

Trinidad and Tobago

Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review

**Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

and

Jason Jones People's Foundation

for the 53rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law since its founding in 1983. The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publication. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States, including LGBTIQ+ individuals who have experienced discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics. The Advocates also partners with a global network of LGBTIQ+ human rights defenders on reporting to the United Nations.

The Advocates had the expert support of **Khaleem Ali** in writing this report. Khaleem is a Trinidadian born Attorney-at-Law and human rights defender based in the Saint Lucia with more than a decade of experience in activism at the local, regional and international levels. He attended the 137th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva and the 52nd meeting of the UN Human Rights Committee (ICCPR) as an expert on human rights issues in the Caribbean Region, namely, the death penalty and LGBTQIA+ rights. He has subsequently been appointed Chair the Working Group on Women and Gender at the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. Khaleem currently serves on the board of the Greater Caribbean for Life, a regional entity focused on the abolition of the Death Penalty and as the regional lead (Latin America and the Caribbean) for UNODC's GenJust Network.

Jason Jones People's Foundation (JJPF) is a membership led, international human rights organization based in the Caribbean, working for the representation and enforcement of fundamental human rights as laid out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The JJPF is committed to supporting vulnerable communities through human rights advocacy, scholarship and social programs. The foundation works steadfastly towards ensuring that Caribbean nations ensure

human rights standards and are guided by international frameworks enshrined in human rights instruments that secure equitable and dignified representation to all citizens. Additionally, the organization intensively advocates for the constitutional reforms required to harmonize with UN charters of human rights. The JJPF is managed by Caribbean advocates and is sustained through membership subscriptions and grant funding. In addition to the foundation's global outreach missions, the JJPF hosts a media platform for Caribbean scholarship. The organization supports research, training and social programs which facilitate and strengthen the continued work of team leaders in their respective areas of expertise in human rights advocacy.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The criminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity between adult men in Trinidad and Tobago leaves all men who have sex with men – regardless of whether they self-identify as gay, bisexual, queer or another sexual minority – at serious risk of harm and systematic exclusion. Additionally, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer, and other gender or sexual minority (LGBTIQ+) people in Trinidad and Tobago do not enjoy equal protection of the law in several other regards, such as legal recognition of their gender identity and relationships, access to legal process for marital property distribution and domestic abuse protection orders, and immigration. LGBTIQ+ individuals are also not protected under the Equal Opportunity Act or specific hate crime laws and report experiencing discrimination, violence, lack of protection by law enforcement and government officials, and stigma while accessing services.
2. Trinidad and Tobago lacks training and monitoring mechanisms to oversee improvement of LGBTIQ+ rights within the country. For example, it does not have a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.
3. There has been a change in government since the last UPR and, while the current government enjoys an overwhelming majority in Parliament, it has not utilized this majority to effect change to better protect LGBTIQ+ rights in Trinidad and Tobago. For example, the Government has said that it is considering increasing resources to combat HIV/AIDS but has yet to act. In addition, the Government has declared states of emergency that have displaced constitutionally guaranteed rights and restricted freedom of expression, with broad regulations that give police powers to search, arrest, and detain without cause or warrant.
4. In this report, we use the acronym LGBTIQ+ to refer to individuals who self-identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and other sexual and gender minorities. These terms necessarily do not include everyone who may experience violations of their human rights on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and/or sex characteristics (“SOGIESC”), which is why we also include a “+” with the acronym. Any use of a modified acronym is intentional in that we are speaking only about certain members of the LGBTIQ+ population.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Constitutional and legislative framework; Equality & non-discrimination

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Not Implemented

5. In its Third-Cycle review, Trinidad and Tobago received and noted nine recommendations to decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity and pass legislation prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ+ individuals.¹ Trinidad and Tobago also received five advance questions pertaining to the same issues.² Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken few to no voluntary commitments to implement these recommendations. In response to the advance questions, the Government asserted that the Constitution is “absolutely clear that no discrimination was tolerated in society,” but that whether sexual orientation should be

an enumerated class for protection rested with the Privy Council.³ In its presentation of its State report, the Government, who holds the majority in Parliament, did not address decriminalization of consensual same-sex sexual activity, nor did it mention explicit protections on the basis of gender identity or gender expression.

6. The Government criminalizes “buggery,” defined to include “sexual intercourse per anum by a male person with a male person,” under Sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offenses Act, punishable by up to five years’ imprisonment.⁴
7. In 2018, the High Court found the law unconstitutional, but in March 2025, the Court of Appeal reversed that ruling.⁵ Civil society organizations view this decision as regressive and are deeply upset by the Court of Appeal’s decision.⁶
8. The decision has been appealed to the Privy Council, which is the final appellate court in Trinidad and Tobago, with the hearing expected in July 2026 and a decision later in the year. In the recent past, the Privy Council’s rulings have aligned with the Court of Appeal’s finding that the Savings Clause immunizes courts from finding laws unconstitutional.⁷
9. Though the Court of Appeal reinstated the law, it implemented more lenient penalties for violations. The previous maximum penalty for Sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offenses Act 25 years’ imprisonment.⁸
10. Although the Court reinstated Sections 13 and 16, there is no evidence that law enforcement or the criminal justice system is actively enforcing the law.⁹ Without a *de jure* moratorium on enforcement, however, arresting and charging an individual suspected of engaging in consensual same-sex sexual activity with another adult man remains at the discretion of police and/or criminal justice systems actors. This is a concern, given that police officers have been charged with corruption for soliciting bribery.¹⁰
11. Additionally, recriminalization also would affect transgender women in that Trinidad and Tobago does not permit legal gender recognition, and they would therefore remain classified as their sex assigned at birth (male) – regardless of their gender expression – and subject to possible criminal penalties for consensual sexual activity with a cisgender man or another transgender woman.¹¹
12. Same-sex relationships and marriages lack the same legal protections available to couples in Trinidad and Tobago.¹² For example, the Marriage Act does not recognize same-sex marriages as valid.¹³ The Administration of Estates act lists the “spouse” as beneficiary, so persons who are in same-sex unions are deprived of the benefits of the estate of a deceased partner in the absence of a will.¹⁴ Additionally, the Matrimonial Proceedings and Law of Property Act does not extend to same-sex relationships, meaning that individuals in such relationships are not entitled to distribution of assets through legal divorce proceedings.¹⁵ The Domestic Violence Act also does not formally entitle individuals in relationships to seek protection orders if they are experiencing domestic abuse.¹⁶
13. On immigration, Trinidad and Tobago restricts “homosexuals” and “persons living on the earnings of homosexuality” from entering the country unless issued an exemption certificate, pursuant to the 1969 Immigration Act.¹⁷
14. Trinidad and Tobago lacks legal gender recognition, nor does it recognize non-binary identities, meaning that individuals will only be recognized as their sex assigned at birth,

regardless of their gender expression (see paragraph 11 above). Name changes are possible, but they are rare, expensive, and technical.¹⁸

15. Despite repeated and consistent calls by civil society to amend the Equal Opportunity Act to include sexual orientation and gender identity as protected categories,¹⁹ the Government has not taken legislative steps to do so, leaving LGBTQ+ people vulnerable to potential discrimination in housing, healthcare, public services, and employment.²⁰
16. The Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO) has launched a campaign titled “Add All Three Campaign - Amend the EOA”, advocating for the Equal Opportunity Act to be amended to include sexual orientation as a protected category, along with age and health conditions.²¹

Sexual & gender-based violence

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

17. In its Third-Cycle UPR, Trinidad and Tobago received and noted several recommendations regarding advancement of measures to combat and eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people, including legislation to strengthen protections against discrimination and hate crimes based on actual or perceived LGBTIQ+ identify or expression.²²
18. LGBTQ+ individuals experience high rates of violence and harassment in Trinidad and Tobago because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, and/or gender expression.²³
19. Client data from CAISO’s Wholeness and Justice Programme in 2023 indicated that one in three members of the LGBTQ+ community experienced discrimination and violence, and one in four members of the LGBTQ+ community experienced physical assault.²⁴
20. CAISO has urged caution for users of online dating apps following multiple reports of robberies, beatings, and sexual assaults. For example, in September 2024, a 31-year-old man was beaten and robbed after arranging to meet another individual via the Grindr social networking and dating app. CAISO noted that “while dating apps make it easier to find partners, they may also expose users to exploitation by ill-intentioned individuals, emboldened by the perception that our society tolerates violence against LGBTIQ+ [sic] people.”²⁵
21. In 2023 and 2024, there were at least four incidents of violence toward men who had arranged to meet up with other men on Grindr but were instead met with violence and/or robbery.²⁶ Human rights defenders report that similar robberies and violence targeting gay men continues and have become more frequent and are not adequately investigated by police. Cyberbullying is also a major issue, with explicit photos and videos “leaked” on social media pages/platforms and calls for violence against individuals in the images.²⁷
22. Trinidad and Tobago’s head of the police Special Victims Unit responded to the wave of violence by encouraging victims to report the incidents, and in particular, to report potential hate crimes for proper investigation. The official stated that “assault[] or wound[ing] because of . . . special characteristics” would be treated as a hate crime, despite the lack of a specific legal framework for such scenarios.²⁸ Unfortunately, she also put some of the

blame on the men who were using Grindr, indicating that it is their responsibility to adequately vet all individuals they meet on online dating apps.

National Human Rights Institution (NHRI); Human rights education, trainings & awareness raising

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Not Implemented

23. Trinidad and Tobago does not have a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) accredited under the Paris Principles, despite receiving several recommendations in its last UPR to establish one.²⁹ Trinidad and Tobago accepted Peru's recommendation to "assess the pertinence" of such an institution, but noted other recommendations calling for more concrete actions to establish one. Trinidad and Tobago also received and supported several recommendations regarding development of training on human rights issues for its police and judiciary, including training pertaining to gender-based violence.³⁰ Trinidad and Tobago has not taken meaningful steps to implement these recommendations.
24. The lack of an NHRI in Trinidad and Tobago leaves a gap in protection for LGBTIQ+ rights. An NHRI could provide important training and monitoring mechanisms to oversee improvement of LGBTIQ+ rights within the country. Individuals have reported that when seeking police services, police have harassed, intimidated, denied service, made derogatory remarks and slurs, refused to investigate complaints, and failed to investigate, all because of the individuals' actual or perceived SOGIESC.³¹ Further reporting indicates that police have fixated on individuals' actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity when these individuals approach officers for assistance, that they expressed an unwillingness to intervene in violent situations involving same-sex or queer partners, and that they targeted trans and gender-diverse people while exercising their duties.³² Such incidents highlight the need for improved training as well as an independent complaint mechanism and oversight beyond existing channels, particularly one that is equipped to monitor police misconduct.³³
25. Moreover, credible reports indicate that LGBTIQ+ people with fewer socioeconomic means disproportionately experience unequal treatment by or reduced access to the police.³⁴ An NHRI would provide an additional avenue as the court system is both expensive and restrictive.

Right to health

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

26. In its Third-Cycle review, Trinidad and Tobago received and supported two recommendations to implement measures to combat HIV/AIDS,³⁵ which is prevalent in an estimated 1% of its total population between the ages of 15 and 49.³⁶
27. In 2025, health experts advocated for the expanded availability of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and doxycycline prophylaxis (Doxy-PEP) to combat HIV and rising sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and criticized previous government approaches for not prioritizing prevention.³⁷ In November 2025, the Health Minister responded to this

challenge by stating that the Ministry would be undertaking a comprehensive review to assess PrEP and Doxy-PEP for wider availability.³⁸

28. The Health Minister also recently reaffirmed Trinidad and Tobago's goal of eliminating AIDS in the country by 2030, citing new initiatives to increase access to HIV self-testing, antiretroviral therapy, and psychological supports as well as expanded public education and destigmatization campaigns.³⁹ It is unclear what these public education and destigmatization campaigns will look like or whether they will include comprehensive sexuality education that follow international technical guidance.
29. There are no laws that protect intersex minors from non-medically necessary interventions aimed at altering or modifying the minors' sex characteristics to better comply with binary understandings of male and female sex characteristics without their informed consent.⁴⁰

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

30. The co-authors of this stakeholder report suggest the following recommendations for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago:
 - Decriminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity between adult men by repealing Sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act.
 - In the meantime, adopt a *de jure* moratorium on enforcement of Sections 13 and 16.
 - Amend the Equal Opportunity Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived SOGIESC.
 - Amend marriage and property laws, including the Marriage Act of 1923 and the Matrimonial Proceedings and Law of Property Act of 1972, to formally acknowledge same-sex relationships and ensure they carry the same legal rights and obligations as different-sex relationships, including but not limited to distribution of marital property and the ability to obtain protective orders in situations of domestic abuse.
 - In collaboration with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, draft and adopt legislation that permits legal gender recognition and recognition of non-binary identities.
 - Modify immigration laws like the Immigration Act of 1969 that exclude individuals from entering Trinidad and Tobago on the basis of actual or perceived LGBTQ+ identity.
 - Enact hate-crime laws that recognize and penalize offenses motivated by bias related to actual or perceived SOGIESC.
 - Conduct prompt, thorough investigations of incidents of hate-motivated violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals, hold perpetrators to account, require collection of data and provide redress to victims.
 - Establish a National Human Rights Institution accredited in accordance with the Paris Principles.
 - Take measures to prevent law enforcement officers from arbitrarily arresting or refusing to assist individuals based on actual or perceived SOGIESC, such as implementation of robust training for law enforcement officers to combat bias and expansion of the Gender Based

Violence Unit within the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to provide greater oversight over police conduct.

- Establish compulsory, ongoing training programs for public officials, teachers, healthcare workers, and law enforcement agencies on LGBTIQ+ inclusion and rights and the mitigation of social prejudices, stigmatization, harassment, discrimination, and violence against individuals because of their actual or perceived SOGIESC.
- Advance increased availability of HIV and STI prophylaxis, testing, and related social and psychological supports to combat prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other STIs.
- In collaboration with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, draft and adopt legislation that prohibit non-medically necessary interventions aimed at altering or modifying intersex minors' sex characteristics to better comply with binary understandings of male and female sex characteristics without their informed consent.
- In collaboration with LGBTIQ+ civil society organizations, develop and fund public awareness-raising campaigns to fight and prevent discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ individuals and to promote tolerance.

¹ Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago*, (Nov. 12, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16/Add.1, ¶¶ 109.39 Amend its national framework to include sexual orientation, gender identity and living with HIV/AIDS as prohibited grounds for discrimination (Costa Rica); ¶ 109.40 Adopt the additional measures necessary to guarantee the full enjoyment of human rights by groups in vulnerable situations who suffer discrimination, especially because of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Argentina); ¶ 109.41 Amend the Equal Opportunity Act to prohibit discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and remove laws criminalizing consensual same-sex relations (Australia); ¶ 109.42 Decriminalize same-sex conduct between consenting adults by repealing sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act (Denmark); ¶ 109.43 Take all necessary measures to fight against discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (France); ¶ 109.44 Modify the Equal Opportunities Act to include the prohibition of discrimination on grounds of sexual preference and orientation (Germany); ¶ 109.45 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex by removing sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act (Iceland); ¶ 109.47 Ensure full implementation of legislation ending discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation and conduct independent investigations into all acts of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Netherlands); ¶ 109.49 Implement policies and programmes to prevent discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Canada).

² Human Rights Council, *Questions Submitted in Advance: Trinidad and Tobago* (2021), accessed Dec. 10, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/tt-index> (What is the Government of Trinidad and Tobago doing to prevent discrimination against all individuals, including those who are LGBTIQ+? (United States of America); Is the government of Trinidad and Tobago considering to decriminalize sexual relations between consenting adults of the same sex by repealing articles 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act? (Belgium)); Human Rights Council, *Questions Submitted in Advance: Trinidad and Tobago, Addendum 1* (2021), accessed Dec. 10, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/tt-index> (Austria would be grateful if the delegation could provide information with regard to the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons against discrimination and on the strategies in place to enhance the effectiveness to address gender-based violence in the country (Austria); What steps have been taken to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults whose gender expression is not heteronormative? (Panama)); Human Rights Council, *Questions Submitted in*

Advance: Trinidad and Tobago, Addendum 2 (2021), accessed Dec. 10, 2025, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/tt-index> (Does Trinidad and Tobago plan to amend its Sexual Offenses Act to decriminalize same-sex sexual relations between adults? (Spain)).

³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago*, (Dec. 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16, ¶20.

⁴ *Jason Jones v. Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago* (Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal, 2018), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/Jason-Jones-v.-Attorney-General-of-Trinidad-and-Tobago-2018.pdf>.

⁵ *Jason Jones v. Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago* (Trinidad and Tobago Court of Appeal, 2018), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/wp-content/uploads/resources/Jason-Jones-v.-Attorney-General-of-Trinidad-and-Tobago-2018.pdf>.

⁶ Communication from Caribbean human rights defender to The Advocates, March 17, 2026 (on file with authors)

⁷ *Matthew v. The State (Trinidad and Tobago)*, [2004] UKPC 33 (Privy Council, July 7, 2004), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/2004/33.html>.

⁸ *Matthew v. The State (Trinidad and Tobago)*, [2004] UKPC 33 (Privy Council, July 7, 2004), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.bailii.org/uk/cases/UKPC/2004/33.html>.

⁹ Outright International, "Trinidad and Tobago," accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/americas/trinidad-and-tobago>.

¹⁰ Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (@ TrinidadandTobagoPoliceService), PSB Takes Three Officers to Court for Corruption, FACEBOOK (Sep. 17, 2025), <https://www.facebook.com/PoliceServiceTT/posts/september-16th-2025media-releasepsb-takes-three-officers-to-court-for-corruption/1245788447587186/>.

¹¹ Outright International, "Trinidad and Tobago," accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/americas/trinidad-and-tobago>.

¹² Khaleem Ali and Nathan Madson, "Call for Inputs on Colonialism and SOGI," Minneapolis: The Advocates for Human Rights, May 26, 2023 (memorandum to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Colonialism%20Call%20for%20Inputs.pdf>.

¹³ Khaleem Ali and Nathan Madson, "Call for Inputs on Colonialism and SOGI," Minneapolis: The Advocates for Human Rights, May 26, 2023 (memorandum to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Colonialism%20Call%20for%20Inputs.pdf>.

¹⁴ Khaleem Ali and Nathan Madson, "Call for Inputs on Colonialism and SOGI," Minneapolis: The Advocates for Human Rights, May 26, 2023 (memorandum to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Colonialism%20Call%20for%20Inputs.pdf>.

¹⁵ Khaleem Ali and Nathan Madson, "Call for Inputs on Colonialism and SOGI," Minneapolis: The Advocates for Human Rights, May 26, 2023 (memorandum to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Colonialism%20Call%20for%20Inputs.pdf>.

¹⁶ Khaleem Ali and Nathan Madson, "Call for Inputs on Colonialism and SOGI," Minneapolis: The Advocates for Human Rights, May 26, 2023 (memorandum to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Colonialism%20Call%20for%20Inputs.pdf>.

¹⁷ Khaleem Ali and Nathan Madson, "Call for Inputs on Colonialism and SOGI," Minneapolis: The Advocates for Human Rights, May 26, 2023 (memorandum to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation

and Gender Identity), accessed Feb. 5, 2026,

<https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Colonialism%20Call%20for%20Inputs.pdf>.

¹⁸ Outright International, “Trinidad and Tobago,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://outrightinternational.org/our-work/americas/trinidad-and-tobago>.

¹⁹ Sherlan Ramsubhag, *PrideTT: We just want equal rights*, Trinidad Express Newspapers, July 1, 2023, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, https://trinidatexpress.com/news/local/pridett-we-just-want-equal-rights/article_aadff28e-17b0-11ee-97dd-732b8efe7ff2.html.

²⁰ Khaleem Ali and Nathan Madson, “Call for Inputs on Colonialism and SOGI,” Minneapolis: The Advocates for Human Rights, May 26, 2023 (memorandum to Victor Madrigal-Borloz, Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity), accessed Feb. 5, 2026,

<https://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/Res/Colonialism%20Call%20for%20Inputs.pdf>.

²¹ Kevon Felmine, *CAISO wants bold changes to end LGBTIQ+ discrimination*, Trinidad and Tobago Guardian, May 16, 2023, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, <https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/caiso-wants-bold-changes-to-end-lgbtqi-discrimination-6.2.1707062.7bdedd7895>.

²² Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago*, (Nov. 12, 2021), U.N. Doc.

A/HRC/49/16/Add.1, ¶ 108.39 Improve implementation of national legislation and policies to reduce gender-based violence and protect victims and survivors, including by improving staff training for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service’s gender-based violence unit (Australia); ¶ 108.40 Take stronger measures to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, including by providing adequate financial, staffing and technical support for the full implementation of the gender-based violence unit (Canada); ¶ 108.42 Enforce legislation related to gender-based violence (Ukraine); ¶ 109.46 Take further steps to combat all forms of violence, abuse and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Italy); ¶ 109.48 Reform laws to strengthen protections against discrimination and gender-based violence, including for LGBTIQ+ persons, including by establishing a law criminalizing discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression (United States of America); ¶ 109.78 Take the necessary steps to combat discrimination and violence against women and children and on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity (Fiji); ¶ 109.80 Address the problem of gender-based violence and fully implement the Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act, 2020, and thereby guarantee that particularly vulnerable migrant women have access to gender-based violence services and are protected from trafficking (Germany); ¶ 109.84 Adopt the national gender policy and the national strategic action plan to end sexual and gender-based violence to ensure that gender-based violence is prioritized and receives increased budgetary allocation to implement communication campaigns addressing negative social norms and special measures to prevent sexual and gender-based violence against all women, girls, men and boys, regardless of their legal or migratory status, nationality, gender identity or sexual orientation (Panama); ¶ 109.85 Implement a national gender policy and action plan endowed with sufficient resources to combat sexual and gender-based violence (Spain); ¶ 109.86 Continue taking measures to eradicate all forms of violence and discrimination against women, girls and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (Chile).

²³ Written communication from Trinidadian and Tobagonian human rights defender to The Advocates for Human Rights (Mar. 22, 2026) (on file with authors).

²⁴ CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice, “Inclusive Futures Factsheet 2025,” [Feb. 2025], 19, accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://caisott.org/inclusive-futures-factsheet-2025/>.

²⁵ Trinidad Express Newspapers, *Man Beaten, Robbed in Grindr Meet-Up*, Sep. 30, 2024, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, https://trinidatexpress.com/newsextra/man-beaten-robbed-in-grindr-meet-up/article_a15cccce-7f2d-11ef-bb59-53fdac9c576a.html.

²⁶ Gregory McBurnie, *Man robbed after Grindr meet-up*, Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, June 25, 2024, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, <https://newsday.co.tt/2024/06/25/man-robbed-after-grindr-meet-up/#:~:text=Head%20of%20the%20police%20Special,charged%20for%20assault%20and%20wounding>.

²⁷ Communication from Caribbean human rights defender, March 17, 2026 (on file with authors).

²⁸ Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, *Police Urge Caution After Attacks Stemming from Grindr Meet-Ups*, May 4, 2024, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, <https://newsday.co.tt/2024/05/04/police-urge-caution-after-attacks-stemming-from-grindr-meet-ups/>.

²⁹ Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago*, (Nov. 12, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16/Add.1, ¶ 108.2 Assess the pertinence of creating a national human rights institution in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Peru); ¶ 109.32 Establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Iraq) (Montenegro) (Ukraine); Take steps to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Malaysia); Establish and launch a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris principles (Chile); ¶ 109.33 Consider establishing a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (India); ¶ 109.34 Consider, by all means, the creation of a national institution for the promotion and protection of human rights in compliance with the Paris principles (Haiti); ¶ 109.35 Create a national human rights institution with powers, mechanisms and means of operation that guarantee its independence and effectiveness (Togo); ¶ 109.37 Establish a well-resourced national human rights mechanism in line with the Paris Principles to address discrimination and violence against LGBTI+ persons (Iceland).

³⁰ Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago*, (Nov. 12, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16/Add.1, ¶ 108.3 Provide human rights education and training for government officials and for law enforcement officers, including through international cooperation with partners (Indonesia); ¶ 108.4 Develop sustainable and human rights-centred training programmes for the police and the judiciary regarding issues such as gender-based violence, human trafficking, migrant smuggling, sexual exploitation and forms of child abuse (Panama); ¶ 108.6 Enhance training programmes for judicial and law enforcement officers in the areas of gender-based violence, human trafficking and child abuse (Botswana).

³¹ CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice, “Navigating the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service as an LGBTQI+ Person,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://caisott.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Navigating-the-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Police-Service-as-an-LGBTQI-Person.pdf>.

³² CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice, “Navigating the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service as an LGBTQI+ Person,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://caisott.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Navigating-the-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Police-Service-as-an-LGBTQI-Person.pdf>.

³³ CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice, “Navigating the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service as an LGBTQI+ Person,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://caisott.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Navigating-the-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Police-Service-as-an-LGBTQI-Person.pdf>.

³⁴ CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice, “Navigating the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service as an LGBTQI+ Person,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, <https://caisott.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Navigating-the-Trinidad-and-Tobago-Police-Service-as-an-LGBTQI-Person.pdf>.

³⁵ Human Rights Council, *Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago*, (Nov. 12, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16/Add.1, ¶ 108.32 Advance in guaranteeing the right to health for people living with HIV/AIDS by strengthening interinstitutional coordination and establishing programmes and strategies to reduce the HIV infection rate, especially among adolescents and young women (Colombia); ¶ 108.34 Address the root causes of the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and implement preventive strategies to combat HIV (Maldives).

³⁶ U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “HIV and TB Overview: Trinidad and Tobago,” accessed Feb. 5, 2026, [https://www.cdc.gov/global-hiv-tb/php/where-we-work/trinidadtobago.htm#:~:text=Estimated%20HIV%20Prevalence%20\(Ages%2015,71%25%20\(2022\).](https://www.cdc.gov/global-hiv-tb/php/where-we-work/trinidadtobago.htm#:~:text=Estimated%20HIV%20Prevalence%20(Ages%2015,71%25%20(2022).)

³⁷ Joey Bartlett, *Experts: Make STI Meds More Readily Available in Trinidad and Tobago*, Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Nov. 26, 2025, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, <https://newsday.co.tt/2025/11/26/experts-make-sti-meds-more-readily-available-in-trinidad-and-tobago/>.

³⁸ Joey Bartlett, *Experts: Make STI Meds More Readily Available in Trinidad and Tobago*, Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Nov. 26, 2025, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, <https://newsday.co.tt/2025/11/26/experts-make-sti-meds-more-readily-available-in-trinidad-and-tobago/>.

³⁹ Newsday Reporter, *Health Ministry to Expand Efforts to Combat HIV*, Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, Dec. 2, 2025, accessed Apr. 7, 2026, <https://newsday.co.tt/2025/12/02/health-ministry-to-expand-efforts-to-combat-hiv/>.

⁴⁰ ILGA World Database, “Trinidad and Tobago,” accessed Feb. 27, 2026, <https://database.ilga.org/trinidad-and-tobago-lgbti>.