit and Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) of the TTPS collaborate with officers in other jurisdictions regionally and internationally to create a proactive approach to target and lure online offenders of child prostitution and child pornography.

The Ministry of Education concurs with this recommendation. In addition, the Ministry of Education, suggests that the Student Support Services personnel and school administrators be given a hotline number or a direct line to contact the Cyber Crime Unit in cases of involving inappropriate activities that require immediate attention.

4.56. The Committee recommends that the MOE, TTPS, OPM, MAGLA note the recommendations of the stakeholders provided in APPENDIX III.

The Ministry of Education will continue to partner with the above agencies to minimise and eradicate all forms of sexual misdemeanors and predators poaching on minors and school children.

4.57. The Committee recommends that the TTPS initiates awareness programmes with the hotel industry with the aim to encouraging reporting of suspected cases of child pornography and child prostitution by January 2020.

The Ministry of Education concurs with this recommendation.

Ministerial Response to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

4.58. The Committee recommends that MOE, TTPS, CATT and MOH note:

- **the recommendations by UNICEF in APPENDIX III regarding the programmes and services be targeted to the treatment of the specific issue / symptoms of the child;**
- **that the programmes and services are targeted to areas with the highest cases of child pornography and child prostitution as identified in Table 8, Table 13 and Table 14.**

The Ministry of Education concurs with these recommendations and will continue to collaborate with the respective agencies.

4.59. The Committee recommends that the CATT, CTU, VWSU, CPU and NPTA collaborate with international organisations to conduct sensitisation and training sessions with the following stakeholders on the importance of treating, identifying and reporting suspected cases of child prostitution or child pornography:

- **hotels;**
- **airlines;**
- **the general public;**
- **teachers;**
- **parents; and**
- **students.**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) concurs with this recommendation. Further, the above-mentioned stakeholders should seek approval of the MOE prior to conducting sensitisation and training sessions for teachers, parents and students.

4.60. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Education consider revising the teacher training syllabus/curriculum for new teachers to include the HLFE Programme in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the HLFE Programme and to increase current average of two (2) teachers per school to teach the Programme.

At present, the three (3) teacher training institutions in Trinidad and Tobago namely the University of the West Indies, School of Education, the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) and the University of the Southern Caribbean (USC), include course/s on HFLE reflective of the National HFLE Curriculum in their teacher training programme. One (1) of the modules: *Sexuality and Sexual Health* in the HFLE Curriculum at the primary and secondary level treats with the topic child abuse. The MOE will continue to work with schools to identify at least two (2) teachers to lead the roll-out of HFLE programmes in schools.

Ministerial Response to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

The National HFLE Curriculum will also be reviewed to ensure alignment to the CARICOM HFLE framework as discussed in the October 2019 meeting of Ministers of Education under the aegis of the Council for Human and Social Development (COHSOD).

4.61. The Committee recommends that the MOE develop communication strategies to prevent child pornography and child prostitution in preparation of the opening of the 2019/2020 new academic year:

- to sensitise primary and secondary schools students on child pornography;
- to decrease hyper sexuality in children in secondary schools;
- to sensitise students on the creation and distribution of self-made pornographic material and that it is a criminal offence subject to the penalties associated with the offence under the Children's Act, Chap. 46:01.

The Ministry of Education(MOE) continues to sensitise students at the primary and secondary schools on the issues of child pornography and child prostitution through the Health and Family Life Education (HFLE) curriculum. One (1) of the modules/themes of this theme is Sexuality and Sexual Health (SSH). The objectives of this module are as follows:

- demonstrate an understanding of the concept of human sexuality as an integral part of the total person that finds expression throughout the life-cycle;
- analyse the influence of socio-cultural and economic factors as well as personal beliefs on the expression of sexuality and sexual choices;
- build individual capacity to recognise the basic criteria and conditions for optimal reproductive health;
- develop action competence to reduce vulnerability to priority problems, including HIV/AIDS, cervical cancer, and STIs; and
- develop knowledge and skills to access age - appropriate sources of health information, products, and services related to sexuality and sexual health.

Ministerial Response to the Twelfth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on the Sexual Exploitation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago with specific focus on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

4.62. The Committee concurs with the NPTA at 4.20 and recommends that the MOE develop a sensitization strategy to target parents of children, at both primary and secondary schools, on the prevalence of child sexual exploitation and inappropriate sexual behaviour, especially in the making and distribution of self-made pornography and on social media platforms by January 2020.

The MOE has an on-going Parenting in Education programme through which parents are informed of the need to monitor and infuse positive values to their children regarding sexual behaviour and pornography as well as the negative risks involved. Additionally, during the January to March 2020 Term II, this initiative will be supported by the Ministry's Pre-Carnival Safety and Awareness programme.