

Girl, 13, thrown out by grandparents

# Children's Authority steps in

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A 13-YEAR-OLD girl who was thrown out of her house by her grandparents has been rescued by the Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago.

A video uploaded on December 25 by a neighbour showed the teenager crying outside her home,

standing near her clothing and a mattress on the roadway. The video also showed an elderly couple, the girl's grandparents, quarrelling and using expletives.

The video, which runs for two minutes and nine seconds, has been shared more than 2,200 times and has been viewed by over 110,000 people.

Several viewers commented on how disturbing the footage was,

and the need for immediate help for the child. One person commented she knew the child, and she often cried at school.

In a news release, the Children's Authority commended the "concerned neighbour who brought to the public's attention the plight of a child who was made homeless last week".

"The authority has received the child into its care and is treating

the matter with the sensitivity and confidentiality which it deserves. The public is once again reminded that child protection is everyone's business. Therefore, anyone with information about a child being abused should make a report to the police or the authority at 996 or 800-2014."

At one point, the person capturing the video said to the grandparents: "Police will come for allyuh,

though. Study that." The man replied: "Police? Let them come." He later pointed to the crying child and said: "Thirteen years and what you do? What she do in 13 years?"

A younger boy was seen in the video walking in and out of the house.

An elderly woman, who appeared to be avoiding the camera, was heard saying: "Allyuh like to macco."