



April 27 2026

Ms Karen Bridgewater
Registrar General
Registrar General Department
Ministry of Land and Legal Affairs
The Government Campus Plaza
Port of Spain

Dear Ms. Bridgewater,

Re: Moving Forward from the Notice of Potential NPO Deregistration

We write in relation to the recent Notice of Intended Suspension and Cancellation affecting over 3,000 organisations and the resulting confusion and concern across the non-profit sector. While we are relieved by your Office's recent announcement postponing the suspension/cancellation exercise for registered NPOs, we remain eager to engage the Registrar General Department (RGD) in order to make constructive use of the opportunity presented by this now-averted crisis.

The Cropper Foundation (TCF) has been actively involved in strengthening civil society accountability and regulatory compliance, particularly through our partnership with Veni Apwann (VA) to implement the EU-funded [IGNITE CSOs project](#) and our participation in the state's National Risk Assessment (NRA) Working Group for the NPO Sector. I am pleased to acknowledge that, in both cases, our work has facilitated active collaboration with legal representatives of your Office, most notably in the context of the introduction of the 2024 legislative amendments.

Pivotal to paving sustainable, collaborative partnerships towards enhancing NPO compliance, the Project has forged additional partnerships with FIUTT, NGO Unit of the Ministry of the People, Social Development and Family Services (MOPSDFS), the Compliance Committee of the Bankers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (BATT), the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT), and professional organisations such as the Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute (CCGI), Project Management Institute (PMI), Human Resource Management Association of Trinidad and Tobago (HRMATT), and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Trinidad and Tobago (ICATT), through which direct outreach to NPOs has been successfully leveraged.

As we expressed in recent communication to a member of the RGD team, over more than two years of implementing the IGNITE CSOs project, our CSO colleagues have consistently identified a lack of clarity around NPO registration and regulatory compliance as their most pressing challenge. Significantly, this concern cuts across the sector, regardless of an organisation's size, maturity, income, or institutional capacity.



If long-established, reputable development partners like TCF and some others signatory to this correspondence could appear on a list for potential deregistration due to perceived non-compliance, it compels us to consider the far greater vulnerability of smaller organisations operating without the technical expertise, access, or confidence to navigate and advocate within the regulatory space. At the centre of this issue lies the question of how the risk-based approach is being applied, and to what extent this informs RGD processes.

We emphasise that NPOs have been making genuine efforts to understand and comply with new obligations. Beyond the widely discussed challenges associated with Form 6 submissions, organisations have been navigating an increasingly complex compliance environment, often with limited communication, guidance, and institutional support.

This reality was further reinforced during the recent 2026 commemoration of World NGO Day, hosted by the NGO Unit of the MOPSDFS, in collaboration with TCF and VA under the IGNITE CSOs project. More than 70 NPOs participated in a comprehensive session on NPO registration and regulations, demonstrating both the demand for clarity and the willingness of organisations to comply.

In this regard, we take the opportunity to commend the current review of the “legislation governing NPOs” by your Office and Ministry as a recognition of the burdensome compliance regime introduced to the sector with the advent of the NPO Act (2019), 2024 amendments notwithstanding.

In light of these developments, we believe it is both timely and necessary for NPOs to contribute meaningfully to the creation of a fit-for-purpose regulatory framework for the sector. Importantly, one of the IGNITE CSOs project’s earlier research deliverables included a review of the 2024 legislative amendments and the process undertaken by relevant State entities, which you can peruse [here](#). Highlighted in the findings is the critical gap of consultation with the NPOs, an unfortunate trend we have noted from the outset of the creation of a regulatory framework for the sector. Further, we wish to refer you to the [2018 CSOs Advocacy Paper](#), which outlines what we believe are essential considerations for NPO legislation aimed at creating an enabling legal, fiscal and funding environment within which NPOs could thrive.

We would be grateful, therefore for the opportunity to meet with you and your team to:

- Consider options for meaningful consultation with NPOs as part of the current legislative review process;
- Discuss the important role of other State entities in facilitating ongoing sector outreach, including the NGO Unit at MOPSDFS, the Ministry of Culture and Community Development, and the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs;
- Review the recent approach to flagging the risk of mass NPO deregistration and its consequential impacts on the sector and national development;



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- Explore alternative communication approaches with NPOs that better reflect an understanding of the sector and its risk profile; and
- Assess the need for, and possibilities of, ongoing support for less-resourced organisations in meeting registration and regulatory requirements.

While we remain steadfast in our commitment to promoting accountability and strengthening compliance within the NPO sector, we are equally committed to championing and securing an enabling environment that allows NPOs to do their important work effectively and sustainably. We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Cherisse Braithwaite-Joseph
Chief Executive Officer
The Cropper Foundation

Supporting Signatories:

ASJA Ladies Association
Association Of Female Executives of Trinidad And Tobago
Bold Believers Sport and Culture Organisation
Brahma Kumaris Raja Yoga Centre of Trinidad and Tobago
Carbon Zero Institute of Trinidad and Tobago
Care Helpers Organisation Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
Emancipation Support Committee TT
Families in Action
Future Fishers
GreenTT



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IA Movement
Ideas I Foundation
International Advocacy Against Child Abuse
Kids In Need of Direction
Laventille Extension Police Youth Club
Learning To Live Meaningfully Foundation
Loveuntil Foundation
Powerful Ladies of Trinidad and Tobago
Preserving Life Foundation
Ryu Dan Empowerment Foundation
The Family Planning Association of Trinidad and Tobago.
The Greening Economy Participants
The Heroes Foundation
The Rose Foundation
The Trinidad and Tobago Transgender Coalition
The Wildlife and Environmental Protection of Trinidad and Tobago
Toco Multicultural Foundation for Integrated Development
Trinidad and Tobago Association of Energy Engineers
Trinity Sport Group
TT Eco-Divers
Turning Point Drug and Family Resource Centre
Veni Apwann
WeCare Deaf support Network
We Say Y.E.S. Organization
Women of Substance