

PRESS RELEASE

29th September, 2005

CCSJ THANKS PM ON WITHDRAWAL OF DRAFT GENDER POLICY AND ACTION PLAN

CCSJ would like to compliment the Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for making it abundantly clear in his Budget Speech on 28th September that although his “Government recognizes the need to develop a Gender Policy, the draft Gender Policy Document currently being circulated was not issued by the Government and does not reflect Government Policy.”

He continues that “in fact, there are certain recommendations in the document to which the Government does not and will not subscribe. The Government is therefore requesting that the document which purports to be official Government policy be withdrawn from circulation.”

This statement is in accord with CCSJ’s and Emmanuel Community’s stand which was communicated to the PM when the document was first circulated. His words are particularly significant at a time when the need to strengthen family life in T&T is more urgent than ever.

Indeed, the Prime Minister himself acknowledges this in his speech when he said: “The family is the basic unit of society; the main building block. If you can fix the family, you can fix society.”

Any Government Policy seeking to build a worthwhile and moral society must ensure that family life is protected, preserved and enhanced. CCSJ had joined with others in vigorously opposing aspects of the draft National Gender Policy that were blatantly anti-family values as we acknowledge them.

All right-thinking people in our blessed T&T will continue to stand in opposition to any attempt to further undermine family values and introduce a new ‘so-called’ morality.

We thank the Prime Minister for his advocacy of a moral stand that affects the very fabric of our society.