

## CCSJ calls for more concerted action to promote Human Rights

- Post authorBy [Web administrator](#)
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On Tuesday 10 December, around the world millions will observe World Human Rights Day. The Catholic Commission for Social Justice (CCSJ) calls for more concerted action on the part of all citizens to promote Human Rights. The US State Department's 2012 Human Rights Report on TT (see: <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/204692.pdf>) listed a number of "human rights problems" in TT which we obviously did not address with the urgency required e.g. poor prison conditions, high-profile cases of alleged bribery, violence and discrimination against women, inadequate services for vulnerable children...".

TT's global ranking on Transparency International's (TI) Corruption Perception Index 2013 continues to decline steadily – from **31** in 2001 to **80** in 2012 to **83** in 2013 – with a corresponding drop in the score from 39 to 38. As Deryck Murray, chairman of the T&T Transparency Institute (the local chapter of TI), said on 3 December: "The lower the score is the higher the perception of corruption." Barbados is at number 15 out of 177 – the least corrupt in the Caribbean and among the least corrupt in the world. This is a key human rights issue that TT must address. See: CCSJ's Website: <http://rcsocialjusticett.org/2.0/2013/10/06/regenerating-morals-and-values-in-our-society/> for Terrence Farrell's presentation at CCSJ's Conference on 5 October 2013. It includes his analysis of five factors which characterise the ethos which promotes or encourages the corrupt behaviours of our leaders.

CCSJ has joined forces with The Greater Caribbean for Life and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to organize a **Panel Discussion on the theme: Promoting Human Rights** – on 10 December, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at the UNDP Office on Chancery Lane, POS, (opp. Bishop Anstey High School). Admission is free. Moderator: Leela Ramdeen, Chair, CCSJ and GCL

Panellists:

1. **Mr. Richard Blewitt**, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, TT, Suriname, Aruba, Curaçao and Sint Maarten:

Topic: *An Overview of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

2. **Ms. Margaret Sampson-Browne**, Manager of the Victim and Witness Support Unit, TT

Topic: *The Human Rights of victims and witnesses of crime*

3. **Mr. Gregory Delzin**, Attorney-at-Law

Topic: *Human Rights and the Death Penalty: Stop crime, not lives*

4. **Ms. Alana Wheeler**, Deputy Director, Counter Trafficking Unit, Ministry of National Security

Topic: *Human Trafficking, a violation of human rights*

5. **Mrs. Diana Mahabir-Wyatt**, Chair, Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Topic: *Domestic Violence, a fundamental Human Rights issue*

**For further information or to secure a place, ring Leela Ramdeen on 299 8945**