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Press Release

Equal Opportunity Tribunal produces first law report

Lay Assessors come together to commemorate Tribunal's Twelve landmark Judgements in Law Report.

Chaguanas, April 27, 2018: the Equal Opportunity Tribunal had successfully produced its' first Law Report. The Law Report was a combined effort of the two sitting lay assessors, Her Honour Ms. Leela Ramdeen and His Honour Mr. Harridath Maharaj.

Ms. Ramdeen who was appointed as a member of the Tribunal in 2015 stated that the decision to produce the law report was done to honour the tenure of the court's former Judge/Chairman Mr. Rajmanlal Joseph who demitted office in September 2017.

The report contains all the judgments that were delivered by His Honour Joseph during his tenure. These judgments can be regarded as milestone judgments in the area of discrimination in Trinidad & Tobago and the Caribbean. One such judgment would be in the case of Giselle Glaude vs. Quality Security Bodyguard Services where Ms Glaude was fired for wearing a hijab to work. Miss Glaude was awarded \$.1 m dollars for discrimination based on religious practices. The report can be accessed at the High Court Library.

The Equal Opportunity Tribunal is the only court in this country with the jurisdiction conferred on it by the Equal Opportunity Act, Chap. 22:03 to hear and determine complaints of discrimination by companies and or persons (including sexual and racial discrimination) in relation to employment, education, the provision of goods and services and the provision of accommodation.

The tribunal is also empowered to adjudicate on complaints of offensive language used towards a person in relation to is done because of the gender, race, ethnicity, origin or religion is done because of the gender, race, ethnicity, origin or religion. The

Tribunal has the power to award damages to aggrieved persons and or to make order to restrict the continuation of the wrongful acts

In April 2018 a new Judge/Chairman was appointed by President Paula Mae Weekes. Her Honour Mrs. Donna Prowell-Raphael now heads the Tribunal and will continue the important work in the field of social justice. The Tribunal will resume sittings in June 2018.