

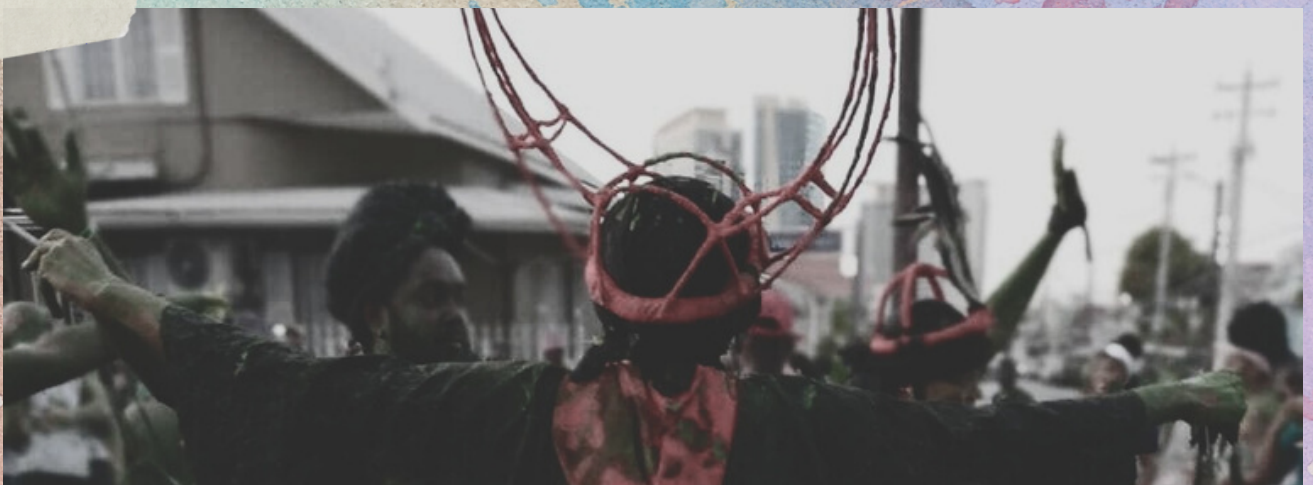
APRIL 2023

The CAISO Quarterly



The year has only just begun, yet we at **CAISO: Sex & Gender Justice** already have quite a few highlights to acknowledge and share with you.

From our **Mas Healing** workshop and **International Women's Day** to our celebration of our trans and gender non-conforming community on **International Transgender Day of Visibility**, and the launch of the **CAISO Engage Series**, we have been busy!



In this issue, we take a look at our completed/ongoing projects and upcoming events for the next quarter.



CAISO Engage Series



Understanding sex, gender and sexuality with Dike Rostant...



We are so proud to have launched CAISO Engage – our public education series that includes video interview segments on issues related to sex and gender identity and sexuality and to engage with the public on LGBTQI+ issues and concerns.

The CAISO Engage first episode was featured on TTT's *In Depth with Dike Rostant*.

Here's the [link](#) to see just how we lay the foundation for these much-needed conversations, as we discuss the basics of sex, gender, and sexuality.

The interview features Angelique V. Nixon, Johannah Rae Reyes, and Kellog Nkemakolam, and highlights information and services provided by the Wholeness and Justice Programme.

Mas Healing Workshop

Mas Healing is a space carved out by the CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice team for healing using our innate creative energy. Through a 2-day workshop and communal preparation for Jouvay; the workshop was designed and facilitated by Angelique Nixon, Shaden Alexander, and Shalini Seereeram.

The workshop facilitated 'healing practices' through mas-making and skill-sharing around self-care and community care. The main goal for Mas Healing is to encourage self-advocacy and empowerment for LGBTQI+ community members. Participants used their creativity as a tool for self-expression, processing emotions, grounding and balance, and recharging the spirit. They were also invited to play Jouvay as a group, with the mas they created.

See more details here with photos and reflections from our first Mas Healing on our website.



EMBRACING EVERYONE

International Women's Day

CAISO's Wholeness & Justice Programme presented for IWD 2023 a **Virtual Panel Discussion** on the Domestic Violence Act as it relates to different vulnerable groups of women in Trinidad and Tobago. At this discussion, several organisations presented perspectives from their work with vulnerable groups of women, including LGBTQ, migrant and low-income women, who are survivors of domestic violence.

The discussion covered legal protections and relief available to survivors of domestic violence; how to access these protections, relief, support and resources; and organizations that provide support.

The Living Water Community and Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD) were co-presenters.

TT Sign Language and English-Spanish interpretation were available to participants and the discussion is available on YouTube: **[Equitable Legal Protections for all Domestic Violence Survivors Virtual Panel Discussion](#)**

IWD Annual Women's Rights Rally & March!

The International IWD Theme for 2023 was Embrace Equity – and our local take on this was Embrace Everyone! The Annual Women's Rights Rally and March held on Saturday 11th March took place around the Queen's Park Savannah.

Womxn, across definitions and identities, showed up to #EmbraceEquity and #EmbraceEveryone! The march hosted by Two Jammettes and Coordination by an Alliance of Women's Rights Organisations, did a wonderful job campaigning for inclusivity, justice, and rights for all womxn in T&T and beyond. We also had interpreters from CAISO's Sign Together initiative present and hard at work expanding access to all.



INTERNATIONAL TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY



On Thursday 30th March 2023, CAISO hosted a Regional Community Gathering of Trans, Gender Non-Conforming and Non-Binary people.

The virtual event was divided into two related segments: the first, on mental health and well-being, facilitated by Alessandra Hereman and Wholeness and Justice Community Caseworker, Rae Alibey; and the second, entitled "Ask a Lawyer", in which Wholeness and Justice Community Lawyer, Donielle Jones, outlined laws related to Trans people.

As we concluded Women's Month and celebrated Trans Day of Visibility, we wanted to centre and support the many members of the Trans community that keep us going.

We at CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice celebrate womxn of all gender expressions, including: trans, queer, bisexual, gender-expansive, non-binary, intersex people who identify as womxn, and masculine-presenting womxn. We embrace all our differences, unique perspectives and experiences.

More than this, we are sex-positive: we believe that people should be allowed to embody, explore and learn about their gender identity and sexuality, without judgment or shame. We affirm body autonomy for all people, especially those in the struggle for reproductive and sexual rights and freedoms.



UPCOMING EVENTS



Back Chat 2023

Since 2017 CAISO has collaborated with Bocas Lit Fest to celebrate Caribbean LGBTQI+ writing and writers. This year's event kicks off the Festival Programme, with a soiree featuring a mix of well-known, local and diaspora writers and performers, music and dancing.

Bocas and CAISO are hosting BackChat 2023 as an in-person, curated event at **9 pm on Thursday 27th April 2023** at CB's Bar-Bar, 15 Rust Street, St. Clair, Port-of-Spain.

The theme, this year, is **Telling Our Stories: Celebrating Caribbean LGBTQI+ Voices**, and we are building a cast of LGBTQI+ writers and performers.

The event serves the dual purpose of showcasing Queer Talent and raising cash and in-kind donations for CAISO's Community Support Drive.



International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Lesbophobia & Transphobia

- IDAHOBIT is celebrated annually on May 17
- CAISO will host a **Virtual IDAHOBIT Media Conference** on **May 16 2023**
- Theme: *Together Always: United in Diversity*
- Stay tuned for forthcoming details!



CAISO: Sex & Gender Justice

Get to know our team!



Angelique Nixon (she/her),
Director



Omar Mohammed (he/him)
Director



Catherine Shepherd (she/her)
Director



Elron Elahie (he/him)
Director



Johannah-Rae Reyes (she/her)
Project & Community Outreach



Kellog Nkemakolam (they/he)
Programme & Research Officer
Wholeness & Justice Coordinator



Rae Alibey (she/her)
Community Caseworker
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Donielle Jones (she/her)
Community Lawyer
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Akilah Riley-Richardson (she/her)
Community Therapist
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Chinyere Brown (she/they)
Research & Admin



Jo Johnson (she/they)
Content & Social Media Consultant



Chandelle O'Neil (they/them)
Volunteer



Dominique Absalom (she/her)
Volunteer



Nikoli Attai (he/him)
Volunteer



Shaden Alexander (she/they)
Volunteer



How to support:

1. Become a **Resource Volunteer**! Donate to us through our FCB Bank Account (details below) and support our work!
2. Become a **Projects or Events Volunteer**!
3. Contact us at **outreach@caisott.org**

DONATE TO CAISO

BANK INFORMATION

Name: **CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice**
Bank: **First Citizens Bank**
Account No: **2415395**
Type of Account: **Chequing**

NOTE:

Please email us at **info@caisott.org** with your donation information and indicate whether the donation is for **Community Food Support, Client Emergency Support**, or any other **Operational Support**.

Get in touch with us:



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