



**Trinidad and Tobago
Stakeholder Report for the United Nations Universal Periodic Review:
The Death Penalty**

Submitted by The Advocates for Human Rights,
a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1996

and

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty

**for the 53rd Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review
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The Advocates for Human Rights (The Advocates) is a volunteer-based non-governmental organization committed to the impartial promotion and protection of international human rights standards and the rule of law. Established in 1983, The Advocates conducts a range of programs to promote human rights in the United States and around the world, including monitoring and fact finding, direct legal representation, education and training, and publications. The Advocates is the primary provider of legal services to low-income asylum seekers in the Upper Midwest region of the United States. In 1991, The Advocates adopted a formal commitment to oppose the death penalty worldwide and organized a death penalty project to provide pro bono assistance on post-conviction appeals, as well as education and advocacy to end capital punishment. The Advocates currently holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty. In preparing this report, The Advocates received the invaluable support of an attorney-at-law based in Trinidad and Tobago with extensive expertise in death penalty issues.

The World Coalition Against the Death Penalty is a membership-based global network committed to strengthening the international dimension of the fight against the death penalty. Established in 2002, its ultimate objective is to obtain the universal abolition of the death penalty. To achieve its goal, the World Coalition advocates for a definitive end to death sentences and executions in those countries where the death penalty is in force. In some countries, it is seeking to obtain a reduction in the use of capital punishment as a first step towards abolition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report addresses Trinidad and Tobago’s compliance with its international human rights obligations with respect to the death penalty and related issues, such as conditions of detention, gender-based violence, and the rights of migrants.
2. Trinidad and Tobago has not abolished the death penalty or implemented an official moratorium on executions. Courts continue to sentence people to death, most recently in 2024. People under sentence of death, along with others in detention, experience harsh prison conditions.
3. Women also remain particularly vulnerable to the death penalty as the current legal framework prohibits courts from considering individualized mitigation evidence at sentencing, including histories of gender-based violence and other gender-related mitigation.

I. IMPLEMENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS OBLIGATIONS

Acceptance of international norms

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

4. In its third-cycle Universal Periodic Review, Trinidad and Tobago noted thirteen recommendations to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.¹ Authorities have made no progress toward ratification of OP2.²

Death penalty

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

5. In its third-cycle UPR, Trinidad and Tobago noted all recommendations it received concerning the death penalty.³
6. Under the Offences Against the Person Act of 1925, “every person convicted of murder shall suffer death,”⁴ although the law recognizes certain exceptions.⁵ The law also calls for a mandatory death penalty for treason.⁶ As of 2026, there are 48 individuals under sentence of death.⁷ A court most recently sentenced a person to death in 2024.⁸
7. Courts sentenced approximately 5 of the 48 people to death in the last five years, and only those 5 are currently eligible for execution.⁹ In *Pratt and Morgan v. The Attorney General of Jamaica (Pratt and Morgan)*, the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council¹⁰ held that any delay of more than five years between sentencing and execution was *prima facie* evidence that carrying out the sentence would constitute inhuman or degrading punishment,¹¹ which would violate Trinidad and Tobago’s Constitution.¹² Accordingly, authorities have not carried out any executions since 1999.¹³
8. Despite *Pratt and Morgan*, in 2022 the Privy Council declined to strike down Trinidad and Tobago’s mandatory death penalty, concluding that only the Parliament, not the Privy Council, has the power to abolish or revise the mandatory death penalty for murder.¹⁴

9. In 2023, the High Court ordered authorities to release Wenceslaus James,¹⁵ whom a court sentenced to death for murder under the mandatory scheme in 1996.¹⁶ The High Court quashed his death sentence, holding that executing him after such an extraordinary amount of time would breach his constitutional rights, based on *Pratt and Morgan*.¹⁷ The High Court resentenced Mr. James to a determinate sentence, which he had already served, and thus authorities released him from prison.¹⁸ Authorities granted immediate release of eight additional individuals on death row in February 2024.¹⁹
10. The Government often asserts that the public supports the death penalty²⁰ and that prior to facilitating a debate about the abolition of the death penalty, the Government must ensure that the people feel that authorities are making inroads into curbing violent crime.²¹ Trinidad and Tobago reported a 42% decline in murders from 2024 to 2025, as well as notable declines in other serious crimes.²²
11. In 2024, the Prime Minister appointed the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform to engage with the public on constitutional reform ahead of a Constitutional Conference.²³ The Committee recommended to retain the death penalty.²⁴ The report did, however, propose the removal of the savings clause that protected from legal challenges laws that existed at independence, including provisions authorizing or mandating the death penalty.²⁵
12. Despite the recent judicial developments, in May 2025 the Prime Minister indicated that the ruling party intended to resume executions.²⁶ She further stated that she had asked the Ministers of Homeland Security, Justice, and Defence, and the Attorney General, to provide an update on the possibility of resuming executions.²⁷ The Minister of Homeland Security recently stated that resuming executions was a real possibility.²⁸

Conditions of detention

Status of Implementation: Partially Accepted, Partially Implemented

13. In its third-cycle UPR, Trinidad and Tobago supported Mexico's recommendation to improve the treatment of prisoners in accordance with the Nelson Mandela Rules.²⁹ Trinidad and Tobago noted seven other recommendations related to detention conditions, including some related to guaranteeing rights of people in detention, reducing overcrowding, and taking steps to systematically determine security classifications of people in detention.³⁰
14. Since the third-cycle UPR, authorities have taken steps to punish security force members and other officials charged with ill-treatment of people in detention.³¹ Yet many such human rights violations persist due to open-ended investigations and the slow pace of criminal proceedings.³²
15. As of 2023, authorities permitted UN officials and independent human rights organizations to engage in occasional prison monitoring visits, but with one exception did not permit outside observers to monitor the immigration detention centers in Arima and at the heliport facility in Chaguaramas.³³
16. Trinidad and Tobago has taken modest steps to improve detention conditions since 2021. Between 2020 and 2025, amid growing public outcry, authorities announced several plans

to modernize prisons and introduce programs designed to improve literacy, training, and education of prisoners, committing more than \$200 million to such efforts. As of 2025, however, 95% of the 22 announced projects remained incomplete or only partially completed.³⁴

17. Reports continue to describe harsh detention conditions due to gross overcrowding, inadequate lighting, poor ventilation, and inadequate sanitation.³⁵
18. In 2025, conditions at the Maximum Security Prison in Arouca (MSP) and Eastern Correctional Rehabilitation Centre in Santa Rosa (ECRC) prompted the Prison Officer's Association (POA) to demand government intervention. At the MSP, a water pump sent for repairs and had not been timely returned, leaving the prison without a fire pump and requiring guards to carry buckets of water for daily prison functions. The POA expressed concern, noting that water shortages had previously led to unrest resulting in murder. At the ECRC, a pigeon infestation affecting the air conditioning system caused respiratory issues and other health concerns.³⁶
19. Additionally, in its third-cycle UPR Trinidad and Tobago noted a recommendation from Ireland to reduce reliance on remand (pretrial) custody. In 2025, the POA reported that nearly two-thirds of people in detention were on remand, i.e. awaiting trial. These people either were not eligible for bail or could not afford it. People may spend 10 to 15 years awaiting trial in cramped conditions, spending up to 23 hours per day in a cell.³⁷

Gender-based violence

Status of Implementation: Accepted, Partially Implemented

20. In its third-cycle UPR, Trinidad and Tobago supported several recommendations to combat gender-based violence, including recommendations to improve implementation and enforcement of legislation and policies to reduce gender-based violence, as well as stronger measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.³⁸
21. In 2023, the Cabinet approved a National Strategic Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Violence (NSAP-GBV & SV 2023-2027) (the GBV Plan).³⁹ Since then, the Ministry of Gender and Child Affairs hosted a series of sensitization sessions with officials to ensure that authorities effectively implement the GBV Plan.⁴⁰ The Cabinet also approved a National Joint Steering Committee on Gender-Based Violence (the GBV Committee) to oversee national efforts to reduce gender-based violence and improve outcomes for survivors.⁴¹ A Technical Working Group supports the GBV Committee.⁴²
22. Notwithstanding these initiatives, gender-based violence rates remain high and state protection and accountability mechanisms are often ineffective. In November 2024, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights urged Trinidad and Tobago to adopt urgent measures to prevent and eradicate gender-based violence, particularly in family and intimate-partner contexts, citing reports of domestic-violence-related killings and referencing official data on domestic violence, sexual abuse, breaches of protection orders, and very low charging outcomes.⁴³
23. Gender-based violence can be a pathway for women to come into conflict with the law and face capital charges. Globally, women are more likely to be sentenced to death for criminal

offenses committed within the context of gender-based violence and manipulative or coercive relationships with male co-defendants.⁴⁴

24. Criminal legal systems frequently fail to give adequate weight to a defendant's history as a survivor of gender-based violence in the context of gender-specific defenses and mitigation.⁴⁵ In Trinidad and Tobago, this risk is heightened because the mandatory death penalty can bar any individualized sentencing consideration.⁴⁶ As noted in paragraph 8 above, in 2022 the Privy Council declined to invalidate the mandatory death penalty, despite the Government's acknowledgement that the mandatory death penalty is "cruel and unusual" because it mandates death without regard to culpability.⁴⁷
25. Additionally, detention conditions for women do not comply with international human rights standards. Women serving life sentences rarely have reliable access to dignified sanitation and sufficient hygiene supplies, including menstrual products.⁴⁸

Migrants

Status of Implementation: Not Accepted, Not Implemented

26. In its third-cycle UPR, Trinidad and Tobago noted two recommendations related to the rights of migrants, including reducing prolonged immigration detention and expediting legislative processes to harmonize the Immigration Act with international human rights standards.⁴⁹
27. Trinidad and Tobago's only national immigration law, the Immigration Act, does not recognize asylum-seekers and does not recognize refugee and migrant rights, including the right of non-refoulement (the right not to be returned to one's country of origin if there is a threat to life or freedom), non-penalization (the right not to be criminally charged for entering a country irregularly), and non-discrimination (the right not to be treated differently from other persons based on a particular status).⁵⁰ Further, the Immigration Act prohibits free movement to and from Trinidad and Tobago by persons with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex persons.⁵¹
28. A 2023 court ruling declared that the 1951 Refugee Convention does not apply to Trinidad and Tobago because the government had not incorporated Convention provisions into domestic legislation. In that case, a refugee challenged the National Security Minister's deportation order. The High Court ruled that if the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has not granted a migrant asylum or refugee status, authorities may deport the migrant pursuant to the Immigration Act, even if the UN High Commissioner for Refugees has certified the migrant as a refugee.⁵²
29. Over the past decade or so, many Venezuelan asylum-seekers have arrived in Trinidad and Tobago, but authorities have not offered them legal refugee or asylum status. Estimates of the number of Venezuelan migrants in Trinidad and Tobago range from 30,000 to perhaps more than 200,000. Authorities take an enforcement-first approach, carrying out some deportations and threatening many more, but enforcement has been inconsistent. Authorities have deported many Venezuelan migrants who qualify as refugees, have separated these migrants from family members, and have criminally charged these migrants for entering the country irregularly.⁵³

30. As noted above, authorities do not generally permit outside observers to monitor immigration detention centers.⁵⁴ There have been reports of assault, lack of proper care, and detention of migrant and refugee children. People detained at Aripo, one of the country's two immigration detention facilities, report severely unsanitary and inhumane conditions. Migrants may live in these conditions for years; as of 2021, one person from an unknown African country had been staying at Aripo facility for 8 years and was experiencing serious health conditions.⁵⁵

II. RECOMMENDATIONS

31. This stakeholder report suggests the following recommendations for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago:

- Abolish the death penalty and replace it with penalties that are fair, proportionate, and consistent with international human rights standards.
- Swiftly implement the recommendation of the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform to remove the savings clause that protects laws that existed at independence, including the death penalty, from legal challenges.
- In the interim:
 - Fully implement the Human Rights Committee's 2023 recommendations concerning the death penalty⁵⁶;
 - Establish an immediate, formal moratorium on the imposition of death sentences moving forward;
 - Take steps to eliminate the mandatory nature of the death penalty to allow individualized sentencing;
 - Commute all pending death sentences to sentences of imprisonment;
 - Enhance efforts to change public attitudes about the necessity of maintaining the death penalty, as the Human Rights Committee recommended in 2023;
 - In collaboration with civil society, take steps to promote public and parliamentary discourse regarding alternatives to the death penalty and research regarding effective means of deterring violent crime;
 - On at least an annual basis, publish data on the number of people charged with capital crimes, the number of death sentences imposed, and the number of people on death row, disaggregated by sex/gender, date of arrest, crime of conviction, date of conviction, relationship to any codefendants or victims, current location, and status of any appeals or requests for mercy; and
 - Institute a procedure by which the judiciary automatically converts a death sentence into a sentence of life imprisonment after the person has been under sentence of death for five years, consistent with the *Pratt and Morgan* decision.
- Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

- Take steps to expedite independent investigations and proceedings related to reports that detention authorities abused people in their care and strengthen the authority of investigators to process crime scenes and collect evidence.
- Allow regular international and civil society oversight of prisons and immigrant detention centers, including by allowing independent monitoring mechanisms and civil society organizations to conduct unannounced, unsupervised visits.
- Adopt comprehensive public policies aimed at guaranteeing the rights of people in detention and eliminating overcrowding in prisons, consistent with the Nelson Mandela Rules, the Bangkok Rules, and the Human Rights Committee’s 2023 recommendations concerning detention conditions.⁵⁷
- Review and update the Miscellaneous Provisions (Prisons) Act, 2014, and operationalize the national budget and other sectoral mechanisms to improve material conditions in detention facilities.
- Take all necessary steps to minimize the use of remand (pretrial) detention, including by providing training and expanding judicial discretion to reduce bail terms and amounts for people accused of petty offenses.
- Adopt legislative and judicial reforms to ensure that in any criminal legal proceeding, the court may admit and give adequate weight to evidence of prolonged gender-based violence and coercive control as mitigating circumstances, particularly when a woman is charged with an offense that could result in a sentence of death or life imprisonment.
- Ensure that women in detention, including women serving life sentences or on death row, have reliable access to dignified sanitation and adequate hygiene supplies (including menstrual products), consistent with the Bangkok Rules.
- Take legislative action to adopt and implement international human rights standards for immigrants and asylum-seekers, consistent with the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- Take all necessary steps to end prolonged detention of migrants.

¹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago* (December 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16.

² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard: Trinidad and Tobago*, https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/Treaty.aspx?CountryID=177&Lang=en.

³ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago* (December 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16/Add.1, ¶ 109.15 (Germany), .16 (Italy), .17 (Iceland), .18 (France), .19 (Finland), .21 (Portugal), .22 (Italy), 23 (Spain), .53 (Costa Rica), .54 (Fiji), .55 (Fiji), .56 (Haiti), .57 (Marshall Islands), .58 (Mexico), .59 (Paraguay), .61 (Belgium).

⁴ Offences Against the Person Act, Laws of Trinidad and Tobago (Ch. 11:08) (updated to August 31, 2021), Section 4. Also available online at https://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/Alphabetical_List/lawspdfs/11.08.pdf (“4. Every person convicted of murder shall suffer death”).

⁵ Offences Against the Person Act, Laws of Trinidad and Tobago (Ch. 11:08) (updated to August 31, 2021), Section 4.

⁶ Treason Act, Laws of Trinidad and Tobago (Ch. 11:03) (updated to December 31, 2016), Section 2.

⁷ *Trinidad and Tobago – Retentionist*, World Coalition Against the Death Penalty, available online at: <https://worldcoalition.org/pays/trinidad-and-tobago/> (last visited March 17, 2026).

⁸ *Worldmap*, Ensemble Contre la Peine de Mort (ECPM), available online at: <https://www.ecpm.org/en/worldmap/> (last visited March 17, 2026).

⁹ Gail Alexander, *Govt hopes to resume the death penalty but can't touch death row inmates*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (May 16, 2025), available online at: <https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/govt-hopes-to-resume-the-death-penalty-but-cant-touch-death-row-inmates-6.2.2308879.4df6128e43>.

¹⁰ This body sometimes hears legal questions from former British colonies.

¹¹ The Death Penalty Project, *Earl Pratt and Ivan Morgan*, available online at: <https://www.deathpenaltyproject.org/story/earl-pratt-and-ivan-morgan/> (last visited March 17, 2026).

¹² The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (updated to December 31, 2016), Section 5(2)(b). Available online at <https://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/Constitution.pdf>.

¹³ *Govt hopes to resume the death penalty but can't touch death row inmates*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (May 16, 2025).

¹⁴ Dominic Casciani, *UK judges refuse to ban death penalty in Trinidad and Tobago*, BBC News, May 16, 2022, <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-61468346> (last visited January 21, 2023); The Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (updated to December 31, 2016), Section 6(1)(a) (“Nothing in Sections 4 and 5 [which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment] shall invalidate an existing law.”). Available online at: <https://rgd.legalaffairs.gov.tt/laws2/Constitution.pdf>.

¹⁵ The Death Penalty Project, *Wenceslaus James*, available online at: <https://deathpenaltyproject.org/story/wenceslaus-james/> (last visited March 17, 2026).

¹⁶ *Longest serving death row prisoner in Trinidad & Tobago released by High Court*, The Death Penalty Project (November 16, 2023), available online at: <https://deathpenaltyproject.org/press-release-longest-serving-death-row-prisoner-in-trinidad-tobago-released-by-high-court/>.

¹⁷ *Longest serving death row prisoner in Trinidad & Tobago released by High Court*, The Death Penalty Project (November 16, 2023), available online at: <https://deathpenaltyproject.org/press-release-longest-serving-death-row-prisoner-in-trinidad-tobago-released-by-high-court/>.

¹⁸ *Longest serving death row prisoner in Trinidad & Tobago released by High Court*, The Death Penalty Project (November 16, 2023), available online at: <https://deathpenaltyproject.org/press-release-longest-serving-death-row-prisoner-in-trinidad-tobago-released-by-high-court/>.

¹⁹ The Death Penalty Project, *Michael Maharaj, Damien Ramiah, Seenath Ramiah, Samuel Maharaj, Bobby Ramiah, Daniel Gopaul, Richard Huggins, and Mark Jaikaran*, available online at: <https://deathpenaltyproject.org/story/michael-maharaj-damien-ramiah-seenath-ramiah-samuel-maharaj-bobby-ramiah-daniel-gopaul-richard-huggins-and-mark-jaikaran/> (last visited March 17, 2026).

²⁰ *See, e.g.*, Human Rights Committee, *Fifth periodic report submitted by Trinidad and Tobago under article 40 of the Covenant pursuant to the optional reporting procedure, due in 2019*, (November 10, 2021), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/TTO/5, ¶ 54 (“Trinidad and Tobago maintains the death penalty in its law. These circumstances will change when as a society a collective view is expressed that there is need to change the law. This can only occur through significant public consultation.”).

²¹ Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Trinidad and Tobago* (December 1, 2023), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/TTO/CO/5.

²² *Trinidad and Tobago to introduce Zones of Special Operations to reduce crime*, Caribbean News Weekly (January 14, 2026), available online at: <https://www.caribbeannationalweekly.com/news/trinidad-and-tobago-to-introduce-zones-of-special-operations-to-reduce-crime/>.

²³ National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform, *We the People, Report of the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform*, p. 43 (2024).

²⁴ National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform, *We the People, Report of the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform*, p. 43 (2024).

²⁵ National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform, *We the People, Report of the National Advisory Committee on Constitutional Reform*, p. 54 (2024).

²⁶ *Govt hopes to resume the death penalty but can't touch death row inmates*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (May 16, 2025).

²⁷ *Govt hopes to resume the death penalty but can't touch death row inmates*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (May 16, 2025).

²⁸ Shane Superville, *Alexander: Govt not ruling out death penalty*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (February 16, 2026), available online at: <https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/alexander-govt-not-ruling-out-death-penalty-6.2.2516976.d934b1fb8b>.

²⁹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago* (December 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16, ¶ 108.14 Strengthen the criminal justice system and improve the situation in prisons in accordance with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) (Mexico).

³⁰ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago* (December 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16Add.1, ¶ 109.62 Adopt comprehensive public policies aimed at guaranteeing the rights of persons deprived of liberty and eliminate overcrowding in prisons (Chile); ¶ 109.63 Carry out the necessary reforms to the judicial and penitentiary system, in order to resolve the problem of prison overcrowding and improve conditions of detention (France); ¶ 109.64 Take further measures to improve prison infrastructure and the system for determining the security classification of inmates (Canada); ¶ 109.65 Review and update the Miscellaneous Provisions (Prisons) Act, 2014, and operationalize the national budget and other sectoral mechanisms to improve material conditions in detention facilities (Ireland); ¶ 109.66 Take all necessary steps to end instances of individuals being remanded in pretrial custody or immigration detention for extended periods (Ireland); ¶ 109.67 Continue to improve conditions for prisoners and persons awaiting trial by further investing in infrastructure, training personnel and taking actions such as expanding judicial discretion to reduce bail terms and amounts for people accused of petty offences (Malawi); ¶ 109.68 Ensure that prison conditions meet international human rights standards, including by starting a reform of the pretrial detention system to reduce the number of persons in pretrial detention (Austria).

³¹ Confidential Source, 2023, on file with The Advocates for Human Rights.

³² Confidential Source, 2023, on file with The Advocates for Human Rights.

³³ Confidential Source, 2023, on file with The Advocates for Human Rights.

³⁴ Joshua Seemungal, *95% of prison projects unfinished since 2020*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (July 28, 2025), available online at: <https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/95-of-prison-projects-unfinished-since-2020-6.2.2363880.10daf026bb>.

³⁵ Confidential Source, 2023, on file with The Advocates for Human Rights.

³⁶ Rhondor Dowlat, *Prison officers demand action over pigeon infestation and missing pump*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (13 Feb. 2025), available online at: <https://www.guardian.co.tt/news/prison-officers-demand-action-over-pigeon-infestation-and-missing-pump-6.2.2232013.cf929a832e>.

³⁷ *Prison officers demand action over pigeon infestation and missing pump*, Trinidad & Tobago Guardian (February 13, 2025).

³⁸ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago* (December 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16, ¶ 108.39 Improve implementation of national legislation and policies to reduce gender-based violence and protect victims and survivors, including by improving staff training for the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service's gender-based violence unit (Australia); ¶ 108.40 Take stronger measures to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, including by providing adequate financial, staffing and technical support for the full implementation of the gender-based violence unit (Canada); ¶ 108.41 Strengthen measures to prevent and combat gender-based and domestic violence with the equal and meaningful

participation of women in its decision-making process (Indonesia); ¶ 108.42 Enforce legislation related to gender-based violence (Ukraine).

³⁹ UN Women, Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, *Gender and Child Affairs Strengthens National Gender-Based Violence Response*, available online at: <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/12/gender-and-child-affairs-strengthens-national-gender-based-violence-response>.

⁴⁰ UN Women, Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, *Gender and Child Affairs Strengthens National Gender-Based Violence Response*, available online at: <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/12/gender-and-child-affairs-strengthens-national-gender-based-violence-response>.

⁴¹ UN Women, Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, *Gender and Child Affairs Strengthens National Gender-Based Violence Response*, available online at: <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/12/gender-and-child-affairs-strengthens-national-gender-based-violence-response>.

⁴² UN Women, Multi-Country Office – Caribbean, *Gender and Child Affairs Strengthens National Gender-Based Violence Response*, available online at: <https://caribbean.unwomen.org/en/stories/news/2024/12/gender-and-child-affairs-strengthens-national-gender-based-violence-response>.

⁴³ Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, *Press Release: IACHR Urges Trinidad and Tobago to Adopt Urgent Measures to Prevent and Eradicate Gender-Based Violence* (Nov. 2024), available online at: <https://newsday.co.tt/2024/11/10/human-rights-commission-urges-trinidad-and-tobago-treat-gender-based-violence-urgently/>.

⁴⁴ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *"No One Believed Me": A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty for Drug Offenses* (September 6, 2021), at 6, available online at: <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/no-one-believed-me-a-global-overview-of-women-facing-the-death-penalty-for-drug-offenses/>.

⁴⁵ Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *"No One Believed Me": A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty for Drug Offenses* (September 6, 2021), at 6, available online at: <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/no-one-believed-me-a-global-overview-of-women-facing-the-death-penalty-for-drug-offenses/>.

⁴⁶ The Death Penalty Project, *Challenge to the constitutionality of the mandatory death penalty in Trinidad and Tobago dismissed by UK Privy Council* (May 16, 2022), available online at: <https://deathpenaltyproject.org/challenge-to-the-constitutionality-of-the-mandatory-death-penalty-in-trinidad-and-tobago-dismissed-by-uk-privy-council/>; Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide, *"No One Believed Me": A Global Overview of Women Facing the Death Penalty for Drug Offenses* (September 6, 2021), available online at: <https://deathpenaltyworldwide.org/publication/no-one-believed-me-a-global-overview-of-women-facing-the-death-penalty-for-drug-offenses/>.

⁴⁷ Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, *[UPDATED] Privy Council rules: death penalty stays* (May 2022), available online at: <https://newsday.co.tt/2022/05/16/death-penalty-stays-privy-council-rules/>.

⁴⁸ Andrew Gioannetti, *Needy prisoners left without soap, sanitary products*, Trinidad & Tobago Newsday, November 20, 2022, available online at: <https://newsday.co.tt/2022/11/20/needy-prisoners-left-without-soap-sanitary-supplies/>.

⁴⁹ Human Rights Council, *Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review: Trinidad and Tobago* (December 20, 2021), U.N. Doc. A/HRC/49/16Add.1, ¶ 109.66 Take all necessary steps to end instances of individuals being remanded in pretrial custody or immigration detention for extended periods (Ireland);

¶ 109.93 Expedite legislative processes to harmonize the Immigration Act with international human rights standards and develop an asylum act to ensure the full protection of refugees and asylum seekers, in accordance with international standards (Paraguay).

⁵⁰ Migration Policy Institute, *Trinidad and Tobago Grapples with Venezuelan Migrants in a Complex Environment*, Timothy Affonso and Sharifa Simon-Roberts, December 1, 2025, available online at <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/trinidad-tobago-venezuelan-migrants>.

⁵¹ Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Trinidad and Tobago* (December 1, 2023), U.N. Doc. CCPR/C/TTO/CO/5, ¶ 17.

⁵² United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, *Trinidad and Tobago: Court ruling on deportations will gravely impact refugees and migrants, UN experts say* (July 26, 2023), available online at: [https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/trinidad-and-tobago-court-ruling-deportations-will-gravely-impact-refugees#:~:text=GENEVA%20\(26%20July%202023\)%20%E2%80%93,law%20provisions%20into%20domestic%20legislation.](https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/trinidad-and-tobago-court-ruling-deportations-will-gravely-impact-refugees#:~:text=GENEVA%20(26%20July%202023)%20%E2%80%93,law%20provisions%20into%20domestic%20legislation.)

⁵³ Migration Policy Institute, *Trinidad and Tobago Grapples with Venezuelan Migrants in a Complex Environment* (December 1, 2025), available online at: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/trinidad-tobago-venezuelan-migrants>.

⁵⁴ Confidential Source, 2023, on file with The Advocates for Human Rights.

⁵⁵ International Detention Coalition, *Immigration Detention in Trinidad and Tobago* (December 15, 2021), Denise Pitcher and Gisele Bonnici, available online at: <https://idcoalition.org/immigration-detention-in-trinidad-and-tobago/#:~:text=Immigration%20detention%20policies%20and%20practices,to%20immigration%20detention%20in%20TT.>

⁵⁶ Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Trinidad and Tobago*, UN Doc. CCPR/C/TTO/CO/5 (1 Dec. 2023), ¶ 30 (“In the light of the Committee’s general comment No. 36 (2018), the State party should take all measures necessary, including legislative action, to ensure that the death penalty is applied only to the most serious crimes involving intentional killing and is never mandatory, and should pursue an irrevocable path towards complete eradication of the death penalty, de facto and de jure. In particular, the State party should: (a) Commute all pending death sentences to sentences of imprisonment; (b) Enhance its efforts to change public attitudes about the necessity of maintaining the death penalty, including by engaging in constructive national dialogue about the desirability of abolition through, inter alia, appropriate awareness-raising measures; (c) Give due consideration to establishing a de jure moratorium on the death penalty with a view to abolishing it and consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the Covenant, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.”).

⁵⁷ Human Rights Committee, *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of Trinidad and Tobago*, UN Doc. CCPR/C/TTO/CO/5 (1 Dec. 2023), ¶ 32 (“The State party should strengthen its efforts and take the measures necessary to guarantee that, in law and in practice, anyone arrested or detained enjoys, from the outset of the deprivation of liberty, all the fundamental legal safeguards enshrined in articles 9 and 14 of the Covenant, in line with the Committee’s general comment No. 35 (2014) on liberty and security of person, and that the detention is in full conformity with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules), including with regard to access to counsel and the provision of medical attention, when needed. In addition, it should: (a) Continue its efforts to reduce overcrowding in detention facilities, including through practical steps to curtail delays in the judicial system and through the wider application of non-custodial measures as an alternative to imprisonment, as outlined in the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules); (b) Ensure that pretrial detention is exceptional and is imposed only when necessary and for as short a time as possible; (c) Ensure independent, regular and unhindered access to all places of deprivation of liberty, including military, immigration and national security facilities, by independent monitoring and oversight mechanisms, without the requirement for prior notice and on an unsupervised basis.”).