1. On January 22, 2015 the Trinidad and Tobago Association of Women Judges (T.T.A.W.J.) in collaboration with the Industrial Labour Organisation (I.L.O.) and the Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago hosted a one-day workshop on the topics Sexual Harassment and Sextortion at the Hyatt Regency Hotel and Conference Centre, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

2. In attendance were the Honourable Chief Justice Ivor Archie and specially invited guests Ms. Debra Felix Thomas, President of the Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago and Dr. Giovanni di Cola, Director ILO Office and Decent Work for the Caribbean. They all took part in our brief Opening Ceremony and extended warm greetings to all present on behalf of their institutions/organization. A feature address was delivered by Ms. Ann Knowles of the I.L.O.

3. Significantly, Ms. Nancy Hendry, Senior Advisor of the International Association of Women Judges (I.A.W.J.) spoke on the topic Sextortion. It was the first time that this topic was addressed in our jurisdiction and it was fitting that a representative from the Organisation, which first coined the word
‘sextortion’ to describe criminal conduct of public officials against vulnerable women in particular delivered the presentation. Much interest was generated in the subject which resonated with the audience comprised mainly of public and private sector employees and employers as well as Trade Union Representatives.

4. Two workshops on Sexual Harassment were conducted during the day. Those sessions were lively, informative and enjoyed widespread audience participation. The T.T.A.W.J. was and is grateful for the excellent job done by our panellists who included Mr. Douglas Mendes S.C., Dr. Leighton Jackson, Dr. Diane Douglas and Ms. Angela Hamel-Smith. Their participation, together with that of all the other speakers, helped in no small way, to make the occasion a success.

5. The T.T.A.W.J. was gratified by calls from several participants to continue the dialogue and sensitization of the public and stakeholders to the issues of sexual harassment and Sextortion.

6. The TTAWJ was honoured to have one of its Vice Presidents, Madame Justice Maureen Rajnauth-Lee, elevated to the Caribbean Court of Justice, the Court of Final Appeal for several Caribbean Territories. A tribute was delivered to Justice Rajnauth-Lee on behalf of the T.T.A.W.J. by its President Madame Justice Joan Charles, after which a beautiful gift was presented to our sister. We wish her all God’s richest blessings in all her endeavours including her very important work for the T.T.A.W.J.

7. The T.T.A.W.J. hopes to strengthen its administration with the possible addition of two (2) On the Job Trainees, subject to the approval of the
Honourable Chief Justice which is still awaited. These additions would allow the organization to embark upon and/or further the following plans:

a) increase our membership;
b) plan for further event especially conferences, seminars and workshops
c) prepare/finalize documents for dissemination, upload information to our website and manage correspondence;
d) build, expand and maintain our database of clients, stakeholders, members.

8. The T.T.A.W.J. hopes to hold at least one seminar/conference in 2016, the details of which will be settled soon.

9. It is our belief that our seminars will help to educate and sensitise the public on important issues that affect women, girls and the vulnerable in our society. We look forward to continued success as we labour together to better the lives of this vulnerable group.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Charles
President