

# WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Commemorated on February 20th, World Day of Social Justice recognizes the importance of creating “a society for all” where issues of poverty, discrimination, marginalization, employment, gender parity and access to social well-being are systematically targeted. The United Nations theme for this year’s observance is “Overcoming Barriers and Unleashing Opportunities for Social Justice.”

As a champion/pioneer of civil and human rights, the Equal Opportunity Tribunal is doing its part in promoting social justice and creating opportunities for all. The Tribunal has been promoting access to justice in three strategic ways: access to information, electronic access and legal access.

**Access to Information** is the first step toward access to justice. Being aware of your rights under the constitution and the Equal Opportunity Act is key. At the Tribunal, we place a high priority on education, as such, we started the ‘Let’s Talk Equality’ initiative with key stakeholders. The initiative seeks to inform stakeholders about who we are what we do and how members of the public can access our services.

**Electronic access** through the creation of digital platforms would transform the Tribunal into a contemporary E-court. To date, the Tribunal’s registry has been digitised using a commercial electronic platform. The Tribunal is now able to offer electronic filing and electronic hearings as well as both real-time and recordings on its YouTube Platform.

**Legal access** to justice is critical for the average man to receive redress for grievances. The Tribunal has been working assiduously towards being included in the Second Schedule Part I of the Legal Aid and Advice Act, Chap. 7:07. This will assist litigants who are unable to finance the legal costs of their complaints before the Tribunal. This in turn will assist complainants with sound legal advice and assist in leveling the playing field.

As we observe World Day of Social Justice 2023, let us seize the chance to reaffirm our dedication to this vital cause and to acknowledge that while there has been progress, much more work still needs to be done to remove barriers and unleash opportunities for all to access. Every step towards creating an equal and equitable space is vital in achieving “a society for all.”