



**PERMANENT MISSION OF BARBADOS TO THE UNITED NATIONS
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
AT GENEVA**

**Statement by Barbados on the Occasion of the Universal Periodic
Review (UPR) of Trinidad and Tobago
May 10, 2016**

Thank you Mr. Chairman

Barbados extends a very warm welcome to the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago, a sister CARICOM state.

My delegation congratulates Trinidad and Tobago for the significant developments and progress made in advancing human rights protection for its citizens since its last review and for the very frank assessment of the constraints and challenges it faces.

We applaud Trinidad and Tobago's official policy in the fostering and promoting of its rich cultural diversity and heritage which has released the creative genius of its people. The result of this is that through the many mediums of cultural expression, the rights of its people are trumpeted and heard.

We note the progress made in addressing many of the human rights issues that concern us here today namely:

- The adoption of relevant legislation in 2013 on human trafficking and the establishment of national agencies to give effect to countering this global issue;

- The adoption of the Children Act of 2012 which established a Juvenile Justice System and expanded protection of children in the areas of cruelty, sexual conduct against children and education;
- The ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The decriminalization of defamation with the enactment of the Libel and Defamation Act in 2014
- The adoption in June 2014 of a national policy to address refugees and asylum matters

We commend Trinidad and Tobago on the gains made regarding legislative reforms relating to violence against women, gender equality and protection of the elderly.

Barbados urges Trinidad and Tobago to continue with its progressive policy of advancing the human rights agenda by the adoption of enabling legislation where it is required and, in this vein, recommends the establishment of a national human rights institution under Paris Principles to undertake and oversee the further advancement of this agenda.

Barbados wishes Trinidad and Tobago a successful review.

Thank you.