

Amantes de Parranda

#52 Tenth Avenue, Barataria. Trinidad and Tobago. W.I.

E-mail: amantesdeparranda@gmail.com

Contact: Mrs. Henrietta Carter

Number: (868) 743-3977

Written contributions/Report prepared by the organization “Amantes de Parranda” for the summary of the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights for the Universal Periodic Evaluation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

1. Our organization, “**Amantes de Parranda**”, is a parang group (a catchy type of folk music and usually religious). It is a non- profitable, non-governmental organization which comprises of 22 members and is run by an executive body.

It was founded in 1974 by school teachers to develop the youths in the community through sports and music.

“Amantes de Parranda” has given many scholarships to continue the academic education of students and also training in the play of musical instruments.

“Amantes de Parranda” has trained many students in playing cuatro and guitar and the Spanish language in primary and secondary schools and now has extended that training to youths from 17 to 35 through the formation of another non-profit organization: The Trinidad and Tobago Youth Parang Association to continue its works on a national level.

We also have invited some tutors from Venezuela to assist in that training which continues to be very successful.

From the government of Venezuela, we also have been getting courses for free in the areas of: voice and diction, cuatro and conversational Spanish.

2. The aims of the organization are to develop the parang art form in Trinidad and Tobago, to work assiduously in offering positive guidance and hope to the youths of the nation by ongoing training programmes in lyrics, music and performance techniques and giving scholarships to them.

3. “Amantes de Parranda” takes this opportunity with the Universal Periodic Review of Member States of the United Nations to present this written contribution to the human Rights Commission of the United Nations on Venezuela. In particular, we wish that our experience will assist in exposing the condition of basic human rights in Venezuela.

4. “Amantes de parranda” works closely with the embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Trinidad and Tobago in promoting cultural studies and activities and supports all their community outreach programmes.

Both, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago have rich cultural heritage and so it is a great advantage and importance to pass on the knowledge.

Since the entrance of the Bolivarian Revolution in 1999, we have experienced a greater access to cultural improvement in language, music and dance, which is important in improving the self esteem of humans.

Our children in Trinidad and Tobago as well, have experienced during many summer vacations, learning the wind and the string instruments, from Venezuelan tutors.

5. Our organization would now like to take this process to another level by going to Venezuela and pay a visit to the Ministry of People's Power for Culture in order to help us to exchange our cultural heritage, improve the knowledge of folk music and make public presentations to the Venezuelan people in festivals. Knowing that the Constitution of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in its article 100 recognizes and respects intercultural relation under the principles of equality of culture, we would like to recommend the Venezuelan Government to support and finance the projects that we already have in progress in our country and also, our visit to Venezuela to help to build human experiences via our cultural exchanges.