



UWOL

Our Ref:.....

Your Ref:.....



Chambers

Director of Public Prosecutions,
P.O. Box 1031,
Georgetown,
Guyana

18th December, 2024

DPP’s CHAMBERS PRESS STATEMENT: UWI’s SOCIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE Takes Patterns from Guyana’s Sexual Offences Court – DPP Advocates Equal Justice for Persons with Disabilities

Guyana’s Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), Mrs. Shalimar Ali-Hack, SC, who was recently invited by the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus to its Social Justice Conference has made a clarion call for persons with disabilities to be treated with equal justice in Jamaica and by extension, throughout the Caribbean.

DPP Ali-Hack, SC, spoke during a UWI’s event held on November 13 and 14, 2024, themed, *“Equity in Action: Advancing Justice for Persons with Disabilities.”*

She was asked to present on the topic, *“Adapting Courts and Court Process, Lessons from Guyana’s Sexual Offence Court.”* DPP’s presentation looked at the Sexual Offences Court in Guyana which is based on Guyana’s Sexual Offences Act.

The 2-day conference was sponsored by the United Nations (UN) Office in Jamaica and the Canadian Government through the Canadian High Commission in Jamaica

The objective of the forum was to foster dialogue, establish collaboration and networking among justice advocates to advance social justice initiatives while promoting a more inclusive, just and equitable Jamaican society and was aimed as a nationwide sensation for service providers with valuable insights to support persons with disabilities across Jamaica.

The other panelists together with DPP Ali-Hack, included President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, (CCJ), Mr. Justice Adrian Saunders who spoke to the Concrete steps for Enabling Persons with Disabilities in the Legal System: Critical Perspectives from the Caribbean Court of Justice.

UWI’s Pro-Chancellor of the Graduate Studies and Research Unit, Professor Aldrin Henry-Lee described the conference as significant for the research Unit. *“This conference is significant for us as it aligns with our core values and ongoing efforts to promote a more inclusive society for everyone, especially individuals with disabilities. We have established the first Centre for*

Disability Studies (CDS) in the Region and active research clusters which underscore our commitment.”

Participants and stakeholders were drawn from a wide spectrum of professionals from across the Caribbean, including policymakers, practitioners, researchers and activists who all shared ideas and best practices and innovative solutions.

In keeping with the UN’s Convention on the Rights of persons with Disabilities, UWI has been dedicated to enhancing its campuses to better support individuals with disabilities.