



26th April, 2010

Hon. Patrick Manning
Political Leader, People's National Movement (PNM)
Balisier House, One Tranquility Street
Port of Spain

Dear Mr. Manning:

Thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) voters will be participating in the May 24th general election. The Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO) has been working hard to educate, register and mobilize this community regarding political issues and electoral participation. Like many other Trinbagonians, GLBT voters want a country where no one is a second-class citizen, and a responsible government that protects and takes care of *all* its people according to their needs.

- On behalf of those voters, their families and friends, **CAISO is writing to ask you and your party where you stand on questions of equality, justice and full citizenship for GLBT people, and toward policies and programmes that address our particular needs.** Please clarify your position on these issues and share them with us, so that we may share them with GLBT voters and our networks. One in three respondents to CAISO's voter poll have indicated that equality and GLBT rights are the most important election issue for them.
- CAISO is committed to building a nation with a political culture that is inclusive, forward-thinking and just. **We are therefore offering the PNM the opportunity to sit down with us so that we can support your leadership and candidates in developing a richer understanding of the needs and concerns of GLBT voters and their advocates, and how issues which affect us affect society as a whole. This may be done in advance of your taking a position on our issues.**
- A question of key concern to CAISO:
 - **Will you commit to support an amendment to the Equal Opportunity Act of 2000 to include sexual orientation and gender as grounds of discrimination covered by the Act?**
 - We would like such a commitment, whether or not your party forms part of the majority of the post-election parliament.
- **We have also suggested five smaller, concrete things the PNM can easily accomplish within six months of forming a new Government which would have a welcome and meaningful impact on the lives of all citizens, including GLBT Trinidadians and Tobagonians. (please see attached).** These include:
 - **providing a leadership voice for equality and non discrimination**
 - **taking one action step in four key ministries.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us via caisott@gmail.com or 758-7676 with your responses. We look forward to hearing from you in the days and weeks ahead, and to joining with you in building a nation and a politics that includes and respects all citizens.