



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Public Administration



GIRLS IN ICT DAY

Why Not A Girl?



Hear from some of the females who are blazing a trail in the field of telecommunications & broadcasting on why girls should pursue a career in this industry.



Senator the Honourable Allyson West

The Minister of Public Administration
Ministry of Public Administration
Trinidad and Tobago

Celebrating
GIRLS IN ICT DAY
Why Not A Girl?



I wish to encourage all the Girls in ICT to keep charting and clearing new paths; to continue to provide mentorship to those who will follow in your footsteps; and to continue to take pride in the essential work that you do in bringing about positive transformation in the economic, social and environmental landscapes in our nation.

Bio

Senator the Honourable Allyson West was appointed Minister in the Ministry of Finance on June 30th 2017 and Minister of Public Administration on August 14th, 2019.

Senator West is a former Partner and Territory Tax Leader in the Tax and Corporate Services Department of PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC), Trinidad and Tobago (T&T). She is a senior member of the Law Association of T&T, registered to practice law in T&T.

Senator West previously served as a Senior State Counsel at the Board of Inland Revenue (BIR) and was responsible for advising the BIR on taxation, legal and regulatory issues.



Dr Kim Mallalieu

Deputy Chairman
Telecommunications Authority of
Trinidad and Tobago
and Senior Lecturer in Electrical and
Computer Engineering at
The University of the West Indies



**I see the soft side of
science. I am the hard
stare at inequity. You
know me by my Action.
My Conscience. My
Compassion. My Courage.
ICT. What do you see?**

Bio

Kim Mallalieu is the Deputy Chairman of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago; and Senior Lecturer in Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies where she leads the Communication Systems Group.

Dr. Mallalieu holds a BS Electrical Engineering (MIT); MS Optics (University of Rochester) and PhD Electrical Engineering (University College London).

She conceived and coordinated an international Master's programme in telecommunications regulation and policy and was a founding member of Diálogo Regional sobre Sociedad de la Información, an ICT policy and regulatory research network.

She currently leads the Caribbean ICT Research Programme; and is the recipient of local, regional and international teaching as well as research awards, and other awards of distinction.

GIRLS IN ICT DAY



Teresa Wankins

Secretary General
CANTO



"You may face numerous obstacles in your lifetime - Gender, should never be one!"

Bio

Ms. Teresa Wankin is the holder of a BSc (Hons) in Information Technology and Computing from the University of Greenwich, England, Graduate Diplomas in Management of Information Systems, a Applications Programming and a Mini MBA in Telecoms and Business from Informa Telecoms and Media.

She is also a graduate of the Institute of Information Technology Managers and the Karrass Negotiating Leaders.

Teresa currently holds the position of Secretary General at CANTO, a regional association of telecommunication operators and service providers with 111 members in 33 countries that is headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago.

Bio

As Secretary General, Ms. Wankin oversees the operations of the association, manages the capacity building initiatives in the region and oversees the planning, implementation and delivery of multi-national development programs.

Prior to being employed with CANTO she was employed as an Information Systems Specialist with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Driven to promote social and economic growth and development through the use of ICTs, Mrs Wankin has a passion for bringing together all stakeholders to work together to develop a culture of innovation and collaboration in the region

#GirlsInICT
#WhyNotAGirl

GIRLS IN ICT DAY



Kalana Prince-Wilson

Founder, Principal Attorney-at-Law &
Certified Mediator

Kalana-Prince-Wilson & Company, Attorneys-at-Law
and

Director on the Board of Directors
of the Telecommunications Authority of
Trinidad & Tobago



**The only limits to
achieving your goals are
those you set for
yourself. Live limitless!**

Bio

Kalana Prince-Wilson is Founder, Principal Attorney-at-Law & Certified Mediator at Kalana-Prince-Wilson & Company, Attorneys-at-Law. She is also a Director on the Board of Directors of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad & Tobago since 2016.

She has over ten (10) years' experience in the telecommunications industry having started as a Customer Service Representative and ultimately a Product Manager at the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago. She believes that girls are needed in ICT to bring their unique perspectives to an otherwise male-dominated sector and create solutions to problems only girls would be intimately familiar with.

Mrs Prince-Wilson is also a mother who teaches her only daughter that with God all things are possible and that the only limits to achieving your goals are those you set for yourself.

Live limitless!



CYNTHIA REDDOCK-DOWNES

Chief Executive Officer (Ag)
Telecommunications Authority of
Trinidad and Tobago

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I always believed that girls will succeed despite the obstacles, we are stronger than we think and more resilient too!

In my work life, I combine my financial background with ICT's and get a winning combination, I love my job!

Bio

Cynthia Reddock-Downes is Chief Executive Officer (Ag) of Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago, by profession a Chartered Accountant she also has a BSc Degree in Industrial Management from the University of the West Indies and certification in Systems Analysis and Design.

Cynthia has worked at the Authority since its inception in 2004 and in so doing, has facilitated the development of ICT's in Trinidad and Tobago including the development of a competitive Telecommunications and Broadcasting Industry.

She also has experience in an operating environment, having worked at the Telephone Company of Trinidad and Tobago in various positions including as Project Accountant on the Development Programme.

Since joining the Authority, she has worked closely with the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) the ICT implementation and standardisation agency of the United Nations.

Since 2013 she has represented Trinidad and Tobago as the Vice Chair of the ITU Regional Group for Latin America and the Caribbean - Study Group 3, responsible for developing International Standards in the areas of Policy, Economics and Accounting.

Cynthia was also member of the ITU Focus Group on Digital Financial Services (DFS) the focus group responsible for the development of international standards for DFS which are now published.

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Annie Baldeo

Executive Officer, Policy, Planning and Economics
Telecommunications Authority of
Trinidad and Tobago

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**Women are known for
our passion, resilience
and ability to achieve
anything we set our mind
to...So why fit in when we
can stand out?**

Bio

Ms. Annie Baldeo is the Executive Officer, Policy, Planning and Economics at the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT). She has served with TATT for over fifteen years where she is responsible for policy development, statistical indicators, competition analysis and strategic planning.

She contributes to the publication of Trinidad and Tobago industry's Market Reports and was previously appointed vice-chair of the International Telecommunications Union international expert group on benchmarking telecommunications and ICT indicators.

Prior to this position, Annie was employed with organisations both in the private and public sector including the National Information and Communication Technology Secretariat of the Ministry of Public Administration where she was involved in the development of Trinidad and Tobago's first National ICT Plan.

Her academic qualifications include a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management, Economics and Finance from the University of the West Indies, and a Masters degree in Strategic Planning from Heriot-Watt University.

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Christa Leith

Senior Manager, Regulatory & Policy
Telecommunications Services
of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TSTT)
and Director, CANTO

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To be confined by corporate gender roles is to embrace our failure to fully explore the boundless potential of our human capacity.

Bio

Christa Leith is the lead consultant and founding member of CL Consulting & Associates. She is a Regulatory and Policy Development professional with expertise in a wide range of areas including Cost and Profit Analysis, Cost Model Development and Auditing as well as Wholesale and Retail Tariff Design, Review and Analysis. As a former lecturer, Ms. Leith, a board member and consultant concentrates on advising regulatory bodies in the re-design of their utility sectors and utility organisations.

Ms. Leith is a graduate of the Heriot-Watt University where she attained both an MSC in Financial Management and an MBA in General Management. Prior to these achievements, Ms. Leith earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree with a double major in Business and Finance from Heriot-Watt University as well. She also holds several certifications in Telecommunications, Utility Studies, Regulatory Policy and Project Management.

Ms. Leith is a Senior Manager at the Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (TSTT), with responsibility for all regulatory and policy affairs of the organisation. A member of the board of directors of CANTO, Ms.

Leith also serves as Vice Chairperson of the Regulatory Committee and is an active member on the Committee for Caribbean Women in ICT.

With a career which spans over a decade in the utility sector, Ms. Leith's personal brand is undoubtedly built with a wealth of knowledge, experience and expertise.

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GIRLS IN ICT DAY



Desha Clifford

Legal and Regulatory Director
Digicel (Trinidad and Tobago)
and Director, CANTO



**Never compromise
yourself. Success is
always within your
grasp. Go for it!
Be a girl in ICT!**

Bio

Ms Desha Clifford is an Attorney at Law. She started her career in private practice before moving in-house to work firstly with the local environmental regulator and thereafter to Digicel in 2006. At this time, Desha is the Legal and Regulatory Director at Digicel (Trinidad & Tobago) Limited as well as the Chairperson of the Digicel Trinidad and Tobago Foundation.



Desiann Mc Kenna

Senior Project Manager ICT
Ministry of Health

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As women we bring a unique perspective to everything we do.

Why be a Girl in ICT? To bring that perspective to the ICT world and change the landscape through our collaboration, creativity and our desire to achieve excellence in all that we do and improve what we see around us.

Bio

Desiann Mc Kenna has been employed with the MoH since December 2012. She has a Master of Science Degree in Strategic Business IT from the University of Portsmouth, Bachelor of Science Degree in Computing from the University of Greenwich, Graduate Certificate in Health Informatics from the University of Boston and is also PMP certified.

Ms. Mc Kenna has worked in IT for the past 17 years both in Government and a State Agency, during which time her experience has ranged from functioning at an Info Center, Programming, Systems Analysis and Project Management. Her current position as Senior Project Manager has allowed her to combine her passion for Technology and Health where she is able to contribute by implementing national health systems across our health sector and aid in improving the service delivery at our nation's health facilities.



Janelle C. Alexander

ICT Director
Ministry of Health

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It all begins with a dream and the pursuit of that dream with passion. In the near future, everything will be dependent on ICT. So why be a girl in ICT? Because you can change the world. With the continuous developments in science and technology, if you can dream it, you can achieve it. Join us in this exciting field and leave your footprint on the world!

Bio

Janelle C. Alexander is a distinguished Information and Communication Technology Director who possesses over twelve (12) years of managerial experience in the health sector and twenty three (23) years ICT experience collectively in both Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.

Ms. Alexander has a Masters in Graphic Communications and Technology Management, a Masters in Public Administration and a Bachelors Degree in Computer Science.

She has a proven ability to bridge technology and business goals to provide productive solutions and has Experience in strategic planning, project management and monitoring and evaluation.

Ms. Alexander has been actively involved in the implementation of information systems in the health sector over the last twelve years helping to improve the patient experience.



Kiran Maharaj

Managing Director
Caribbean Lifestyle Communications
which is comprised of Music Radio 97.1,
Radio 90.5, Heartbeat Radio 104.1FM, Caribbean
Lifestyle Productions, and VA Films &
Production Company
and also the Founder of Heartbeat Radio 104.1FM,
which was the world's first radio station
for women.

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**The only limits are those
you put on yourself....
Make your dreams what
you will achieve.
The world is a canvas -
paint your story!**

Bio

Ms Kiran Maharaj is the Managing Director of Caribbean Lifestyle Communications which includes Music Radio 97.1FM and The People's Station Radio 90.5FM.

In 2005, she launched the world's first radio station for women, Heartbeat Radio 104.1FM.

She is President of the Trinidad & Tobago Publishers and Broadcasters Association and President of the Media Institute of the Caribbean.

Her background is in Media Strategy and Marketing. Her degrees are in Literature (UWI St. Augustine), Journalism, Business Administration and Marketing, including Events Marketing and Management from New York University.

She graduated from Harvard Business School's Executive Education programme in Effective Media Strategy and the Business of Entertainment, Media and Sports.

As a co-founder of the Caribbean Investigative Journalism Network (www.cijn.org), she launched the region's first and only investigative multimedia news website and it is a non-profit entity.

She has also worked in film and television and one of her most notable projects was done for the Mercy Foundation - the documentary "Paradise in Peril" which showcased the plight of Dominica, Antigua & Barbuda after hurricanes Irma and Maria.

In 2006, Kiran was awarded a Fellowship in Broadcast Leadership and Management from the National Association of Broadcasters in Washington DC.

In April 2019, the United States Embassy in Trinidad the U.S. State Department honoured with the Woman of Courage Award.

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GIRLS IN ICT DAY



Lisana Ali Shah

Systems Analyst II
Service Commissions Department



My advice for girls wanting to pursue a career in ICT is to never stop learning.

The work can be challenging at times but once you actively commit to learning and keeping up with the advancements in the world of technology, you can boost your creativity and stay inspired.

If you like solving problems with technology, adding value to your organisation, learning new things and enjoy a challenge, then ICT is right career choice!

Bio

Lisana Ali Shah joined the Information and Communications Technology Unit at the Service Commissions Department in August 2018 as a Systems Analyst II. With over 17 years in both the private sector and public service, she has extensive experience in Organisational Transformation, Business Process Re-engineering and Business Continuity Management.

She holds a Master's in Business Administration specialising in Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Innovation from Anglia Ruskin University and a BSc. Information Systems and Management (Honours) University of London.

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Melesia Sutherland

Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs
Cable & Wireless,
and Director, CANTO

It never occurred to me to ask myself the question ‘Why not a girl’. I went to an all- girls high school and in my home and all around me I saw women doing what they needed to ‘boss up’ and manage their lives. It never occurred to me that there was anything I couldn’t do because I am a girl. Know that God’s gifting and talents know no gender so whatever he has given to you to impact the world go for it and that includes being a ‘techie’ girl. Own it! Do it!

Bio

Melesia Sutherland is Senior Manager, Regulatory Affairs, working with the multinational company Cable & Wireless, now a part of Liberty Latin America, which uses the consumer brand FLOW and Director, CANTO, the premier trade association for telecommunications providers in the Caribbean region.

Ms. Sutherland has over twenty (20) years’ experience in technology policy. She holds a BSc. Government from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and MBA. Finance from the Universities of Manchester and Wales, in the United Kingdom.

GIRLS IN ICT DAY



Sherry Mc Millan

Executive Officer Corporate Communications,
Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad & Tobago



Women bring passion, intelligence and creativity to the table. So why be a Girl in ICT? Because Trinidad and Tobago needs you. The world needs you. We need your passion, skills, intelligence and creativity. Every one of you can have an impact!

Bio

Sherry Mc Millan is the Executive Officer, Communications Consumer and Information Services at the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) since July 2012.

She holds a Masters in Business Administration from the Henley Management College with an emphasis on organisational transformation. Ms. Mc Millan has functioned in a mix of both public and private sector enterprises in Trinidad and Tobago in Corporate Communications, project management, corporate planning and organisational transformation.

During her current posting at TATT, Ms. Mc Millan has been involved in educating consumers, amongst others, on how to make the most of the benefits that technology offers.



Vithra Seereeram

Team Lead, Contract Management Office,
iGovTT

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Being a woman in ICT and contributing directly to the transformation of the ICT landscape of Trinidad and Tobago makes me a proud citizen and employee of iGovTT.

To know that my contribution impacts our everyday lives and the productivity and efficiency of the public sector is truly humbling.

Being a woman in ICT and a proud mother of two amazing girls, my advice to the girls of today's society, is to pursue your career with vigor and passion, and know that in ICT you can be innovative and creative.

Know that your contribution and actions can make a resounding impact to the future of ICT and also to the continued development of Trinidad and Tobago!



Bio

Vithra Seereeram is the Team Lead of the Contract Management Office at the National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited (iGovTT). She's been with iGovTT for the past nine (9) years and has over thirteen (13) years' experience in public sector procurement and contract management.

She has Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) specializing in Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Innovation and a Bachelor's Degree in Management.

She also has an advanced certificate in Public Procurement from the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS) and completed training in Design and Implementation of e-Government Strategies and IT Governance: Sustaining Regulatory Compliance, Laws, Security & Policies and most recently completed Practical Mediation skills training.

Vithra is responsible for managing a team of contract management experts that provides effective management for enterprise-wide ICT contracts on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (GoRTT). In addition, she and her team also provides ICT contract management services and consultancy to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's).

Through the effective negotiation and management of contracts she has been able to achieve cost savings and value for money for government whilst maintaining transparency and accountability.

In addition, in the current COVID-19 pandemic, through the management of ICT enterprise contracts, she facilitated and ensured collaboration with vendors on availability of collaborative productivity tools be available to all of GoRTT through services that can be derived and maximized from existing ICT enterprise-wide contracts.

an **ITU** initiative

International Girls in ICT Day

*Expand horizons,
change attitudes*

#GirlsInICT
itu.int/girlsinict

