

Press Release

17 September 2020



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COLOURS CAYMAN RESPONDS TO FALSE ALLEGATIONS SURROUNDING EDUCATION ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY

In light of recent allegations that have been circulating online with regards to the education of children on the topics of gender and sexuality, *Colours Cayman* would like to remind the public that our organisation's mission is to foster safe and comfortable social and professional environments for everyone in the Cayman Islands, with our primary focus being on the LGBTQIA+ community. We advocate for LGBTQIA+ rights as human rights and promote the inclusion and equality of LGBTQIA+ people in the Cayman Islands.

We further our mission in many ways, including hosting educational workshops—as we have for years now—that are designed to educate our youth, teachers, parents and guardians on the sensitive subjects of gender identity, sexual orientation and mental health. Open and honest discussion surrounding these subjects is woefully lacking across the region, even throughout our educational system and as such, we endeavour to provide our youth and those working directly with our youth the opportunity to attend our workshops or to bring them into the classroom.

Furthermore, a lack of knowledge on these subjects and awareness of their importance has statistically been shown to contribute to the prevalence of mental illness, bullying, abuse, suicide and more, internationally, particularly among LGBTQIA+ youth. We remain vigilant in our efforts to inform, protect and support our youth and have taken considerable measures to ensure that our members and associates are knowledgeable, sensitive and well trained in these areas.

False accusations of LGBTQIA+ communities championing anything that clearly violates human rights are commonplace worldwide and members of our organisation have been met with them numerous times in the past. While we will always deny these false allegations and resist attempts to liken education surrounding gender and sexuality to child abuse or worse, likewise, we will always defend the inalienable right of children to be properly educated. **Any comments made about our members or our organisation that have been misconstrued or are wholly false are not representative of how we operate or what we stand for.** Of course, to the extent that *any* statement made by our members or our organisation has been misinterpreted, we unreservedly apologise for any lack of clarity on our behalf.

**Billie Bryan, Founder & President,
*Colours Cayman***