

March 12, 2018

Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Timothy Harris
Office of the Prime Minister
Government Headquarters
Church Street, Basseterre

Dear Hon. Prime Minister

Subject: Access to Community Centres

I write to you to strongly protest your government's continuing denial of the request of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party for use of our Community Centres. These requests have been made in pursuit of the legitimate business of our Party.

One month ago, an application for use of the Community Centre in Central Basseterre was made at the Department of Community Development by an agent of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party, and as on previous occasions, we were informed by Mrs Anne Wigley that your government has instituted a policy to prevent the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party from using the Community Centres in St. Kitts.

During the tenure of the Labour Party Administration, all political Parties had access to the Community Centres. To deprive us as a community group of the use of the centres that were constructed to enhance development through community-based activities is not only discriminatory but undemocratic and stifles the laudable principles of freedom for which the leaders before you fought to benefit the people whom they represented.

The St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party finds such a policy wholly undemocratic, reminiscent of fascism, and thus completely obnoxious and unacceptable. The St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party will not under any circumstance accept any policy by your government that has been designed to prevent it from having access to the community centres or from carrying out its legitimate business as a bona fide political organisation within the Federation.

The position of the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party on this matter is that just as any legitimate community group or club, or any Department of Government is afforded the opportunity to make reasonable use of our community centres built with the tax dollars of all of our working citizens, so too must the St. Kitts-Nevis Labour Party be afforded that opportunity.

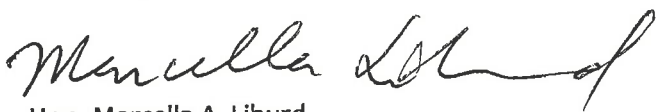
We have been told that your government will not permit any political activity to be conducted in the Community Centres. On this, we respond as follows:

- i. It is clear from our observation of recent town hall meetings held by you that our school rooms and community centres are being used by you for political activities.
- ii. In a democratic society, politics is legitimate, and we reject any notion promulgated by anyone that only you and the political parties affiliated with your government should be allowed to use State property to carry out its political mandate.

We therefore use this correspondence to appeal to your government's better judgment in the interest of advancing our democratic development and our harmonious coexistence. Let good sense prevail.

I look forward to a positive response.

Yours respectfully



Hon. Marcella A. Liburd
Chairperson

- c. Minister responsible for Community Development
St. Kitts Evangelical Association
St. Kitts Christian Council
St. Kitts and Nevis Bar Association
St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce
HE Irwin La Roque, Secretary General - Caribbean Community
HE Dr Didicus Jules, Director General - OECS Commission
HE George Gow-wei Chiou, Ambassador - Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
HE Rómulo Camilo Henríquez González, Ambassador – Embassy of the Republic of Venezuela
HE Abelardo Fabio Hernández Ferrer, Ambassador – Embassy of the Republic of Cuba
HE Douglas W Vasconcellos, Ambassador – Embassy of the Republic of Brazil
HE Linda S Taglialatela, Ambassador - Embassy of the United States to the Eastern Caribbean