



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (“the Association”) expresses grave concern over the recent circulation on social media of confidential information relating to a report of sexual assault made by a junior attorney against a senior member of the legal profession.

In particular, the Association condemns the publication and dissemination of the virtual complainant’s name, image, and details of her statement to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS), which are now circulating widely online.

The Association reminds the public that Section 32 of the Sexual Offences Act, Chap. 11:28, makes it a criminal offence to publish or broadcast any information likely to lead to the identification of a complainant in a sexual offences matter. The law is clear, and it applies equally to traditional media outlets and social media users.

The rationale behind this prohibition is to protect victims of sexual offences from further trauma, stigma, and public scrutiny. The unauthorised disclosure of sensitive information not only breaches the law but also undermines the dignity, privacy, and safety of the persons involved.

This troubling incident reflects a broader and increasingly prevalent trend in Trinidad and Tobago: the unauthorized leaking and sharing of police evidence, crime scene footage, witness statements, and other sensitive information that ought to remain in the custody of the appropriate investigative authorities. This must not become the norm. The protection of the justice system depends on maintaining the confidentiality of such material until due process is followed.

The Association calls on the TTPS and other relevant authorities to investigate the source of this leak and to hold accountable any individual responsible for this unlawful and unethical conduct.

The Association urges all citizens, especially users of social media platforms, to refrain from sharing or reposting material that violates the law or causes harm to the individuals involved in this matter. Let us all act with care, respect, and responsibility.

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