

# NATIONAL EMERGENCY! ACT NOW

## DEMANDS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO TO ACT NOW ON THE CRISIS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

- 1) Make Immediate Changes to the Public Transportation System.** Work with public transportation associations/unions to develop an "Urgent Response & System of Safety" for women and girls. Implement mandatory GBV Training and background checks for drivers and a complaint system for patrons. Ensure all taxis and drivers are registered. Install cameras at taxi stands and priority bus route.
- 2) Increase Effectiveness, Accountability and Transparency of the State.** To achieve this, we recommend the establishment of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms based on data collection, analysis, and dissemination protocols and within responsible state agencies, such as the police service, courts, and social services.
- 3) Ensure sufficient financial and organizational support and resources for national support systems that provide services to survivors and victims,** including the: Shelters, Victim and Witness Support Unit, Gender and Child Affairs Division, the emergency hotline 800-SAVE, and the newly established TTPS Gender Based Violence Unit.
- 4) Establish a Social Fund** as a national budgetary priority to support NGO-led shelters and civil society members providing services to persons affected by gender-based violence.
- 5) Create a Multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism that includes civil society, academics and ministries, working together to end gender-based violence.** This committee will advise Government on the adoption, resourcing, implementation and monitoring of the National Strategy against Gender Based and Sexual Violence and the National Policy on Gender and Development.
- 6) Invest in social reformation programmes to facilitate cultural change** by embedding and teaching nonviolent communication approaches and methodologies in school curricula, social service provision, and public education campaigns.