

# NATIONAL CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS OF THE BAHAMAS

“Uniting Workers Vision for a Better Bahamas”

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## For Immediate Release

### **Press Statement Re: International Women’s Day March 8, 2009**

International Women’s Day is observed on March 8 each year and with no exception the National Congress of Trade Unions of the Bahamas [NCTUB] in conjunction with the Caribbean Congress of Labour join the rest of the world in celebrating this day. It is a major day of global celebration for the professional, cognitive, economic, political and social achievements of women. The day is meant to portray the power of women in the modern era and how vital their role is in the society.

International Women’s Day is the story of ordinary women as makers of history; it is rooted in the centuries-old struggle of women to participate in society on an equal footing with men.

Every year, a political and human rights theme, as designated by the United Nations to create the social awareness of the struggles of women worldwide, are brought out and examined in a hopeful manner.

This year’s theme: “***Women and men unite to end violence against women and girls***” is a timely one since we can see the evidence of physical abuse toward women and girls almost on a daily basis globally. The level of violence against women and girls has increased over the years and women need to come together as a united force to expose those that are guilty of such acts so that we can stomp out the violence in our society. As women organizations, it is our duty to speak out on the injustices and violence that are perpetrated against females in our society as well as on the global market.

As we prepare ourselves and our organizations to deal with the challenges that we now face within the Bahamas and in the Caribbean Region due to the global recession, the NCTUB wishes to remind women that the struggle for women's rights is the struggle for human rights. Therefore, the NCTUB call on all women to reflect on the gains, strides, and achievements that have been made by women locally, regionally and internationally, despite the continued discrimination in the workplace as well as domestic and other violence that are perpetrated against women, girls and those who are still classified as the working poor.

The NCTUB wishes to remind women of the importance of education because it ensures that all women and girls are able to secure opportunities to broaden their knowledge and increase their potential for success.

While we have had tremendous success stories with women breaking the glass ceiling, unfortunately the numbers are still too few. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those women who have succeeded to the top and encourage those who are still standing as brave soldiers in the struggle for fair play and justice. We must continue to fight for the equality that we so rightly deserve.

The NCTUB pledges its support for all domestic workers in their struggle for legal and social recognition of the value of all women's work. Additionally, the NCTUB call upon the government of the Bahamas to review the Employment Act to strengthen the provision of equal pay for equal work with particular emphasis on the disparity in wages between men and women in the labour market. Let us therefore join together to realize the potential of gender equality and eventually the full empowerment of women all over the world.

On behalf of the National Congress of Trade Unions of the Bahamas and the Women's Association, We take this opportunity to wish all women in every island of the Bahamas a very happy Woman's Day and be reminded that the struggle goes on until all men and all women have become equals.

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Hellena O. Cartwright  
President,  
Women's Association

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Mr. John Pinder  
President - NCTUB