

MINISTERIAL TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

PRESS STATEMENT

WEEK OF ACTIVITIES (JULY 25-30, 2016) TO COMMEMORATE WORLD DAY AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS - JULY 30, 2016



The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons concluded a 'Week of Activities' held from July 25-30, 2016 in commemoration of World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - July 30, 2016 under the theme 'I Give Hope'.

The 'Week of Activities' was preceded by a Trafficking in Persons Awareness Exercise in Port Kaituma, Mabaruma and Baramita in Region 1 conducted by the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Ministry of Social Protection.

The 'Week' commenced with 'In-house Trafficking in Persons Documentary Viewings and Discussions' held in a number of Agencies represented on the Task Force, which included a session at the Amerindian Hostel in Georgetown.

Also featured in the 'Week' were Trafficking in Persons Awareness 'Walk-Through' Sessions in Stabroek Market, Bourda Market – with participation from the Honourable Vice President and Minister of Public Security, and Chairman of the Task Force, Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, MP – and Rosehall Market. At these marketplaces, vendors and customers alike were engaged on the topic of

trafficking in persons, encouraged to use the TIP Hotline Number, and presented with paraphernalia such as Posters, Fliers, Wristbands, Bags, Keyrings and Brochures bearing the Hotline Number, information on TIP and anti-TIP slogans.

The 'Week' was concluded with a 'Trafficking in Persons Awareness Walk' held on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons - July 30, 2016. The Walk saw participation from Ministerial and Technical Representatives of Agencies on the Task Force, the United States Embassy, the Guyana Police Force, Community Policing Groups, other Non-Governmental Organizations and Concerned Citizens.

The Walk commenced at Promenade Gardens and concluded at Durban Park, where remarks were made by the Honourable Minister of Social Protection, Ms. Volda Lawrence, MP; Honourable Minister within the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Ms. Simona Broomes, MP; and United States Ambassador to Guyana, Mr. Perry Holloway, while the feature address was delivered by Honourable Vice President and Minister of Public Security, and Task Force Chairman, Mr. Khemraj Ramjattan, MP.

In addition to the aforementioned remarks, the Post-Walk Programme also featured a poem/song hybrid titled "I am not your slave" by Nicasey and a poem titled "P.D.F. (Pretty Disturbing Facts) about Human Trafficking" by SURU.

The Ministerial Task Force wishes to extend its gratitude to the Agencies on the Task Force and to Banks DIH Ltd., whose financial and/or in-kind contributions contributed greatly to the success of the Week of Activities.

Special thanks is also extended to the Ambassador of the United States of America to Guyana, Mr. Perry Holloway, whose participation in the Walk and remarks made in the subsequent programme were greatly appreciated.

Gratitude is also extended to public spirited citizens and all other stakeholders who participated in the Walk, as your involvement signalled your willingness to join the fight to stop trafficking in persons. Everyone is urged to continue to utilise the TIP Hotline Number – 227-4083 – and to share it with others.

The Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons, which comprises of a number of Governmental and Non-Governmental Agencies, is currently finalizing a two-year Action Plan and was recently promoted from 'Tier Two Watchlist' to

'Tier Two' in the 2016 Trafficking in Persons Report issued by the United States Department of State.

The Task Force aims to improve its efforts to fight trafficking in persons, and by extension gain promotion to Tier One, through a victim-centred approach driven by collaboration among various stakeholders, including the general public.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SECURITY
AUGUST 11, 2016