



October 30th, 2020

LGBT Leaders Meeting With Belize People's Front Leader, Mrs Nancy Marin

The meeting was an informal platform to discuss issues related to the upcoming 2020 Election and the Belize People's Front'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 Mrs Nancy Marin, Belize People's Front's Party Leader

"I am always willing to dialogue, especially with such a vibrant group. I know that minority groups get hit bluntly through things in our constitution that may not be friendly to us. There is a lot of reform left to do. Regardless of your sexual orientation, everyone needs to be protected under policies regarding Social Security, health and justice and the BPF has the political will to protect all our citizens and support whatever reform needs to happen to ensure that everyone is protected."

Take-away points

During this discussion, Mrs Nancy Marin stated that:

- she has always been an advocate for women and youth issues, but, as a party they do not have much information on the issues impacting the LGBT community; however, Mrs Marin and the BPF are willing to gain a better understanding;
- the BPF admits that it needs more sensitization on the family protection laws and policies; however, the BPF believes that there needs to be more attention paid on what unites us as citizens as opposed to the small things which separates us such as sexual orientation;
- the BPF's biggest concern with the Equal Opportunity Bill (EOB) is the tribunal and the Commission. The BPF also believes that the current draft leaves room for mischief; however, overall they support the EOB, once the issues with the tribunal and the Commission can be revisited and restructured;



- the BPF believes the Police Department needs to eradicate the culture of corruption to be able to better cater to the crimes being committed against the LGBT community. Mrs Marin agrees there needs to be a legal reform to protect people from “Hate Crimes”.
- Mrs Marin believes that the NGO subventions need to be revised to ensure that the Humanitarian NGOs can gain subventions from the Government of Belize, to support their efforts

