



**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



underlying social issue in society and noted that the OPM has incorporated provisions in the National Child Policy which treat with the issues identified in the study.

Comments

Based on the information received via investigations at the CPU, we agree that the offences of child prostitution and child pornography stem from grave social, financial, political and moral issues. Social ills such as poverty, lack of financial resources, lack of education and poor cultural practices surrounding sex, sexuality, sexual health and sexual education are heavy contributors to these issues. A need for thorough, tailored and standardised sexual education programmes in the nation's schools is also relative.

Recommendation

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

- a. 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**
- b. To accurately document the current extent of child prostitution and child pornography in Trinidad and Tobago.**

Comments

a. In order to facilitate this initiative, it is recommended that a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties be created inclusive of CAPA, as well as the Counter-Trafficking Unit (CTU).

b. It is recommended that CAPA and the CPU along with the Children's Authority and the CTU can work together to gather and elucidate statistical information to avoid duplication, errors or omissions.

Recommendation

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

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.



Recommendation

4.18. The Committee noted that the MOE National School Code of Conduct (Revised) highlights Section 31 of the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28 with regard to the mandatory reporting of offences related to a minor, as well as penalties associated with failing to report the offence as a deterrent for teachers or staff who knowingly fail to report suspected cases of child pornography or child prostitution to the principal or the TTPS.

Comments:

The inclusion of the mandatory reporting and its affiliated penalties has been a deterrent to teachers and staff. In this regard however, there are still instances of underreporting and concealment of misconduct for the sake of protecting the image of the respective educational institution.

Recommendation

4.19. The Committee was informed that in January 2019 the TTPS had commenced discussions with the US Embassy to provide training in human trafficking and consultations with the Police Academy, British Embassy and specialist consultants to provide training on child sexual exploitation.

Comments:

Members of the CPU attended meetings with the British High Commission in early 2019 regarding training on the aforementioned matters. Investigators attached to the CPU engage in a series of continuous training and developmental courses throughout the year as a part of their work as investigative officers. For the period 2019, thus far, a total of thirty one (31) officers attached to the CPU have attended six (6) different training sessions on human trafficking and two officers also attended a course in Barbados titled "Online Sexual Exploitation". This particular session examined key issues surrounding child abuse in the digital age; including kidnapping, online grooming and trafficking. The officers presented valuable knowledge they obtained at the Unit's monthly staff meeting (COMPSTAT). The dates and number of attendees per human trafficking course are outlined below:

Table showing Human Trafficking Courses and Training Sessions attended by CPU Officers in 2019.

Date	Name of Course	No. of Attending Officers
19/02/2019-20/02/2019	Human Trafficking	9
01/05/2019-02/05/2019	Human Trafficking	7
28/05/2019-29/05/2019	Human Trafficking Awareness and Sensitization	1



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



development of a Child Protection Awareness Programme at the TTPS which is expected to include child pornography and child prostitution components.

Comments

The officers of the Victim and Witness Support Unit (VWSU) are qualified through their personal acquisitions to deal with victims of Child Sexual Exploitation. There are certified psychologist and councillors on staff whose training incorporates components of dealing with sexual trauma in both children and adults. With regard to receiving additional training, conversations are ongoing with international stakeholders to deliver these objectives through the organisation.

Recommendation

4.22. The Committee noted that the SSSD of the MOE is embarking on training initiatives during the period September 2019 to May 2020, to equip all staff with the knowledge and skills to treat/address children who are victims of child prostitution and child pornography. The training will include Child Safety and Protection training as Play Therapy training.

Comments

We support this approach and are willing to assist and provide input. If the educational institutions need lectures on the legal aspects of the issues, we can assist via our outreach sessions.

Recommendation

4.23. The Committee was informed that the SSSD teacher HFLE training in 2017 (310 teachers) and 2018 (197 teachers) was conducted in collaboration with the CATT and UNFPA, MOH, Institute of Gender and Development Studies, UWI, and NGOs (Fire Circle, Groots) and Faith Based Network.

Comments

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service via the Child Protection Unit and the VWSU is willing to participate in future sessions of this programme.

Recommendation

4.24. The Committee acknowledge the concerns of the VWSU that agencies such as hotels and airlines be sensitised and trained to identify and report possible incidents of child prostitution or child pornography.

Comments

This would represent a three hundred and sixty degrees approach to combating the issues of child pornography and child prostitution. The Child Protection Unit and the VWSU are also willing to assist in this initiative.



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



family dynamics. Children who engage in such activities are usually more vulnerable than children who are the product of more stable homes and they often have low-self-worth or poor communication with parental figures and a lack of positive role models in and outside the homes. We acknowledge that some of these characteristics transcend race, gender, finances and education; however, those who are more marginalised in society have a greater risk of being victims of most forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, including child pornography and prostitution.

Recommendation

4.29. The Committee noted the challenges of the TTPS, CATT and MOE highlighted in Figure 2 to detect and investigate matters reported related to child prostitution and child pornography.

Comments:

This is an accurate reflection of the challenges faced.

Recommendation:

4.30. The Committee noted the limitations of the Cybercrime Unit to acquire information from social media websites due to privacy clauses requiring the encryption of transmissions through the website which cause delays when obtaining relevant information from external agencies including service providers.

Comments

This requires amendments to current policies which are outside the purview of the work of the TTPS. However, we strongly advocate for change where these impediments are concerned; as greater social media access will alleviate the work of all agencies involved in child care and protection and lead to more evidence-based investigations and convictions.

Recommendation

4.31. The Committee acknowledge the MOE proposal to address the matter of underreporting of offences of child pornography or prostitution by ensuring that the measures and reporting procedures outlined in the National School Code of Conduct (See APPENDIX VII) are implemented.

Comments

This initiative is recommended.

Recommendation

4.32. The Committee was informed by the TTPS of the need for officers to penetrate “meeting places” facilitated by social networking sites to successfully pursue and persecute the communities of online sexual offenders.



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.



Comments

It is recommended that a standardised policy relative to cell phones in all schools be implemented and should not be deviated from to conform to the whims of any school official or culture of any particular school. This policy should be rigid in nature, but still consider the positive aspects of the device in terms of its use and how it can protect children.

Recommendation

4.37. The Committee note the efforts of the TTPS, MOE, OPM, CATT and MOH to seek to address the growing problem of child pornography and child prostitution in Trinidad and Tobago through their various programmes and services provided in Table 16.

Comments

This recommendation is supported.

Recommendation

4.38. The Committee was pleased that the National Child Policy was completed in March 2019 and that one of its targets was to *implement a National Child Safeguarding Strategy and mainstream child protection in all child-related programming and training*. It was also noted that the OPM intends in fiscal 2019 to implement the following programmes:

- **The National Children's Registry; and**
- **Educational Brochure on Child Prostitution and Child Pornography to be distributed online and in print form.**

Comments

- This is an excellent project and will help in monitoring and safeguarding children.
- Many factors should be considered in terms of the dissemination of brochures online and in hard copy. It is recommended that the material must match the interest of the potential reader/audience. If the content is geared towards teenagers or younger persons, it must be able to compete with the other more appealing distractions they encounter online. This initiative should also take into consideration creative and non-traditional ways to convey the messages to the different age groups via different mediums; written, video, sound etc. This project is complex and requires a thorough understanding of the audience and what appeals to them to effectively disseminate the message and enact change or cultivate particular types of behaviour.

Recommendation

4.39. The Committee acknowledged the plans of the TTPS in fiscal 2019 to implement the following programmes related to child prostitution and child pornography:



- 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



Comments

We support this initiative as education is essential and all persons involved in the care and protection of children should receive first-hand knowledge and training to properly address these issues.

Recommendation

4.43. The Committee found that there is no separate children's community residence (children's home) to treat with the children who are victims of abuse, however efforts are made by CATT to ensure that a child's placement in a children's community residences matches the sex, age and needs of the child. However, the CATT viewed all other forms of placement that simulate a family environment prior to the last resort of placement in a children's community residence.

Comments

There are not enough safe homes for children and this directly affects investigations conducted by the CPU. This is an ongoing issue and we recommend that urgent attention be placed upon it. There are instances where children who are victims of abuse have been in police custody for over seventy two hours. There are also issues whereby children encounter ill-treatment, abuse and other unhealthy situations in community residences. It should be noted that the staff for these facilities themselves need to be properly vetted and continued counselling to ensure that the abuse children encountered before entering the homes does not continue in their new environment.

Recommendations 4.44 to 4.46 do not apply

Recommendation

4.47. The Committee noted the difficulty of the TTPS to capture online sex offenders due to the emergence of modern technology and the encryption of transmissions in social media platforms and online chat rooms. As a result the Committee acknowledges the need for the TTPS to be able to penetrate the growing communities of sexual offenders who commit sex crimes online.

Comments

The response at recommendation 4.32 refers

Recommendation

4.48. Notwithstanding 4.47, the Committee further notes the need for a proactive approach especially targeting online child sex offenders.



Comments

There is an urgent need to target online offenders as they are able to inflict harm upon the victims at an alarming rate and through mediums that seem innocuous to care givers, parents and children. Most of these offenders are versed in computer software and technology and can groom children online who seek validation on social media platform. The internet is an expansive platform and an integral tool in today's developing world in terms of communication and education. Therefore, online predators pose the most harm; as they can manipulate the need for and omnipresence of the internet for their own gain and do so with little detection. Officers and law enforcement officials need to be on par in terms of their skills and abilities to navigate these spaces. Different projects and training are necessary to curb this growing issue. The Cyber Crime Unit of the TTPS has incorporated Social Media monitoring and In conjunction with the Community Policing Secretariat and Public Relations Unit, members of the Cyber Crime Unit visit schools, youth organisations, business organisation and other bodies that request lectures to be held in the community to promote responsible internet use, cyber hygiene as well as provide tips on how to not be a victim over the internet as part of its proactive approach.

Recommendation

4.50. The Committee found that the following tracking mechanisms are used to monitor student behaviour and attitudes after the HFLE programme:

- A Post-Implementation Survey;
- Focus Group Interviews for teachers and students and the
- The Student Portfolio e.g. Reflective pieces, Activity sheets /Work sheets, Personal Research, Artistic Piece, Craft, Story, Short film/CD, Information Sheet(s), Poems/Songs.

Recommendation

4.51. Furthermore, the Committee noted the MOE tracking mechanisms to monitor the preventative and responsive measures (home visit assessments, individual and group counselling and group sessions) to identify at risk students are:

- a. Clinical Supervision
- b. Case Management
 - i. Review of Case Files
 - ii. Review of Summary of student Interviews and intervention

Comments

With regard to recommendations 4.50 and 4.51, we believe that these are effective mechanisms and their functionality will depend upon how they are executed and maintained.



Recommendation

4.52. The Committee noted the VWSU view that sensitisation of the other agencies are a contributory factor for child pornography and child prostitution, for example the hotel industry and the airline industry to track and identify cases so that they could monitor and make reports to the relevant agencies.

Comments

Sensitisation, awareness, education and reform is needed nationwide throughout all institutions associated with issues plaguing children. The hospitality industry has a role and as such, is a stakeholder. Such information can be woven into the curriculum of hospitality schools at training level. Where necessary, the CPU and VWSU of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service will do their part to assist in disseminating information and educating persons employed in the hospitality sector.

Recommendation

4.53. The Committee noted that the MOE uses the following restorative approaches to treat with incidents of child pornography and child prostitution:

- **Proactive Circles-sharing information with students to prevent child abuse;**
- **Use of Peer Mediation**
- **Restorative Family Conferences/circles;**
- **Restitution Planning-encouraging personal growth, mental health stability, self-regulation; and**
- **Reintegration-encouraging self-transformation to maintain a state of normalcy.**

Comments:

The courses of action outlined appear very holistic and can indeed have positive effects. The TTPS can do its part to assist and provide information, guidance and knowledge via outreach and collaboration with the aforementioned agencies.

Recommendation

4.54. The Committee recommends that the Cyber Crime Unit of TTPS establish and operationalise additional approaches to partner with social media providers 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.

Comments

We support this initiative. We are pleased to inform the Committee that after the last committee meeting with the TTPS, the Cyber Crime Unit has since formed a relationship with one of the larger social media groups which seek to address the areas raised in relation to the focus of this committee



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 to create a proactive approach to target and lure online offenders of child prostitution and child pornography.

Comments

The Cyber Crime unit has already forged relationships regionally with all their counterparts in Cyber Crime whereby discussions take place on a variety of topics including, but not limited to, Child Pornography and Child Prostitution. In addition, the Cyber Crime unit is part of the Interpol 24/7 network on Cyber Crime whereby information is shared regionally and internationally and on occasions, projects on child pornography would be targeted. Additionally, officers from other arms of the TTPS have been sent on external courses throughout the region to learn from other territories to consolidate our approach.

Recommendation

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

Comments

The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service notes the recommendations stated in Appendix III and remains committed to addressing this emerging phenomenon of child prostitution and child pornography in Trinidad and Tobago. As far as practicable the TTPS would be incorporating these recommendations in its deterrence, investigative, prosecutorial and supportive activities. With an emphasis on deterrence, the TTPS would continue to conduct public education programmes on this issue with schools, police youth clubs, community groups and organisations across the country

Recommendation

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 2020.

Comments

The TTPS through the Victim and Witness Support Unit has initiated contact with the hotel industry towards delivering awareness programmes with their membership. To date Trinidad Hotels, Restaurant and Tourism Association has confirmed participation and a date is to be determined. The TTPS-VWSU will continue consultations with other organisations within the industry so as to promote widespread sensitization and equip this industry with the knowledge and tools to report suspected cases of child pornography and child prostitution.



Recommendation

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

- **The recommendations by UNICEF in APPENDIX III regarding the programmes and services be targeted to the treatment of the specific issues/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.**

Comments

With reference to the recommendations of UNICEF the TTPS-VWSU would:

- Continue to use efforts to promote the care of victims during all interactions with Units of the TTPS
- Contribute to the rehabilitation and reintegration of children affected by child prostitution and pornography by delivering psychosocial support, referrals to youth groups that promote resilience (e.g. Police Youth Clubs) and self-development programmes that foster sustainable improvements.
- Advocate for enhanced therapeutic and rehabilitative services from institutions that provide residential care for child victims. Ongoing monitoring by relevant State agencies is a critical component of this state provision
- Continue engagement with local and international stakeholders towards building capacity with evidenced based procedures can enhance the identification, case management, community care, reintegration and monitoring systems
- Develop programmes towards deterring cell phone pornography and transactional sex among minors
- Recommend that the State considers transitional services for teens that may be aging out of state-residential care or being reunited with family. When teenagers leave residential care they may be forced to support themselves even while placed with family thus increasing their risk of turning to prostitution in order to have finances.

With regard to the targeting of programmes and services, the TTPS would continue to review existing data to inform the development, delivery and geographical areas for of programmes and services on the issue of child pornography and child prostitution across Divisions and station districts in Trinidad and Tobago.

Recommendation

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.

Comments

The TTPS endorses the significant capacity building opportunities that international organisations present to local law enforcement agencies on this phenomenon. To this end, the TTPS-VWSU has initiated discussions with the following international bodies towards skills transfer and stakeholder sensitizations:

- CARICOM IMPACS
- Interpol
- British High Commission
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- Embassy of the United States of America

Discussions are ongoing at this time.

We suggest that safety officers, medical practitioners, security officers and caregivers be included on this list.

Recommendation

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.

Comments

We support this recommendation.

Recommendation

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 20019/2020 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.



Comments

The Child Protection Unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service conducts weekly outreach sessions that target these groups and address such issues. These sessions are holistic in nature and include aspects that deal with sexual awareness, sexual health, self-esteem, peer pressure, bullying, sexual offences and more. Children from pre-school to tertiary level are targeted. Therefore, we see the merit and impact of such an approach and support same.

Recommendation

4.62. The Committee concurs with the NPTA at 4.20 and recommends that the MOE develop a sensitisation 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.

Comments

We refer to our comments at recommendation 4.20.