



Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality

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For immediate release

Breaking the silence through sensitisation ECADE launches training manual on IDAHOTB 2020

(Castries, Friday, 15 May 2020) The [Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality Inc. \(ECADE\)](http://www.ecequality.org) will launch a Trainer's Manual for Inclusion and Diversity in the Caribbean, as we celebrate the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia ([IDAHOTB](#)). The event, in collaboration with the Kaleidoscope Trusts Equality and Justice Alliance (EJA), takes place via the Zoom platform on May 17, 2020.

The launch of this manual is no more appropriate than at this time, when the effects of discrimination, violence and active neglect of marginalised communities are startlingly evident. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) people in the Caribbean are among those made more vulnerable by COVID-19, as are persons with disabilities (PWD) and people living with HIV (PLHIV).

As the [United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#) notes, COVID-19 exacerbates already existing inequalities. LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be among those living with compromised immune systems, including some PLHIV, the unemployed, people living in poverty or homeless. LGBTQ+ people routinely suffer stigma and discrimination in healthcare, distribution of state resources and delivery of services. Stigma, discrimination and violence, including at home, continues and have, in some cases, worsened.

The inclusion and diversity training manual was designed as a tool for organisations working with LGBTQ+ persons, PWDs and PLHIV. Many countries in the region are battling discriminatory laws for the marginalised groups that this training manual was developed for, and it can be used as a tool in the efforts to address those laws. The document will be utilised to educate persons from the general population as a means to change their beliefs and attitudes towards these communities.

The manual was produced with the financial support of Kaleidoscope Trust, through the EJA project. It was an output of an Anti-Discrimination working group, led by ECADE, which facilitated the Caribbean arm of the EJA.

The manual is intended to be a flexible tool for facilitators to formulate training programmes based on the target audience, time frame and the sector in which they operate. It has also been designed so that modules and sections could be printed separately to cater for specialised training that focuses on specific populations.

The manual will be made available online on ECADE's website at www.ecequality.org following the launch.

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About The Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality Inc. (ECADE)

The Eastern Caribbean Alliance for Diversity and Equality Inc. (ECADE) is a network of organisations working across the eastern Caribbean. ECADE works to increase the competence of activists and conscientise the people of the

eastern Caribbean for the advancement of LGBTQI and marginalised populations in the region.
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About the Equality & Justice Alliance

The Equality & Justice Alliance is a consortium of international organisations with expertise in advancing equality, addressing the structural causes of discrimination and violence, and increasing protection to enable strong and fair societies for all Commonwealth citizens, regardless of gender, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity and expression. The members of the Alliance are the Human Dignity Trust, Kaleidoscope Trust, Sisters for Change, and the Royal Commonwealth Society.

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About the Kaleidoscope Trust

Established in 2011, Kaleidoscope Trust works to uphold the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT+) people in countries around the world where they are discriminated against or marginalised due to their sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression. Since 2013, our organisation has hosted the Secretariat of the Commonwealth Equality Network (TCEN), which provides a unique space for LGBT+ advocates to challenge inequality in the Commonwealth, including by advocating for better national and regional policies, laws, and priorities of Commonwealth governments. To date, TCEN consists of 56 member organisations from all five regions of the Commonwealth. Kaleidoscope Trust is also civil society Co-Chair of the Equal Rights Coalition, which works to advance the human rights of LGBT+ people and promote inclusive development of LGBT+ persons globally.

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NB: Individual interviews can be arranged on the phone, in person or via satellite.