

August 26th, 2025

RESPECT FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION AHEAD OF GENERAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS

Georgetown, Guyana – As Guyana prepares for the 2025 General and Regional Elections, the Ethnic Relations Commission (ERC) is reminding all citizens and supporters of political parties that every individual has the inalienable right to freely support the political party of their choice, without intimidation, fear, or harassment.

The ERC emphasizes that the Constitution of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana guarantees the freedom of association, assembly, and political participation, including the right to join, support, and express allegiance to any political party.

Article 147(1) of the Constitution affirms that “...no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of assembly and association, that is to say, his right to assemble freely and associate with other persons and in particular to form or belong to **political parties** or to form or belong to trade unions or other associations for the protection of his interests.”

This means that the choice to wear political paraphernalia, attend rallies, or express political support is a protected right, and any form of intimidation, verbal abuse, harassment, or violence aimed at individuals because of their political preference is a direct violation of laws of Guyana.

The Commission calls on all Guyanese to engage in respectful dialogue and to remember that political opponents are not enemies. The free exchange of ideas and the visible support for different parties are signs of a healthy and functioning democracy.

The ERC also calls on political leaders, campaigners, and supporters to set the tone by discouraging acts of hostility toward those with differing political affiliations, both in public spaces and online. Such actions not only undermine individual rights but also threaten national unity and good relations.

The ERC reaffirms its commitment to promoting harmony and good relations and encourages all Guyanese to play their part in ensuring that the 2025 elections are conducted in an atmosphere of peace, mutual respect, and dignity.

Ethnic Relations Commission