



October 29th, 2020

LGBT Leaders Meeting With People's United Party Leader, Hon. John Briceno

The meeting was an informal platform to discuss issues related to the upcoming 2020 Election and the People's United Party's position on three main LGBTQ issues highlighted through the #VoteWithPride Campaign:

- lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LBTQ) women and families,
- the Equal Opportunities Bill (EOB), and
- violence reduction and safety of the LGBT community

Statement From Hon. John Briceno, PUP Party Leader

"We are a progressive party. We are an inclusive party. We are all Belizeans, we are all created equally in the eyes of God and we need to do everything possible to embrace everyone. We may not agree with everything being presented by the LGBT community; however, we assure you that we will be moving forward to address the issues. These are real issues and you all are taxpayers and equal just like every one of us."

Take-away points

During this discussion, Hon John Briceno stated that:

- under the PUP leadership, several progressive policies have been established such as the first Gender Policy and National HIV Policy. The Party has also facilitated amendments to the Married Person's Act, Administration of Estate Act, Common Law Bill and addressed issues surrounding children born out of wedlock,
- the PUP is willing to work towards the revision of the family protection laws and policies from a gender-neutral position to include the LGBTQ community ;
- the PUP's biggest concern with the Equal Opportunity Bill (EOB) is the tribunal and the Commission; Hon Briceno agrees the EOB is important; however, there needs to be education around the tribunal process and dialogue on the concerns, then proceed to reintroduce the Bill;
- the priority of the PUP would be stabilization of the economic condition of the country;



- the PUP is willing to work to introduce a Hate Crime legislation; the lack of documentation on the violence perpetrated on LGBT persons can be rectified to support the Hate Crimes legislation. A PUP government would work with the Police Department to ensure that the cases are documented
- continuous training of the Police Department is needed to improve the relationship between the Department and all general public
- each person has the right to choose his/her beneficiary to ensure equal protection for all through the Social Security scheme; if it is just to amend a policy the PUP will facilitate the necessary amendments, if it's a legal reform then the necessary reform can be initiated
- gender identity recognition legislation would need a hearts and mind campaign; the younger generation can support this campaign towards gender identity recognition

