

NEWS ARTICLE



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COMMISSION
ANNOUNCES
CHANGE TO
HUMANITARIAN
AWARDS
SCHEDULE: A
FOCUS ON
SUSTAINED
IMPACT AND
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

**TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 29TH**



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HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES CHANGE TO HUMANITARIAN AWARDS SCHEDULE: A FOCUS ON SUSTAINED IMPACT AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Human Rights Commission of the Turks and Caicos Islands would like to inform the general public that our annual Humanitarian Awards will not be hosted this year. This decision comes as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining the integrity and prestige of this esteemed award. After much deliberation, we have determined that hosting the awards every two years will allow us to continue recognizing individuals of the highest caliber—those whose long-term body of work reflects the true spirit of humanitarianism and service. This change will ensure that the award remains meaningful and continues to inspire genuine, sustained contributions to the well-being of our communities.

We are immensely proud of the impact that the Humanitarian Awards have had in raising the profile of volunteerism and service across the Turks and Caicos Islands. The award has become a symbol of excellence, promoting and celebrating individuals who have dedicated themselves to improving the lives of others. However, to foster a more lasting momentum around these efforts, we believe it is essential to give honorees the time and space to build a substantial body of work. By shifting to a biennial format, we are ensuring that the award reflects ongoing, meaningful contributions rather than short-term achievements.

While we will not be hosting the Humanitarian Awards this year, we remain deeply committed to promoting human rights and encouraging active engagement within our communities. To this end, we are excited to announce that the Commission will be organizing a special panel exercise in celebration of International Human Rights Day this December. This event will bring together our youth, community members, and key stakeholders to foster dialogue on critical human rights issues affecting the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Our panel exercise aims to create a space where we can engage with the next generation, explore ways to promote human rights, and tackle the challenges facing our society today. Through this interactive event, we hope to inspire a deeper understanding of human rights among our citizens and encourage proactive efforts to safeguard these rights. In addition to the panel discussion, we will be organizing various activities that reflect our core mandate to protect, promote, and uphold human rights throughout the islands.



NEWS ARTICLE

We believe that this new direction closely mirrors the essence of our mission as a human rights entity. By shifting focus from an annual award to a more comprehensive and community-centered approach, we are reinforcing the values that guide our work. This will not only strengthen the impact of the Humanitarian Awards when they are next held but will also further our goal of creating a sustained culture of volunteerism and human rights advocacy in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

We thank the public for their ongoing support of the Human Rights Commission and our initiatives. We are confident that this shift in focus will bring about greater awareness and involvement in the promotion of human rights, which is at the heart of everything we do. We look forward to your participation in this year's panel exercise and other events, as together we continue to build a more just, compassionate, and rights-respecting society.

For more information about our upcoming events or how to get involved, please visit our website at humanrightscommission.tc or contact the office at 941-5343 or 941-5737.

Kabatha Smith
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