



## **Event: World NGO Day 2024 – Virtual NGO Forum**

**Dates: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2024**

CSO Go, through The Cropper Foundation, will host a full-day virtual Forum once again in commemoration of World NGO Day 2024.

Join us for a day of virtual sharing, learning, and networking towards deeper collaboration and more effective engagement within and beyond the NGO space!

**THEME: Mind Yuh Business! The Role of Civil Society in Accountable and Responsible Development**

Date & Time: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February; 8:30am – 3:00pm.

Format: Sessions will be 100% virtual over Zoom – participants will be able to fully interact by activating cameras and microphones during the sessions.

## **Background**

World NGO Day is commemorated annually on February 27<sup>th</sup>. According to the World NGO Day website ([www.worldngoday.com](http://www.worldngoday.com)), World NGO Day is:

*“...an international day dedicated to recognize, celebrate and honour all non-governmental and non-profit organizations, and the people behind them that contribute to the society all year around.*

*World NGO Day is to inspire people to become more actively involved within NGO sector and encourage a greater symbiosis between NGOs and both the public and private sector.”*

More specifically, World NGO Day is:

- A day for NGOs around the globe to share their knowledge and experiences with one another.
- An opportunity for education, enabling individuals worldwide to understand more clearly what NGOs are doing for society, locally, nationally, and internationally.
- An international symbol to display the efforts and achievements of all NGOs from all sectors.
- An opportunity to inspire people to consider a career within the NGO/Non-profit sector.



- An opportunity for individuals to learn more about the people involved with NGOs.
- An opportunity for NGOs to discuss the issues that affect their work, and form partnerships that can resolve mutual problems.

A Non-governmental organization (NGO) is an organisation that operates outside of the government and whose primary mission is not commercial and focuses on issues of social, cultural and other related natures whilst a non-profit organization (NPO) may be described as a group organized for purposes other than generating profit and in which no part of the organization's income is distributed to its members, directors, or officers. In many cases, the catch-all term of 'civil society organisation' is applied to these and more forms of similar organisations.

## NGOs in Trinidad and Tobago

A wide variety of NGOs operate in T&T, each performing unique and valuable roles within our society. Working with other types of civil society organisations, these organisations assume a critical role in the promotion, development and maintenance of social cohesion and sustainability.

Some are dedicated to promoting social and human well-being through actions that include humanitarian aid; advocacy for marginalised groups; defence of human rights; delivery of services to underrepresented groups; and watchdogs for government transparency and accountability. Other groups are involved in environmental and animal welfare advocacy and protection, whilst others are faith-based or community-based. Often, they are combinations of the above categories as their mandates and goals can be diverse, overlapping various fields. Together, they provide much-needed goods and services to the country, filling gaps underserved by the public and private sectors.

## NGO Day in Trinidad and Tobago

In 2022, CSO Go successfully hosted its first [World NGO Day](#) Fair which saw 150+ unique civil CSOs in attendance across the 2-day event. It featured a showcase of 50 CSOs sharing their work and networking with their peers. The event included sessions tackling topics relevant to CSOs such as "Self-care and protecting your mental health in NGO work" and "Optimising your NGO's impact".

In its second edition in 2023, the virtual commemoration was attended by 165+ unique CSOs in attendance over two days. In addition to the NGO showcase, the event involved presentations and discussions addressing the importance of "Good Governance in the NGO Sector" and "Digitalisation for impact".



## 2024 NGO Day Trinidad and Tobago Theme

This year's focus on *The Role of Civil Society in Accountable and Responsible Development* is a direct appeal to civil society organisations to *Mind Yuh Business!* This call harks back to the [Mind Yuh Own Business](#) (MYOB) guide for civil society on "how to keep track of T&T's energy billions." (Fun fact: It was produced some 15 years ago by The Cropper Foundation with under The T&T Sustainable Develop Network Initiative.)

As our society's challenges are of collective interest, they require collective action at every level. To aptly confront the fall-out of new and heightened risks of climate change, crime and (cyber)security, artificial intelligence and so many others, civil society actors need to engage:

- ✓ The issues and their implications.
- ✓ Each other -- to be able to support others and be supported.
- ✓ The decision-making process as well as the decision-makers.

This is not just about holding everyone else accountable or assigning responsibility to a select (elected) few. Rather, we're taking World NGO Day 2024 to explore our own potential to act and to influence T&T's development. As a matter of urgency, we're saying, *Mind Yuh Business!*

**Because all of it is our business.**

## World NGO Day 2024 registration and participation

1. To register for the virtual session, please click and enter the required information:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclfu2hqzwsHtJ0f5KCfmBUlVxv\\_fYC3uML](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclfu2hqzwsHtJ0f5KCfmBUlVxv_fYC3uML)

2. To signal your interest in being a featured NGO for the digital showcase, please register here: [NGO Showcase Sign-up Form](#)

The deadline for registration as a featured NGO is 4:00 pm Friday 23rd February 2024 and registrants will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis, until the total number of 50 featured NGOs is reached. Slides should also be sent to us by the morning of Monday 26th February 2024.



Morning Session			
Mind Yuh Business: The Role of Civil Society in Accountable and Responsible Development			
Time	Programme Item	Format	Description
8:30 – 8:40	Opening remarks – TCF	Plenary session	World NGO Day description and relevance to T&T Introduction of TCF's new EU-funded Action to strengthen and support national civil society resilience.
8:45 – 9:10 am	Feature presentation Roberta Clarke President, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights	Plenary session	The role and responsibility of the civil society sector in holding States and each other accountable for inclusive and sustainable development in T&T and the wider Caribbean.
9:10 – 9:15 am	Breakout room sorting		
9:20 – 11:20	Interactive sessions:	3 breakout rooms	BR1: Mini workshop A How-to guide to engaging with the national legislative architecture, with specific focus on the Parliamentary process & engagement with Ministries and the consultative process. <i>Facilitators: Chantal La Roche, Director Legal Services, Office of the Parliament &amp; Kemba Jaramogi, Technical Director, Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project</i>  BR2: Mini workshop How can CSOs strengthen their engagement with the media to hold duty bearers and others to account. <i>Facilitator: Julian Rogers, Caribbean media consultant</i>

			<p>BR3: Panel Discussion</p> <p>How have CSOs engaged with intersectional advocacy and collective action to support national development.</p> <p><i>Panellists: Dr. Angelique Nixon, CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice; Gillian Goddard, Alliance of Rural Communities; Shaleeza Khan-Ali, President, Islamic Ladies Social &amp; Cultural Association; Ozzi Warwick, Education Officer, Oilfields Workers' Trade Union</i></p>
11:30 – 12:30 pm	Lunch		
<b>Afternoon session</b>			
<b>Time</b>	<b>Programme Item</b>	<b>Format</b>	<b>Description</b>
12:35 – 12:45	Outline of afternoon session and breakout room sorting	Plenary session	Introduction to breakout rooms Introduction and details for showcase
12:45 – 12:50	Breakout rooms – CSO consultations	Breakout rooms	What does a civil society accountability framework look like? How can civil society self-regulate and self-empower? <i>Facilitators: Veni Apwann</i>
12:50 – 1:50	Breakout room sorting		
1:50 – 2:50	CSO showcase	Breakout rooms	Showcase both new and experienced CSOs
2:50 – 3:00	Closing and wrap up	Plenary session	Wrap up of Forum and next steps for the TCF CSO project