



TRINIDAD & TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE

Office of the Commissioner of Police

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COP: 1/2/23

October 14, 2019

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of National Security
Temple Court 1
31-33 Abercromby Street
Port of Spain

Attn: Ms. Kavita Karim

**Re: 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**

Reference is made to memorandum with reference No. **NS: 35/27/4 Sub. XXVIII** dated
September 17, 2019, on the subject.

Please find attached the written submission from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

Yours respectfully,

Commissioner of Police



**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO POLICE SERVICE 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**

Please see the undermentioned recommendations and comments in relation to the said report.

Recommendation

4.11. The Committee found that there is no substantive existing research or baseline data to determine the extent of the prevalence of child pornography and child prostitution in Trinidad and Tobago.

Comments

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) can only document what is reported to the police. Therefore, all reports of child pornography and child prostitution which is reported to the police are captured by the Crime and Problem Analysis Branch (CAPA) of the TTPS as well as the Child Protection Unit (CPU) which investigates these reports.

Recommendation

4.12. The Committee recognise that the MOE in April 2019, intends to conduct evidence based research on the issues of child prostitution and child pornography with a proposed timeline of eighteen (18) months.

Comments

This is an excellent initiative and is greatly needed. The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service is willing to assist and collaborate where necessary throughout the remaining six months of the project.

4.13. The Committee was informed by the OPM of the hyper-sexuality of children in current society and recognised the position of the CATT to commence research into hyper-sexuality of children in Trinidad and Tobago 2019.

Comments

The TTPS is willing to assist where necessary and wherever applicable in terms of our mandate and work.

Recommendation

4.14. The Committee found that based on results cited of the study conducted by the OPM and UNICEF, the issue of child pornography and child prostitution is a symptom of an



- 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

Comments

This would aid in the accurate data collection and analysis on this issue of Child Prostitution and Child Pornography which is critical to the TTPS' initiatives towards tailoring effective deterrence, investigative, prosecutorial and support activities. Sustained collaborations would resound to improved management of the issue of child sexual exploitation along with safer spaces for the nation's children

Recommendation

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.

Comments

The CPU through its investigations has collected data on the issue and this information is captured in a document referred to as R-Forms which are sent to CAPA. The CPU can work in tandem with CAPA, as well as the CTU to verify statistical information. Mandatory reporting is an important facet of the issue to focus on as well. Not all reports are made to the TTPS, therefore, information needs to be acquired from other institutions and organisations that focus on children and the social ills affecting them.

Recommendation

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

Comments

This is a wise recommendation and we suggest that the CTU play an integral part in this research; as kidnapping and human trafficking are issues related to child prostitution and child pornography.

Additionally, it is also recommended that the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) be considered in this collaboration so that the research conducted reflects the experiences of the agencies managed by the THA as well as the incidence and dynamics of the Child Prostitution and Child Pornography occurring in Tobago.



17/06/2019-18/06/2019	Child Pornography, Prostitution and Trafficking	6
26/06/2019	Human Trafficking	7
09/09/2019-10/09/2019	Human Trafficking Sensitization	1
Total		31

Additionally, Four Hundred and Eighty Eight (488) Police Officers across various Divisions/Branches/Sections have been trained in various aspects Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking. Please see detailed listing at Appendix One

Recommendation

4.20. The Committee noted the concerns of the NPTA that parents be sensitised and trained on child prostitution and child pornography and the importance of protecting children against these dangers.

Comments

Through the outreach efforts, the CPU have attended a number of PTA meetings and also lecture on these offences (as well as many others) during their outreach sessions which were attended by both teachers and parents/guardians. By way of reports received, investigations and research we have found many parents to be unaware, oblivious or ill-informed when it comes to the issue of child pornography and many other offences. A lack of education, poor family dynamics and sometimes a generational gap are contributing factors. A thorough understanding of what constitutes child pornography (from creation to dissemination) is also important. In many of our investigations we observe that a significant degree of parents of the victims became parents during their late teens to early twenties. Some lack the personal development, education, life skills and need assistance and guidance where basic parenting is concerned. In the digital era it is easy for children to manipulate their parents in terms of their superior understanding of technology and different social media platforms. The youth are more versed and can be creators of pornographic content themselves. There is a clear disconnect between parents and their children and this is apparent in the reports received. Parents need to monitor their children's online presence and whereabouts. There are also cases where parents make their children more vulnerable to these offences and are sometimes directly involved. The need for reform, sensitisation and modifying toxic family dynamics is paramount. Therefore, we believe this is an excellent initiative and are willing to assist where possible.

Recommendation

4.21. The Committee noted the VWSU staff has not received specialised training in the area of child protection and child prostitution, however the Committee recognised the



Recommendation

4.25. The Committee noted that children suspected to be involved in the creation and distribution of pornographic material and referred to the VWSU for intervention are predominantly child victims who have a history of adverse childhood experiences such as child sexual abuse or violence in the home. The social media section of the National School Code of Conduct (Revised) (See APPENDIX VIII) treats with the creation and distribution of self-made pornographic material and that a violation of these guidelines would lead to disciplinary action.

Comments

We support this initiative.

Recommendation

4.26. The Committee noted several reasons for a child's engagement or distribution in self-made pornography, as illustrated in Figure 4.

Comments

Figure 4 in our view (based on reports and investigations) indeed includes many of the contributing factors associated with the distribution of self-made pornographic material. One major overarching issue is the socio-economic factors that can contribute to many of the other factors highlighted. Sometimes the child may be engaging in the creation of pornographic material in exchange for finances or other resources. We believe poverty and its associated ills can influence the activity. Proper education about sexuality, sexual health, self-worth and the ramifications of self-made porn is lacking. Where there are deficits in terms of these needs, they can ultimately lead to the individual committing the act.

Recommendation

4.27. The Committee noted the challenges of the MOE and TTPS with regard to the under-reporting of incidents of child pornography and child prostitution.

Comments

Section 31 needs to be adhered to. We also refer to the response to question 4.18.

Recommendation

4.28. The Committee found that there is no universal profile to determine who was or can be a victim of child prostitution or child pornography which can present a challenge in order to detect possible victim.

Comments

Based on the reports received and subsequent investigations done throughout the nine Divisions by the CPU, there are certain consistencies, recurring factors and socio-economic influences at play. Many of our victims come from lower socio-economic homes with unstable



Comments

In 2020 the TTPS is expected to create a centre with the capacity to monitor and analyse social media activity via the use of surveillance systems.

Recommendation

4.33. The Committee noted that Sections 40 (1) and 43 of the Children Act, Chap 46:01 (see Table 3) provides penalties for children who were creators and distributors of self-made pornographic material.

Comments

We are the enforcers of the law and minors must also be held accountable for their actions. This is an effective tool in deterring minors from creating, viewing and distributing pornographic material.

Recommendation

4.34. The Committee noted the challenges of the MOE to operationalise the current legislation pertaining to child pornography and child prostitution.

Comments

The challenges are noted as well as the need for training and support from other agencies such as the TTPS. Therefore, we are willing to assist in the execution of the legislation where possible.

Recommendation

4.35. The Committee was informed that the National School Code of Conduct (Revised) (See APPENDIX VIII) includes the reporting procedure for inappropriate behaviours and incidents of child prostitution and child pornography.

Comments:

Noted

Recommendation

4.36. The Committee found that the cell phone usage is included in the National School Code of Conduct (Revised) and allows for principal discretion of the extent of the implementation of the policy in their schools.



- **National Youth Symposium**
- **Youth Empowerment Series-Crime Reduction Caravan;**
- **Youth Crime Survivor Support Groups; and**
- **Self Esteem Programme for Youth Crime Survivors (The Eye in Me-2)**

Comments

The CPU conducts regular outreach sessions whereby the topics of child prostitution and child pornography (along with many others) are lectured on. These sessions are held at youth-based facilities including schools, sporting arenas, youth clubs and churches. In 2019 the CPU has participated in sixty lectures and engaged with over five thousand attendees. Some of the programmes outlined above may have been executed by other departments of the TTPS.

Recommendation

4.40. The Committee noted that the programmes and services (See Table 16) provided by the SSSD of the MOE is not targeted to a specific issue or group, but takes the “one size fits all approach” which may not effectively address the issues of child prostitution and child pornography.

Comments

Noted

Recommendation

4.41. The Committee noted that sex education is included in the sexuality and sexual health module of the HFLE curriculum (See APPENDIX XI and APPENDIX III). The curriculum is conducted by at least (two) 2 trained teachers in each government primary school and forms one to three of each government secondary school for two periods per week. However, in the case of faith-based schools, the HFLE Curriculum is tailored in to reflect the beliefs and opinions of the faith of the school.

Comments

The TTPS supports this initiative

Recommendation

4.42. The Committee acknowledge the MOE plans for fiscal 2019, of *Prevention and Protection Through Education 2019* to utilize existing programmes to focus on educating parents, teachers and students on child prostitution and child pornography