

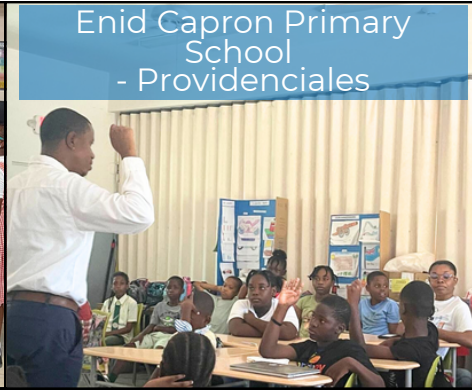
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 11

APRIL - JUNE 2025



Ona Glinton Primary School
- Grand Turk



Enid Capron Primary
School
- Providenciales



Modernizing Justice Through Dialogue

In support of the Parole Board Modernization Project, the Director was invited to participate in an interview with representatives from the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision and the Center for Effective Public Policy to offer insights from a human rights perspective. Her contributions addressed key issues, including the overrepresentation of remand prisoners and the need for special consideration of vulnerable groups. Together, they worked toward developing a parole system that is fairer, more effective, and firmly rooted in the principles of human rights and equity.



Welcome Back, Director!

The Commission joyfully welcomed back Director Smith from maternity leave. Her presence was deeply missed. Special thanks were extended to Finance Manager Ms. Donisha Williams, who led the team admirably as Acting Director during Mrs. Smith's absence.

Empowering Young Minds: Human Rights Education in Action!

The TCI Human Rights Commission brought human rights to life at Ona Glinton Primary School, where Education and Outreach Officer Mr. Vernal Lightbourn led an engaging session for Grade 3 and 4 students on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Joined by Investigations Officer Mrs. Jabrinia Gardiner, the team sparked enthusiastic discussions about children's rights and how to make a complaint. The Commission extended heartfelt thanks to the school for its warm welcome and active involvement.

Special Invitation: Children's Rights Program Returns to Enid Capron Primary School

In the 4th quarter of the 2024–25 year, the Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission delivered interactive sessions on the Convention on the Rights of the Child to Grade 3 and 4 students at government primary schools, including Enid Capron Primary School (ECPS). Following the success of the initial session, the Commission was honored to return to ECPS to deliver an extended children's rights training at the invitation of the principal and Grade 4 teachers. The program received glowing feedback from educators and marked a key milestone in the broader launch of the Children's Rights Educational Program across the TCI. The Commission deeply appreciates the enthusiasm and engagement of the ECPS staff and students and looks forward to future opportunities to continue this important educational initiative.

Director Responds to Viral Incident

In an official statement, Director Smith addressed public concern over a viral video showing an incident involving Immigration Officers and a resident. Acknowledging the seriousness of the excessive force allegations, the Commission confirmed it had received two formal complaints and reaffirmed its commitment to transparency, due process, and the protection of all individuals' rights. The Director also urged the public to remain calm and respectful of the ongoing investigation.



Teach + Tour Launches in Salt Cay!
 TCIHRC proudly kicked off its Teach + Tour Campaign with a vibrant and impactful launch in Salt Cay. This exciting new initiative aims to bring human rights education, resources, and support directly to communities across the TCI. During the visit, the Commission's team engaged with residents, healthcare workers, and the District Commissioner, sharing vital information, distributing educational materials, and assisting individuals in scheduling formal complaint appointments. A special highlight was reconnecting with Pastor Antoinette Talbot, our esteemed Lifetime Achievement Awardee, whose continued dedication to service remains an inspiration. The enthusiastic response from the Salt Cay community set a powerful tone for the campaign's future, reaffirming our commitment to ensuring that no island is left behind in the pursuit of equality, empowerment, and human dignity.



Protecting Rights in Detention: Facility Review Completed
 The Commission conducted a scheduled review of detention centers in Providenciales with the TCI Border Force representatives. These reviews ensure humane conditions and compliance with international standards. Findings and recommendations are being compiled in a formal report to guide ongoing improvements. The report will be shared with relevant authorities in the second quarter.

Rights on the Go: “Pop Up For Your Rights” Campaign

To increase citizen engagement, TCIHRC held two dynamic “Pop Up For Your Rights” sessions at IGA Supermarket, where members of the public engaged directly with Commission staff. Participants received informational materials and guidance on how to defend their rights, file complaints, and engage with staff through intermittent dialogue geared toward strengthening public empowerment through accessible outreach.

Defending Our Budget with Purpose

Director Smith took to Parliament to present and defend the Commission’s 2024–2025 budget, reinforcing the value and necessity of continued investment in human rights protections and programming and the plans for the year ahead.

We’re Now on LinkedIn!

The Commission proudly expanded its digital presence by launching its official LinkedIn page! Followers can now stay updated on news, events, opportunities, and advocacy efforts. Let’s connect and grow together in the pursuit of justice and equality.

TCIHRC Engaged in Key Stakeholder Events

- April Was Child Abuse Prevention Month*
 In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Commission proudly stood alongside the Department of Social Development and Welfare to raise awareness. Staff donned blue in solidarity, reinforcing the message that every child deserves a safe, nurturing, and loving environment. Prevention began with awareness and we stood united.
- Inspiring Integrity Through Debate*
 The Commission proudly participated in the Inter-High “Integrity” Debate hosted by the TCI Integrity Commission, with Mr. Lightbourn, our education and outreach officer, serving as a judge. Students debated the importance of legislative reform versus public awareness in supporting integrity commissions. Congratulations to Marjorie Basden High School for their compelling victory!




Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission



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