

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release.

EOC mourns the death of CAISO Founder.

The Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) has described the death of CAISO Founder Colin Robinson as the loss of a stalwart.

The EOC worked on many projects with CAISO under Mr. Robinson's stewardship including the LGBTQI Workplace Policy, in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce. In 2020, the EOC participated in a virtual discussion with CAISO on 'Finding an Equal Place at Work.'

Vice Chairman Dr. Gabrielle Hosein said, "Colin Robinson was the best kind of human rights defender; a man of the people, an advocate for non-discrimination, a compassionate and appreciative ally of marginalised groups in Trinidad and Tobago. He believed in the power of civil society to create a more inclusive nation in which we imagined ourselves free and equal. The EOC walks in the footsteps of giants like Colin and we continue to work in his memory for justice, for a more loving society, and for new ways of imagining governance of ourselves."

The Board, Management and staff at the Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) are deeply saddened by the death of Colin Robinson and offers condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

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About the EOC

The primary task of the EOC is to oversee implementation of the Equal Opportunity Act Chapter 22:03, which prohibits certain kinds of discrimination and seeks to promote equal opportunity between persons of different status.

- The Act is concerned with discrimination in four broad categories - employment, education, provision of goods and services, and provision of accommodation - where someone has suffered less-favourable treatment:
 - Because of their status, that is, because of one of the following personal characteristics: race, ethnicity, religion, sex, marital status, origin or disability;
 - Or by way of victimisation, that is, in retaliation for doing certain actions that are protected under the Act, for example, lodging a complaint with the Commission or giving evidence in support of someone who has lodged a complaint.

The Act also applies to a third category of conduct known as ‘offensive behaviour.’

- A person who believes that they have been subjected to discrimination in any of the above areas may lodge a complaint with the EOC. The EOC is mandated to receive, investigate and as far as possible conciliate complaints.
- If the matter is unresolved, the complaint can be referred to the Equal Opportunity Tribunal (the ‘EOT’). The EOT is a superior court of record and its mandate is to hear and adjudicate on matters referred to it by the EOC. The EOT has the power to make orders, declarations and awards of compensation as it determines to be appropriate.

The EOC would urge all persons to be mindful of these provisions and to refrain from discriminatory practices which infringe the human rights of others.

For more information, please visit www.equalopportunity.gov.tt.

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