



## Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute

T: 626-5756 / 0988 ■ W: [transparency.org.tt](http://transparency.org.tt) ■ E: [admin@transparency.org.tt](mailto:admin@transparency.org.tt)

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### What We Have Been Doing

#### ◆ Special General Meeting (SGM)

TTTI hosted a virtual Special General Meeting on 16 December, 2020. Mr. Moonilal Lalchan, Procurement Regulator and Chairman of the Board of Procurement Regulation delivered an informative keynote address entitled: **Procurement Legislation: the next steps**. Mr. Lalchan clarified issues and concerns surrounding the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Amendment) Act, 2020, in respect of readiness and implementation of the legislation. [Click here to view](#) a recording of the meeting.

#### Media Coverage of SGM

[Procurement Regulator: We are ready to work - Newsday Article](#)

[Procurement head agrees amended bill watered down – Guardian Article](#)

Following the SGM, Chair, Dion Abdool participated in a radio interview hosted by Stephen Cummings, Broadcast Journalist, Radio 98.1FM. In the interview held for one hour, Mr. Abdool discussed TTTI's position re the Public Procurement Act, governance issues relating to transparency in public affairs as well as citizens' rights and privileges.



It should be noted that prior to and during the debate of the Procurement Act in Parliament a number of discussions were held with the Private Sector Civil Society Group (PSCSG) and other key stakeholders in order to address the proposed amendments to the Procurement Legislation.

Do you have a corruption complaint?

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◆ **Anti-Corruption Day 2020 - Hold Power to Account and Recover with Integrity**

TTTI observed International Anti-Corruption Day 2020 (December 9), by issuing a press release calling on citizens to ‘**Hold Power to Account**’ which will enable Trinidad and Tobago to ‘**Recover with Integrity**’. In the release, TTTI acknowledged the many challenges of 2020 but called on Parliamentarians to do their duty and give anti-corruption and good governance matters priority. A copy of the [release can be found here](#).

**Anti-Corruption Day 2020 Spoken Word Performances**

(Please click for video performance)

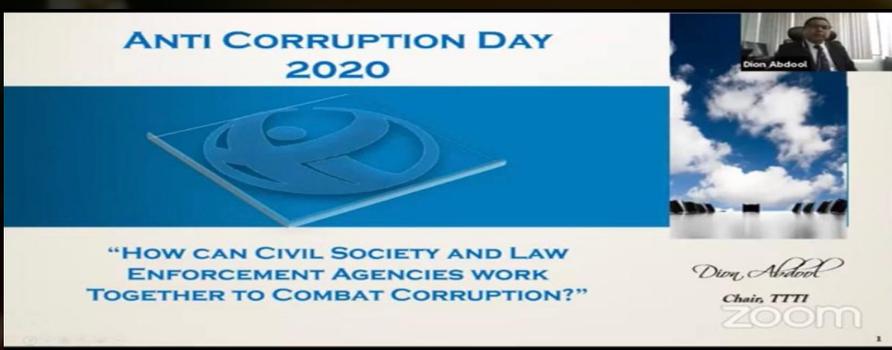
[Derron Sandy – ‘The Doctor’](#)

[Michael Logie – ‘Ship 868’](#)

Additionally Secretary, Susan Gordon participated in a radio interview on Power 102FM to inform the public of the significance of December 9 as Anti-Corruption Day. Ms Gordon also discussed TTTI’s position with respect to national concerns including the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Amendment) Act, 2020. A recording of the [interview can be found here](#).

◆ **Anti-Corruption Day Webinar**

On December 9, Chair, Dion Abdool delivered a presentation at an Anti-Corruption Day webinar hosted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS). Mr. Abdool’s presentation was entitled: “**How can Civil Society and Law Enforcement Agency work together to Combat Corruption?**” [Click here](#) to view Mr. Abdool’s contribution from 1 hour and 52 minutes onwards.

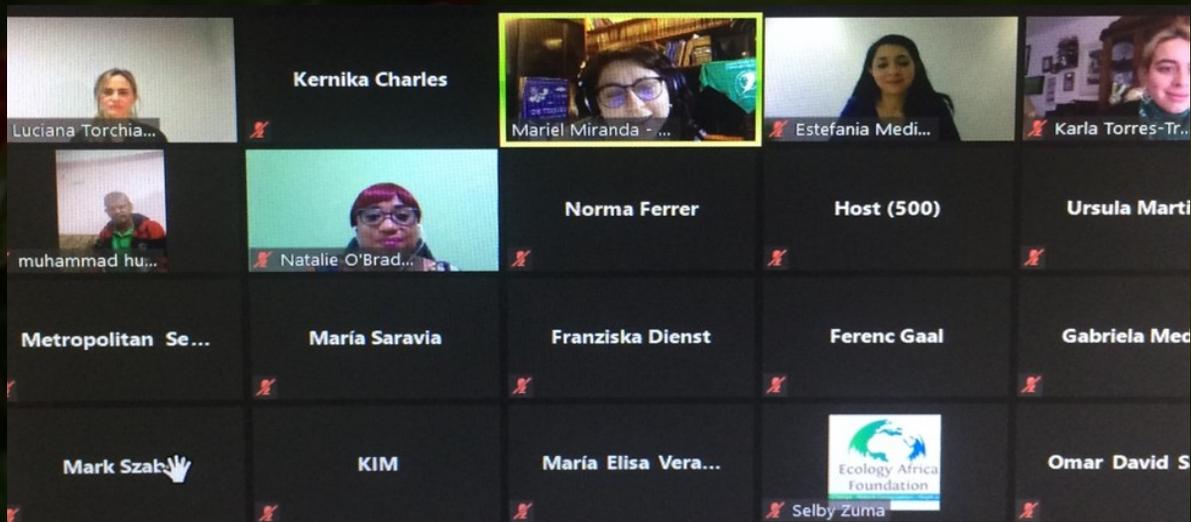


◆ **International Anti-Corruption Conference 2020**

Transparency International hosted its annual 19th International Anti-Corruption Conference from November 30 – December 5. The Conference themed - **Designing 2030: Trust, Truth & Transparency** featured six days of workshops and plenaries. Approximately 7,500 persons attended from 182 countries. Chair, Dion Abdool represented TTTI at the Conference. [Click here to view the Conference declaration](#) – Together for 2030 - For a Future Based on Trust, Truth and Transparency.



As part of the Conference, TTTI was also invited by Transparencia Mexicana to participate and share the Caribbean perspective in a panel discussion entitled - **"From flash mobs to new and effective policies to prevent sextortion and violence against women in Latin America."** The panel discussion sort to address the different types of violence that women experience and corruption issues which influence justice. TTTI member, Natalie O'Brady represented the Institute at the workshop.



#### ◆ COVID-19 Awareness Campaign

TTTI's School Integrity Club Ambassadors (I-Club) developed a COVID - 19 Awareness Campaign. The project sponsored by RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited is aimed at advocating and encouraging responsible behaviour by all citizens during this global pandemic.

The Campaign comprised of three phases:

1. An online questionnaire which helped develop the project. [Click here to view a PowerPoint presentation](#) summarizing the survey results and recommendations received;
2. Publication of a series of spoken word pieces encouraging wearing of masks, proper sanitization, social distancing etc. Click link below for performances and

[Ms. Hand Sanitizer – Mishael Henry](#)

[Covid-19 Protocols – Derron Sandy](#)

[Social distancing – Majeed Karim](#)

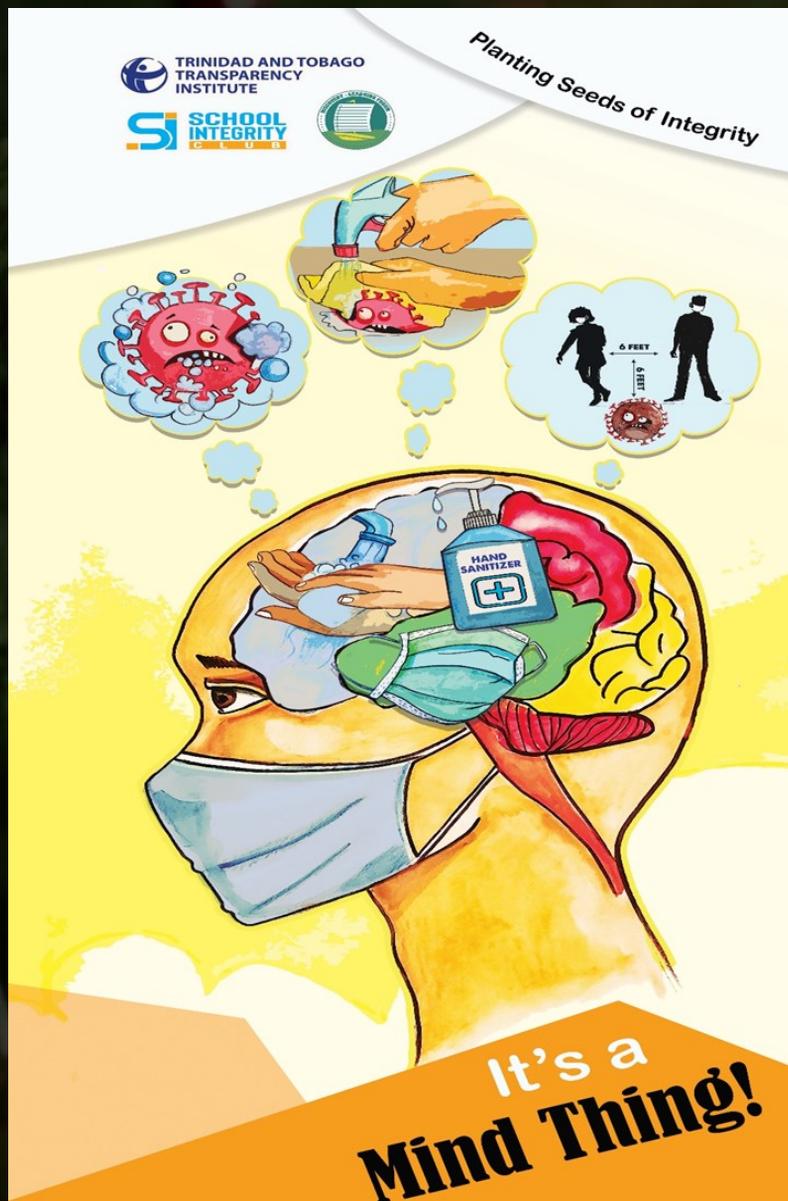
3. Publication of COVID-19 awareness artwork/graphics on all social media platforms and TTTI's website. [A copy of the artwork is below.](#)

TTTI extends sincere thanks to RBC Limited, our Integrity Ambassadors and project partner Discovery Forum.



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### ◆ Transparency International (TI) – Annual Membership Meeting

TI's Annual Membership Meeting 2020, was held virtually on November 5 – 8. The new Strategy 2030 - **Holding Power to Account** was approved at the meeting. Two resolutions related to the new strategy: a Youth Integrity Initiative and the coordination of joint initiatives to guarantee that the development, purchase and distribution of treatments and vaccines respect the principles of transparency, accountability, and protection of human rights were also approved. Delia Ferreira Rubio and Rueben Lifuka were also re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair. TTTI's Chair, Dion Abdool attended the meeting on behalf of TTTI.

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TI Chair, Delia Ferreira Rubio at the AMM



A cross-section of AMM participants

### ◆ Transparency International Caribbean Action Network (TI CAN)

TTTI, National Integrity Action (TI Jamaica) and TI Guyana over the last few months has been meeting weekly with TI fundraisers/consultants to develop a Caribbean network to assist with local fundraising efforts. The team has settled a strategic plan 2020-2025 aimed at building a sustainable anti-corruption network to strengthen our impact, research, learnings, advocacy and power in the fight against corruption. TI's Secretariat fundraising team is currently drafting a full proposal for TI CAN based on the strategic plan to begin conversations with potential donors. Chair, Dion Abdool and Programme Officer, Kernika Charles represents TTTI on the Caribbean Action Network.

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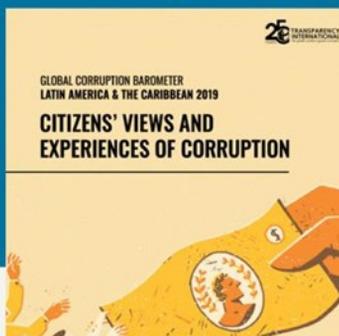
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### TI's work in the Caribbean: Research, Building Coalitions, advocate, Support Chapters, Advocacy & Legal Advice, knowledge Sharing



Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers in Jamaica and Trinidad.



U4 Helpdesk Answer 2019:13

Overview of corruption and anti-corruption in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago

Author(s): Mathias Bak  
Reviewer(s): Matthew Jenkins, Transparency International and Sophie Lemaitre, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre  
Date: 28 November 2019

#### ◆ Transparency in Land Matters

TTTI continues to be part of a core committee made up of civil society, academia, individuals and companies working through the International Land Coalition (ILC) towards the ultimate goal of improving access to and transparency of land information, in order to improve the quality of life of persons impacted by inequality in land rights. Acting Vice-Chair, Jason Stedman represents TTTI on the ILC.

#### ◆ Town Hall meeting

On October 27, 2020, TTTI hosted a virtual Town Hall meeting themed '**Ending gender-based violence in Trinidad and Tobago.**' Approximately seventy-nine (79) persons joined the meeting while others viewed via live stream on Facebook. A recording of the meeting can be [found here](#). The event was also covered by the media and [this Newsday article](#) provides a great summary of the meeting discussions.

TTTI extends special thanks to the keynote speaker Mr. Ian Roach, Chairman, Equal Opportunity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago; Superintendent (Ag), Claire Guy-Alleyne, Head, Gender-Based Violence Unit, Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) Police Service; Shireen Pollard, Unit Manager, Gender-Based Violence Unit, T&T Police Service; Terry Dale Ince, Convener, CEDAW Committee of Trinidad and Tobago; Dr. Rosina Wiltshire, Gender Specialist and Caribbean Women in Leadership, Board Member and the panel moderator Natalie O'Brady, Psychologist.

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### ◆ Meeting with Commissioner of Police

On July 23, 2020, members of TTTI's Board, led by Chair, Dion Abdool met (virtually) with Commissioner of Police, Gary Griffith, TTPS's Financial Investigations Branch, Acting Superintendent, Wendell Lucas and TTPS's Legal Unit, Director, Christian Chandler. Discussions surrounded outstanding corruption and white collar crime investigations; including CLICO and Petrotrin/AV Drilling. Also discussed was the need for additional anti-corruption legislation as well as the effectiveness of existing legislation.

Commissioner Griffith noted that the recently passed Civil Asset Recovery and Management and Unexplained Wealth Bill, 2019 has proven to be very effective in detecting police fraud/corruption. Commissioner also explained that the reallocation of the Anti-corruption Investigations Bureau (ACIB) from under the purview of the Ministry of the Attorney General to the TTPS has improved the investigative capacity of the TTPS and assisted with the timeliness of investigations. Members would note that TTTI advocated strongly for the relocation of the ACIB.

Mr. Griffith also expressed willingness to assist with matters that are reported to our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC).

### ◆ Strategic Plan Review

TTTI's Board of Directors held a strategic planning review session on July 16, 2020. Some of the priorities include lobbying for the implementation of the Procurement Act, passage of Campaign Finance Legislation and Whistle Blower protection legislation. Additionally, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, TTTI is exploring options for hosting virtual Anti-Corruption Conference in early 2021.

Chair, Dion Abdool also participated in a Caribbean Strategic meeting, where initiatives discussed assisted in the drafting of Transparency International's new strategic plan.

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### ◆ Investigative Journalism – Update

Chair, Dion Abdool and Acting Vice-Chair, Jason Stedman met (virtually) on July 22, 2020 with Kiran Maharaj, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Publishers and Broadcasters Association and The Media Institute of the Caribbean. It was a very informative meeting, where Ms. Maharaj disclosed the useful work and infrastructure already in place and on which TTTI can utilize in developing its own investigative journalism award. TTTI will continue discussions with Ms. Maharaj and other stakeholders to bring this matter to fruition.

### ◆ Meeting with EU Head of Delegation

Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago, His Excellency, Aad Biesebroek invited TTTI to an informal meeting to discuss TTTI's views on socio-economic opportunities, challenges and eventual future cooperation between the European Union and Trinidad and Tobago. Chair, Dion Abdool and Secretary, Susan Gordon represented TTTI at this virtual meeting on July 23, 2020.

### ◆ Press Releases Include - Outstanding matters

On July 10, 2020, TTTI issued a press release reiterating the urgent need for the Parliament to deal with outstanding legislation that will benefit every citizen. TTTI noted that priority must be given to the full proclamation of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act and Whistleblower legislation which did not receive the full support of the House of Representatives when it was laid before Parliament in 2019. TTTI called for the reintroduction of the Bill to Parliament and for both Houses to expedite the passage of this long outstanding piece of legislation.

TTTI also encouraged the Government to move with haste and implement Campaign Finance Legislation before the next Local Government Elections.

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### ◆ The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2020

The Parliamentary Secretariat shared the “The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2020 with TTTI for review. With feedback from members, regional experts and our own research on regional and international best practices, TTTI submitted its comments via letter to the Joint Select Committee, Office of the Parliament. Recently with the convening of Parliament after General Elections the JSC has sought further comments.

### ◆ Council for Responsible Political Behaviour

A meeting of the Founding Organizations of the Code of Ethical Political Conduct was held in early December. The meeting was chaired by Archbishop Jason Gordon and the Council’s report for the last General Election was presented by Dr. Bishnu Ragoonath. Discussions also included monitoring of the upcoming THA elections.

### ◆ Gender and anti-corruption

Transparency International is presently working on mapping existing initiatives on gender and corruption in Latin America and the Caribbean. The aim is to understand the context of gender equality in relation to anti-corruption and how the gender/corruption nexus is tackled in the Caribbean. Programme Officer, Kernika Charles on July 6, 2020 participated in a virtual interview with Deniz Devrim, TI Consultant where TTTI’s history and projects were discussed as well as past town hall meetings that focused on women’s rights. Mention was also made of our upcoming Symposium and Town Hall meeting.

### ◆ Committees of the Board

The Board has established two committees namely the Fundraising Committee, chaired by Treasurer, Donna Jack-Hill and a Membership Committee chaired by Director, Reynold Cooper.

Members are encouraged to volunteer their services to these committees and may contact [admin@transparency.org.tt](mailto:admin@transparency.org.tt) to confirm their assistance.

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### ◆ Fiscal Year 2019 Audit

The FY 2019 Audit was completed by Auditors BDO in November and presented to Transparency International. The Auditors expressed their opinion that the 'Financial Statement presents fairly in all material respects the financial position of the Institute as at December 31 2019'. Financial Performance was in accordance with IFRS requirements.

### ◆ Annual membership subscription

Due to Covid-19 precautions, all members are kindly asked to submit annual membership fees via bank transfers or by visiting TTTI's Office. Payments can be made at any Republic Bank, account number 350118837501, Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute. Payment receipts must be scanned and emailed to [admin@transparency.org.tt](mailto:admin@transparency.org.tt). Members should also note that fees for 2021 becomes payable on January 1, 2021.

### ◆ Media Relations:

- > [TTTI: Don't amend Procurement Act](#)
- > [Joint Chambers, JCC and TTTI urge govt to 'withdraw amendments to section 7\(2\)' of Public Procurement bill](#)
- > [Procurement Bill Flawed](#)
- > [Matters Outstanding](#)

### ◆ Upcoming events

**Launch of the Corruption Perceptions Index 2019 – January 2020**

**Anti-Corruption Conference – March 2021**

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