

**Second Interim Report of the
Special Select Committee (Senate)
on the
Sexual Offences (Amendment) (No. 3)
Bill, 2021**



**Second Session (2021/2022),
Twelfth Parliament**



SECOND SESSION OF THE 12TH PARLIAMENT (2021/2022)

SECOND INTERIM REPORT
OF
THE SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE
APPOINTED TO CONSIDER AND REPORT ON
A BILL ENTITLED, “AN ACT TO AMEND THE SEXUAL OFFENCES ACT, CHAP.
11:28”

MP PARL: No. 14/2/33

Senate Paper No. of 2022

[Ordered to be printed by the Senate]

Date Laid in the Senate: May 25, 2022

Committee Mandate

Pursuant to a resolution of the Senate on Tuesday January 11, 2022, a Special Select Committee was established to consider and report by February 01, 2022 on the Sexual Offences (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill, 2021.

Interim Report

The Committee's Interim Report was adopted in the Senate on Tuesday February 08, 2022. Your Committee requested and was granted an extension of time to March 31, 2022 to complete its mandate.

Committee Membership

Mr. Reginald Armour, SC - Chairman¹
Mr. Randall Mitchell
Mrs. Renuka Sagramsingh-Sooklal
Ms. Jayanti Lutchmedial
Mr. Paul Richards

Secretariat Support

Mr. Johnson Greenidge, Procedural Clerk Assistant	Secretary
Mr. Brian Lucio, Procedural Clerk Assistant	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Rebecca Rafeek, Procedural Officer Intern	Assistant Secretary
Ms. Katharina Gokool	Researcher
Ms. Ria Rampersad	Researcher

Contact

The Secretary
Special Select Committee (Senate) on the Sexual Offences (Amendment) (No. 3) Bill, 2021
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex, Cabildo Building,
St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
Tel: (868) 624-7275 exts. 2232/ 2284/ 2428 Fax: (868) 625-4672
Email: sscsoa3bill2021@ttparliament.org

Date Laid in Senate:

Senate Paper No.:

PARL No.: 14/2/33

¹ The Senatorial seat of Mr. Clarence Rambharat was declared vacant with effect from March 16, 2022. Mr. Reginald Armour, SC was appointed to serve as Chairman to the Committee by resolution passed in the Senate on March 22, 2022.

CHAIRMANSHIP

1. Pursuant to a resolution of the Senate on Tuesday January 11, 2022, Mr. Clarence Rambharat was appointed to serve as Chairman of the Committee, in accordance with **Standing Order 85(2)** of the Senate.
2. The Senatorial seat of Mr. Clarence Rambharat was declared vacant with effect from March 16, 2022. Pursuant to a resolution of the Senate on Tuesday March 22, 2022, Mr. Reginald Armour, SC was appointed to serve as Chairman of the Committee in accordance with **Standing Order 85(2)** of the Senate.

MEETINGS

3. Since its appointment, your Committee has held eight (8) meetings on the following dates:
 - Friday January 14, 2022;
 - Friday January 25, 2022;
 - Friday January 28, 2022;
 - Friday February 04, 2022;
 - Friday February 11, 2022;
 - Monday February 21, 2022;
 - Monday March 07, 2022;
 - Friday March 11, 2022; and

REPORTS PRESENTED

4. The Committee's Interim Report was presented in the Senate on February 08, 2022. This report recommended that the Committee be granted an extension to March 31, 2022 to continue its work and fulfil its mandate by completing its:
 - (i) consideration of oral and written comments;
 - (ii) clause-by-clause analysis of the Bill; and
 - (iii) preparation of proposed amendments, with the assistance of officials from the Criminal Justice Unit, AGLA and the Law Reform Commission.

WORK TO DATE

5. At its **First Meeting** held on Friday January 14, 2022, your Committee agreed to issue requests to stakeholders for comment on the Bill and advise on the possibility of an invitation to participate in future stakeholder engagement sessions and invite entities to a stakeholder engagement session at its next meeting.

6. At its **Third and Fourth Meeting** held on Friday January 28 and February 04, 2022 respectively, your Committee received oral submissions (in public) from eight stakeholders and considered the comments made.
7. Your Committee requested written submissions from stakeholders by February 03, 2022 to consider and invite the stakeholders to an engagement session. Your Committee also agreed to issue a Public Call for Submissions to consider comments from members of the public.
8. In addition, your Committee noted its requirement to report by February 01, 2022 and agreed to submit an Interim Report at the next available occasion, namely, the Sitting of the Senate to be held Tuesday February 08, 2022. The Committee's Interim Report was presented in the Senate accordingly.
9. Your Committee received written comments from twenty-three stakeholders and considered the submissions made and invited stakeholders that provided same.
10. At its **Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Meetings** held on February 11, February 21 and March 04, 2022 respectively, your Committee received oral submissions (in public) from 13 additional stakeholders and after considering the comments, agreed to commence the clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill at its eighth meeting.
11. At its **Eighth Meeting** held on March 11, 2022, your Committee commenced its clause-by-clause examination of the Bill, including the comments submitted by all stakeholders examined. The Committee received technical support from officials of the Criminal Justice Unit of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs (MoAGLA) and the Law Reform Commission.
12. Pursuant to the change in Chairmanship at item (2) of this Report, the Committee decided to consider and approve a draft Second Interim Report via round-robin, which would be presented to the Senate at the next possible occasion.

REPORT

13. Your Committee wishes to report that, subsequent to the change in Chairmanship at item (2) of this Report it has not been able to complete its work. Additional time is required to:
 - (i) complete its clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill; and
 - (ii) compile proposed amendments.
14. As such, your Committee is unable to submit its final report by the deadline of March 31, 2022.

RECOMMENDATIONS

15. Your Committee humbly requests an extension of time to continue its work and report by **June 30, 2022**.
16. During the period of extension, your Committee proposes to complete its clause-by-clause examination of the Bill and its preparation of proposed amendments, with the assistance of officials from the Criminal Justice Unit, AGLA and the Law Reform Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Reginald Armour, SC
Chairman
May 25, 2022

Mr. Randall Mitchell
Member

Mrs. Renuka Sagrarsingh-Sooklal
Member

Ms. Jayanti Lutchmedial
Member

Mr. Paul Richards
Member

