

Around the HRC

TCI HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER

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Pop Up For Your Rights Campaign Reaches Record Numbers Across the TCI

The Commission's flagship outreach initiative, Pop Up For Your Rights (PUFYR), made impressive strides this quarter with expanded reach and record-breaking engagement. In July, the team connected with 22 individuals at IGA Supermarket.

August saw dual activations at IGA and Town Center Mall, engaging 47 people, marking a new milestone for the program. By September, the initiative reached Grand Turk for the first time. Between Grand Turk and Provo, 79 residents were informed and empowered with human rights information. Across each stop, community members participated in dynamic discussions, received educational materials, and provided feedback to help shape future programming. PUFYR continues to be one of the Commission's most impactful and accessible platforms for public education.

Training for Impact: Officers Trained on Domestic Violence & Mental Health Response

In a powerful step toward enhanced education and awareness, Investigations Officer Mrs. Jabrinia Gardiner and Education & Outreach Officer Mr. Samuel Lightbourn participated in a two-day multi-sector

training on the Domestic Violence Ordinance and Mental Health Response, hosted by the Department of Gender Affairs. The training equipped officers with deeper knowledge and tools to support victims and vulnerable persons through informed, evidence-based approaches. Both officers received certificates of participation, further solidifying the Commission's commitment to compassion, collaboration, and continuous learning.

Advocacy in the Media: Articles and Statements Making Waves:

The Commission's public education continued through powerful written advocacy featured in national media. Recent articles included "Can Kids Have a Say? The Right of Children to Be Heard in School and Society" and "Children First: What Every Parent and Teacher Should Know About Child Rights," published in The Sun TCI and TCI Weekly News. Additionally, the Commission issued a press statement addressing a fire incident in Blue Hills, reinforcing its dedication to crisis response and community care.



Strengthening Education Through Strategic Partnership

Director Kabatha Smith met with Director Mark Garland of the Ministry of Education to establish a stakeholder partnership aimed at advancing the right to education across the Turks and Caicos Islands. The discussion emphasized equity, inclusion, and systemic challenges such as overcrowding and affordability. Both directors reaffirmed their shared vision for an education system where every child, regardless of background, has access to quality learning opportunities, a critical step toward a more inclusive and accountable education landscape.

Standing with Our Community in Times of Crisis

In response to recent fires, the Commission conducted an informal welfare review at emergency shelters supporting displaced residents. In partnership with the TCI Red Cross and the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME), the Commission worked to ensure affected individuals had access to basic necessities and emotional support. These efforts underscore the importance of upholding human rights even in times of emergency, emphasizing dignity, safety, and adequate living standards for all.



Teach + Tour Campaign Expands to Middle & South Caicos

Following weather delays earlier in the quarter, the Commission's Teach + Tour Campaign resumed with vibrant visits to Middle Caicos on September 11th and South Caicos on September 23rd. These outreach efforts included school sessions, door-to-door engagement, and stakeholder meetings, ensuring every voice, from students to civil servants, was heard. Reports documenting local concerns and recommendations are now underway. The campaign continues to ensure that even the most remote communities are included in human rights education and support services.



Safeguarding Rights in Care: Facility Review in Grand Turk and South Caicos

On September 10th, the Commission conducted a scheduled human rights review at the Aged Care and Rehabilitation Department in Grand Turk, and later on September 23rd, the Commission conducted the same review for the South Caicos Aged Care and Rehabilitation Department. These visits were part of the Commission's ongoing mandate to monitor the treatment and conditions of individuals in care institutions. A formal report will be submitted with recommendations to ensure continued compliance with national and international human rights standards.

Empowering Youth Through Outreach and Inspiration

The Commission proudly attended the Youth Outreach Programme Media Launch hosted by the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) on September 5th. The event, which included remarks from Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, inspired a collective vision for youth empowerment across the islands. Youth Ambassadors, senior officials, and community leaders gathered in support of this promising initiative. The Commission looks forward to continued engagement as this program unfolds.



Multiagency Stakeholder Roundtable Tackles Key Issues

On September 18th, the Commission hosted a Multiagency Stakeholder Roundtable Meeting in Providenciales, chaired by Director Kabatha Smith. The session brought together key partners to review a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at improving inter-agency coordination. Discussions also focused on disaster response strategies in light of recent emergencies. The roundtable highlighted the power of collaboration in safeguarding rights across all sectors.

Welcome, Deputy Director!

In September 2025, the Human Rights Commission welcomed Ms. Enjaleek Dickenson as Deputy Director. An accomplished attorney and public servant, Ms. Dickenson brings extensive experience in criminal law, governance, and interagency collaboration. Formerly a Senior Public Prosecutor at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, she led complex corruption cases and coordinated cross-agency training initiatives. She has also taught law at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College and actively supports civic and youth engagement through the Red Cross. Ms. Dickenson holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and a postgraduate Bar Professional Training Certificate from the United Kingdom and is called to the Bar of England and Wales and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Commission is proud to welcome her to its leadership team as she continues her work to advance justice, equity, and human rights across the Islands.



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