



Social Security - A perspective from the Creative Sector

MEAGAN SYLVESTER

SENIOR LECTURER

CIPRIANI COLLEGE OF LABOUR AND CO-OPERATIVE STUDIES &
TUCO BOARD DIRECTOR - EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OFFICER

APRIL 26TH, 2021

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

▶ Social Security

- ▶ From a social policy perspective, there are two dominant perspectives on the operationalization of the term social security. Countries which still remain dependents of the British crown and former British-colonised nations have interpreted social security to mean *monetary assistance from the state for people with an inadequate or no income*.
- ▶ From the United States perspective, social security is understood to mean a *federal insurance scheme providing benefits for pensioners and those who are unemployed or disabled*.

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

▶ The Creative Industries Sector

- ▶ Those industries which have their origin in individual creativity, skill and talent and which have a potential for wealth and job creation through the generation and exploitation of intellectual property.
(<https://www.davidparrish.com/creative-industries-definitions/>)
- ▶ The term ‘creative industries’ describes businesses with creativity at their heart – for example design, music, publishing, architecture, film and video, crafts, visual arts, fashion, TV and radio, advertising, literature, computer games and the performing arts.
(<https://www.davidparrish.com/creative-industries-definitions/>)

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

- ▶ **UNESCO perspective**

- ▶ The profession of an artiste generally does not lead to having a permanent employer and steady income; however, artists remain liable for all taxes, including contributions to the state social insurance fund and the state health insurance fund, and thus find themselves in a vulnerable position regarding social security.

<https://en.unesco.org/creativity/policy-monitoring-platform/social-security-programme-artists>

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

- ▶ **The Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Landscape**
- ▶ The Creative Industries is defined as 'the interface between creativity, culture, economics and technology as expressed in the ability to create and circulate intellectual capital, with the potential to generate income, jobs and export earnings while at the same time promoting social inclusion, cultural diversity and human development' according to UNCTAD's 2008 report Creative Economy.
- ▶ The Creative Industry of Trinidad and Tobago cluster comprises eight (8) subsectors/niche areas. The Ministry of Trade and Industry has been given responsibility for the following subsectors as a priority for business development and economic diversification: Music. Film and Fashion

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

- ▶ **TUCO, its membership and Social Security Protection**
- ▶ For purposes of this paper the creative industries discourse will center its discourse on music as creative expression and in particular Calypso music and the role that the Trinbago Unified Calypsonians' Organisation (TUCO) plays in the provision of social security protection for its membership.
- ▶ In Trinidad and Tobago, when referring to the Calypso fraternity there is an understanding that artistes generally make most of their earnings during the Carnival Season and at other seasonal opportunities at local Calypso shows and at diasporic carnivals in international spaces.

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

- ▶ **TUCO, its membership and Social Security Protection**
- ▶ This lack of a steady employment therefore more resembles a reality of non-permanency and irregular income. In such cases, TUCO, which is the organization which has responsibility for marketing, research and education, public relations and welfare matters related to the Calypsonians and Soca artistes who become members, has embarked on several social security protection initiative for its membership since its existence.

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

- ▶ Social Protection opportunities provided by TUCO re as follows:
- ▶
- ▶ Living Waters Community – engagement two (2) years for the provision of food items, hampers, toiletries and household items
- ▶ FEEL (The Foundation for the Enhancement and Enrichment of Life (FEEL) – engagement for fifteen (15 years) or the provision of food items and household items
- ▶ Housing Development Corporation – HDC for the provision of assistance with the acquisition of housing
- ▶ Ministry of Social Development for the provision of food cards, social assistance and the Special Achiever's Grant
- ▶ TATIL for the provision of health insurance for TUCO members

Social Security – A perspective from the Creative Sector

- ▶ **Conclusion**

- ▶ TUCO remains committed to servicing and serving its members via the social security platform through its welfare office and with the continued assistance of non-governmental organizations