

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

May 26 2021

*For Immediate Release.*

### **Commissioner Appointed to Equal Opportunity Commission.**

The Equal Opportunity Commission (EOC) announced the appointment of Dr. Krystal-Jane Verasammy to the Board of Commissioners. Dr. Verasammy took her oath of office and received her Instrument of Appointment from the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on 25 May 2021.

Chairman of the EOC, Mr. H.R. Ian Roach said, “On behalf of the Board, I congratulate and welcome Dr. Verasammy. I am certain that her contributions will prove invaluable in fulfilling our mandate to strive for a society that is free from discrimination and promotes equal opportunity for all citizens.”

Dr. Versammy is a Counselling Psychologist with over ten years of experience in providing individual and group therapy for mild to severe health concerns for young people and adults. She has a passion for mental health, improving access to psychological therapies and reducing societal and self-stigma.

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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](http://www.equalopportunity.gov.tt).

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