

NEWSLETTER

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TCIHRC Reinforces Oversight Authority in Impromptu Detention Center Review

In October 2024, TCIHRC conducted an unannounced review of the detention center to assess conditions and ensure compliance with human rights standards. During the visit, the Commission engaged with officers to clarify its mandate, emphasizing its authority to conduct unscheduled inspections and access places of detention without restriction. This initiative underscores TCIHRC's unwavering commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of all detainees.



Multiagency Stakeholder Meeting

TCIHRC Strengthens Collaboration Through Multi-Agency Stakeholder Meeting

On October 9, 2024, TCIHRC hosted a multi-agency stakeholder meeting to engage government partners and reinforce its mandate through education on its powers and functions. The discussions provided a platform to clarify misconceptions about the Commission's role, fostering greater understanding and setting the foundation for enhanced collaboration in future initiatives. This engagement highlights TCIHRC's commitment to building strong partnerships for the promotion and protection of human rights.



TCIHRC Welcomes Donisha Williams as Finance Manager

Congratulations to Ms. Donisha Williams on her well-earned promotion from Investigations Officer to Finance Manager following a successful interview process. With two years of dedicated service as the Investigations Officer of the commission and a Bachelor's in Science in Business Administration (Finance and Management) from TCICC, Ms. Williams brings valuable expertise in finance and management. We look forward to her leadership and contributions in this new role as we continue to strengthen our operations.

TCIHRC Hosts "Voices for Rights" Community Dialogue on Human Rights Day

On December 10, 2024, TCIHRC celebrated International Human Rights Day by hosting "Voices for Rights: A Community Dialogue" at Beaches Resort. The event brought together stakeholders, policy experts, educators, and community members to discuss key human rights challenges in education and housing.

Panel discussions addressed overcrowded schools and limited educational resources, emphasizing the need for collaboration to ensure quality education for all. Housing affordability and access were also highlighted, with calls for stronger policies to guarantee safe, affordable housing as a fundamental right.

The event also recognized community engagement through competitions—M.I.L.L.S. Institute won the jingle competition, while Taisha Jean-Louis, Roce Palmer, and Graceaniqua excelled in the art competition.

TCIHRC extends gratitude to all participants, key organizations, and sponsors—Island Bargain, Business Solutions, Do It Center, and The Hartling Group—for supporting this impactful initiative.



TCIHRC Engages in Anti-Trafficking Training

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, TCIHRC participated in the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Ordinance Training, organized by the Department of Gender Affairs. Our Education and Outreach Officer, Vernal Lightbourn, contributed to discussions, delivered a presentation, and addressed key questions about the link between human rights and human trafficking.

This essential training enhances efforts to combat trafficking by improving legal awareness, fostering collaboration, and strengthening victim support. TCIHRC applauds the Department of Gender Affairs for spearheading this initiative and uniting experts to advance knowledge and action in the fight against human trafficking.

TCIHRC Supports Key Stakeholder Initiatives

The Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission proudly attended several key events to support stakeholder groups and promote human rights:

- **Special Education Needs Inter-High School Debate**— Our Director served as a panel judge as students debated inclusive education, affirming all children’s right to learn.
- **Border Force Inauguration**—Recognizing the role of border security in upholding safety and equality for all residents and visitors.
- **Darkness to Light Program Launch**— Supporting the TCI Red Cross in equipping adults to protect children from abuse and create a safer community.
- **IDEVAW Ceremony**—Standing with Gender Affairs TCI on November 25 to launch the 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence.

TCIHRC remains committed to collaboration, advocacy, and protecting human rights across the islands.



 @TCIHRC
  Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission
 www.humanrightscommission.tc
 tcihumanrightscomission@hrc.tc
 (649) 941-5343