



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES
ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WEST INDIES
THE INSTITUTE FOR GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
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Break the Silence, end the abuse

November 4th, 2010

Dear citizens and friends of the IGDS,

**RE: INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE JUSTICE FOR CHILDREN MARCH
TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2010**

This is a Call to Action for justice for our nation's children. On Saturday November 20, 2010, Universal Children's Day, the Institute for Gender and Development Studies together with other civic minded groups will take part in a March called "Justice for Children March", which is being organized by us and three other groups. Members of other non-governmental organizations together with other interested groups and people will also take part in the March.

The purpose of the March is to:

- (1) raise awareness of the prevalence child abuse in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (2) lobby for justice in the several unresolved child abuse cases; and
- (3) advocate for the enactment of new laws, such as laws relating to the establishment of a modern and effective family-oriented foster care system, and the full implementation of existing laws and regulations, such as the provision of staff and other resources at the Children's Authority to help children at risk and to promote the welfare of all abused children in our country.

Our groups wish to work in partnership with the government and all agencies against child abuse and for child protection.

We take this opportunity to share the IGDS/CADV action oriented research project *Break the Silence: end child sexual abuse* and the blue teddy bear symbol with a plaster on its heart,

designed specifically to raise awareness of issues surrounding child sexual abuse/incest, gender and implications for HIV/AIDS. The research project is a collaboration and partnership between the IGDS, CADV, ChildLine, UNICEF, the UN Fund for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, The Tobago House of Assembly and the Toco Foundation.

We invite your Ministry and its members to join us in the March as a sign of solidarity for the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

Details of the March will be provided to you upon finalization of same. In the interim, we enclose the poster for the March, a flyer containing an overview of the four groups who are organizing the March and a registration form for persons who are interested in participating and in ordering t-shirts for our cause *Break the Silence: end child sexual abuse*. Kindly complete and return to us the signed form which will assist us in ensuring that adequate arrangements are made for a successful March.

We look forward to you joining the March in response to this Call to Action for Justice for our nation's children.

If you have any queries regarding the March, kindly contact the IGDS offices on the phone lines 662-2002 Ext. 3573 or 3577, on Facsimile 645-3232 ext. 3572 or on email on igds@sta.uwi.edu

Yours sincerely



Dr. Piya Pansapa

Head, IGDS

Enclosed PDF contains

- (1) Overview of four groups organizing the March
- (2) Registration form and t-shirts order form
- (3) Current poster for the March