

## **Good Practices in Addressing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (III)**

**Systematization of the Regional Meeting on  
“Protecting the Children of the Caribbean  
from Commercial Sexual Exploitation”**

**September 2011**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Second Regional Meeting on Protecting the Children of the Caribbean from Commercial Sexual Exploitation was held in Kingston, Jamaica, on 6 and 7 July 2011.

The Regional Meeting was being held as one of the key deliverables under the project "Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in the Inter-American System" (PPRCAIAS). The project was simultaneously being implemented in Colombia and Guatemala and comprises three broad components: (a) public policy, (b) child participation and (c) communication strategies. The core objective of the project was to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to become familiar with and generate mechanisms for the promotion and protection of children's rights, as well as to strengthen public policy, legislation and independent follow-up and monitoring systems, with regard to these rights.

In the context of the public policy component, work has been carried out on updating the National Action Plan for a comprehensive response to violence against children 2011-2016. It is established in this Plan that one of the work areas is to reinforce the knowledge, competencies and capabilities of the various bodies involved in addressing sexual exploitation in all of its forms.

The IIN has been working in this field in compliance with the mandates of its Directing Council and of the General Assembly of the OAS<sup>1</sup>, through the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Commercial Exploitation, Illegal Trafficking and Trade in Children and Adolescents<sup>2</sup>.

One of the lines of work of the Inter-American Programme focuses on generating opportunities for exchange and learning with regard to the good practices in place in the different countries in the region. In 2010, the First Regional Meeting was organized in Costa Rica and included the member states of Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

This Second Regional Meeting was convened by the Child Development Agency (CDA) of Jamaica, the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), and IIN-OAS. The delegations of eleven OAS member states attended: Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname.

Also present were international speakers from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), UNICEF (TACRO) Regional Office, the Inter-American Children's Institute and the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children.

There were, in addition, speakers from the following Jamaican institutions: the Broadcasting Commission, the Office of Disaster Preparedness & Emergency Management, the Organized

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution AG/RES. 2686 (XLI-O/11), as well as prior resolutions AG/RES. 2548 (XL-O/10), AG/RES. 2486 (XXXIX-O/09) and AG/RES. AG/RES.2432 (XXXVIII-O/08), and resolution CD/RES. 10 (82-R/07) of the Directing Council of the IIN.

<sup>2</sup> See [www.annaobserva.org](http://www.annaobserva.org)

Crime Investigation Unit of the Constabulary Force and the Representative of UNICEF's country office for Jamaica.

A panel of experts deliberated on the problem of exploitation and the new technologies and discussions were then broadened to include participants in five thematic working groups.

The Second Regional Meeting – like the first – had two complementary objectives: on the one hand, to encourage the exchange of specific experiences being developed in the region with regard to prevention, protection and restitution of rights in the face of sexual violence, and on the other, to promote critical reflection on these experiences, in order to derive lessons from them.

In addition, it was planned to identify the state of progress of CARICOM member states with regard to the Regional Framework of Action for Children 2002-2015 and to create a network of technical liaison officers for the exchange of information and knowledge, and the coordination of actions.

Good Practices in Addressing the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (III) is a compilation of most of the presentations made at the Second Regional Meeting. The IIN hopes that it will be of use in working specifically with children affected by sexual violence, that it will make the problem of commercial sexual exploitation visible in the Caribbean, and that it will help to do away with the myths and beliefs that justify violent practices against children.

## **SUMMARY OF THE OPENING CEREMONY AT THE REGIONAL MEETING**

The Regional Meeting was opened by the Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Michael Aiken, Director, Communications, Research and Evaluation, National Transformation Programme, Office of the Prime Minister, who urged that the deliberations of the two day meeting be used to inform regional initiatives.

Mrs. Carla Francis Edie, Chief Executive Director of the CDA outlined the rationale and objectives for the Project. She indicated that it was an imperative that the stakeholders, representatives of Government, policy makers and heads of NGOs present at that the 2<sup>nd</sup> regional meeting be committed to deliberate on the national and regional challenges of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Children and Adolescents in an effort to arrive at collective plans of action.

Child Representative, GOJ/IIN Project Steering Committee, Kadeem Simpson challenged the adults to be far more vigilant and put measures in place to protect them from early inappropriate exposure. He called the adults to action and indicated that the negative cycle of abuse will not only destroy families but ultimately nations. He further pointed that an apathetic attitude is almost as deleterious as the act of exploitation itself.

Thereafter, Dr. Joan Neil, Jamaican representative to the OAS, indicated that in a recent report by Julia O'Connor-Davidson of the School of Sociology, University of Nottingham, Jamaica and its neighbor, the Dominican Republic takes a number of different forms that is highly steeped in poverty and related forms of socialization, exclusion and abuse occurring largely between the ages of 13 – 18 years. She indicates that child sexual exploitation will have effects such as emotional and continuous trauma, exposure to violence and sexually transmitted diseases, increase in teenage pregnancy, lowering of child's moral values, self esteem and self worth and the inability to live free and happy lives which inhibits the child's chances of realizing their full potential in life.

Dr. Neil indicated that the IIN has made significant inroads and has documented the first comprehensive analysis of child sexual exploitation in the Americas called "La Explotación Sexual de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes". It recommended a number of pragmatic approaches, including the urgent conclusion of Mutual Assistance Treaty between sending and receiving countries, the fast-paced formulation of new legislation to address the adequacy of existing legislation on law enforcement of human trafficking, to provide protection for victims and put in place effective sanctions and laws for perpetrators and traffickers. She recommended that there remains the urgent need for economic intervention for families and households in low socio-economic positions in transitional states as they are more susceptible to falling prey to traffickers. Also the implementation of alternative livelihood programmes for heads of households and empowering social services provision, such as health and education to their dependents.

Dr. Kevin Harvey, Director, HIV/STD Control Programme, implored the participating countries to use evidence based information, improve existing programmes and implement new ones and share their strategies and best practices. He charged the government through multi – dimensional collaboration with families, communities government agencies, NGOs and the

Private Sector to spearhead the protection of children against abuse, child labour, sexual exploitation and any other form of injustice and neglect.

Mrs. Paulina Fernandez, Director of Areas and Projects of the IIN explained that in this context, the Convention on the Rights of the Child is very clear, stating in its Article 19 that States shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect children from all forms of physical abuse physical or mental, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse.

In this respect, the IIN, as an OAS specialized organization whose mission is to assist the States in subjects involving the protection of child rights, is implementing the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Sexual Commercial Exploitation, Illegal Trafficking and Trade in Children and Adolescents. This Programme comprises three working areas: a) the collection and updating of information with a bilingual observatory with more than 600 documents available to operators in the region b) creation of information and expertise highlighting the development reports to the Secretary General of OAS, as well as thematic newsletters and publications on best practices that arise from activities such as training and horizontal cooperation c) creation of human resources and specialized technical assistance

The keynote address to the Regional Meeting was given by Hon. Olivia Grange, Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture. She indicated that the CDA, the leading childcare and protection agency in Jamaica reports that children under the age of 10 account for 17% of all sexual assault cases and children between 10 and 19 account for 57% of all sexual assaults. The Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms passed into legislation in Jamaica in early 2011, states that every child in Jamaica has the right to protection by virtue of his or her status as a minor, the right to public primary education and the right to enjoy a healthy, productive environment free from the threat of injury and environmental abuse.

The Child Pornography Prevention Act which addresses issues of commercial sexual exploitation of children will ensure the protection of children, especially girls which are the primary victims of this type of crime. There is other legislative intervention to prevent exploitation of children through a Cyber Crime Bill to protect children online as well as the Evidence Amendments Act being finalized to allow vulnerable witnesses many of whom are children to give evidence in court proceedings via video link and who will be protected from having to face the offender. Amendments also to the Incest Punishment Act and Offences Against the Persons Act to develop the Sexual Offences Act in an effort to provide even greater protection and sanctions.

## CARICOM MEMBER STATES REPORTS

### BAHAMAS

**Mrs. Seanalea Lewis**  
**Senior Welfare Officer Department of Social Services**

Mrs. Lewis commenced her presentation by defining Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) which she defined as 'sexual abuse by adults for cash payment or in kind either to the child or to another person'. She categorized Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, to include Child Pornography, Child Prostitution, Child Sex Tourism or any form of sex when a child engages in sexual activities to have basic needs fulfilled.

Mrs. Lewis informed us that "the specific experience that The Bahamas brings to this forum is the passage of the Child Protection Act 2007, and the revision of the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, both of which occurred almost simultaneously in 2009." She further informed us that the Protection Act 2007 was fully brought in line with the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Mrs. Lewis emphasized that regard is to be given to the child's physical, emotional and educational needs, the likely effect of any changes in the child's circumstances, the child's age, sex, back ground, any harm that the child has suffered or is at risk of suffering, and also the capacity of the child's parents or other persons involved in the care of the child in meeting his needs.

Mrs. Lewis further informed us of the establishment of the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Clinic (SCAN) in May 1999. This clinic provides a coordinated approach to the management and support of children suspected to have been abused, by providing access to complete health care. The program is evidence based, and has since become the Ministry of Health National Programme. SCAN provides a link between agencies that advocate for children and works closely with the Department of Social Services, Child Protection Services and the Police. The Department of Social Service shares a close relationship with SCAN and participates in monthly meetings, sharing information and participates in workshops and seminars throughout the year.

Mrs. Lewis spoke about the National Child Protection Council (NCPC) founded in 1999, with the mandate of developing a nationwide concerted plan of action, to combat child abuse. She said the Council is mandated to advise the Minister on matters concerning child abuse and to study, evaluate and recommend ways to continually address the problem of child abuse. She explained that The National Child Protection Council has developed safety tips for children and parents that have been distributed to schools throughout The Bahamas. The National Child Protection Council has so far had active campaigns for the past three years which teaches children how to recognize and prevent becoming victims of child abuse.

Mrs. Lewis explained that despite advances in legislation and other treatment and preventative measures, there are still many challenges that The Bahamas face. Among them is the implementation of the important aspect of the Child Protection Act. The Act includes the appointment of a Minor's Advocate, whose duty is to act as legal representative for any juvenile who is brought before the court, it also calls for the establishment of a Child Abuse Registry which has however not yet been realized.

Mrs. Lewis said that a disturbing trend which has become an acceptable practice in Bahamas, is where under-aged females, particularly high school students, are involved in sexual relationships with older, employed men, not only to meet basic needs, but for other perks. She went on to say that the legal age of consent for sex in the Bahamas is sixteen, but there is an addition to the law that says no male under the age of twenty-one can be prosecuted (for sexual offences) without the consent of the Attorney General.

She indicated that each case is viewed on its own merit and if found to be a consensual relationship, the case is dismissed and the couple reported for counseling. As such, she advised that the only cases that are treated seriously by the police, are those involving children fifteen years and under. This according to Mrs. Lewis is paradoxical, because on one hand, a child is anyone who is under eighteen years, and on the other hand the mind set has accepted that only certain types of sexual behavior constitute sexual abuse which is heavily dependent on age.

Mrs. Lewis observed that in view of the glaring facts, some of the reasons for this attitude are:

- Legislation in the Bahamas allows an under-age female to marry with parental consent
- A female can legally consent to sex at age sixteen
- Society views such liaisons as a "morality Issue"
- If no force is involved, this is an accepted practice.
- Ignorance of the law
- Lack of enforcement of the law
- Socio-economic level of the family

Mrs. Lewis stated that these illegal liaisons, instead of being viewed as Commercial Sexual Exploitation, are erroneously regarded by society as a matter of morality. While some are fiercely opposed by the church, others are viewed as "lucky" if the man is rich and still others are viewed as loose, and as having made bad choices.

Mrs. Lewis said sympathy is given to victims who are forced into sexual activity and even then, age, circumstances and relationship to the perpetrator, has an effect on how the victim is viewed. She also stated that many persons are not aware that this aspect of Commercial Exploitation is against the law, and need to know that it constitutes a serious offence.

Mrs. Lewis said that there is the perception that the authorities are not taking enough action to treat with these type of cases. However, she stated that it must be understood that that the cases have to be brought to their attention before action can be taken.

She further informed that a recent interview with a high ranking official in the Bahamas Police force revealed that every reported Sexual abuse case is investigated and submitted to the

office of the Attorney General, who would then make an independent decision. He admitted however that the Police Department has no reliable available statistics and revealed that such cases are broadly categorized as child abuse. She said the Interview also revealed that any type of Commercial Exploitation matter is kept deeply hidden based on contravention of the law and its penalties.

Mrs. Lewis stated that in the Bahamas this type of Sexual Exploitation is accepted, because the family of the child stands to benefit financially. She said many heads of households have come to expect that once their daughters become involved in relationships, the male would provide financial assistance, a scenario that is not only expected but encouraged.

Mrs. Lewis reported that the Bahamas is aware that Child pornography, Child Prostitution, and Sex Tourism takes place and that while significant progress has been made regarding prevention, protection and restoration of Child's rights against Commercial Sexual Exploitation, much more work needs to be done in order to resolve this problem.

Mrs. Lewis said some of the contributing factors prohibiting resolution are:

- Lack of information sharing, research, and consequently available data
- Lack of coordinated efforts between stakeholders
- Lack of education regarding what constitutes Commercial Exploitation of Children
- Not enough preventative programs available to underage youth

We were assured by Mrs. Lewis that, it is Bahamas' intention to take corrective measures.

Mrs. Lewis stated that the following recommendation is being made as part of the solution to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children:

- Sustained educational campaigns (via the media) targeting adults/children thus raising public awareness regarding what constitutes commercial sexual exploitation
- Proper research in order to ascertain the scope of the problem.
- Development of programs (including peer programs) that teach children what is appropriate sexual and emotional relationships, encouraging them to reject those involving exploitation.
- Teaching students (include early in school curriculum) how to develop personal and social skills, as well as responsible sexual behavior. Education results in empowerment and more informed choices.
- Amendment to legislation regarding child marriages as well as age of sexual consent.
- Strengthening of network and coordination among stakeholder, especially with regards to reporting.
- On going training of stakeholders on recognition, intervention and treatment of Commercial Sexual Exploitation, consequently, the establishment of a dedicated Unit/Division for the proper categorization of these cases.
- Implementation of all aspects of Child Protection Act 2007 i.e. Minor's Advocate and Child Abuse Registry.

## **BELIZE**

**Ms. Ava E. Pennill**  
**Director Human Services**

Mrs. Pennill, in her presentation gave a background report on Belize. She pointed out that:

- The only published study on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) was made available in 2006
- In 2007 a Draft Bill was developed for the prohibition of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
- In 2007-2009 a pilot project with "YES" which is an NGO sanctioning the removal of one hundred victims from Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. During this time a media campaign and public awareness for the sensitization of police, social workers, teachers and other stakeholders were also launched
- 2008, a Care model for victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children was developed
- 2008-2009 embarked on a sensitization of resorts operators, encouraging them to sign a voluntary agreement, prohibiting any form of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children operations in their resorts
- Also in 2008, they had the national child labour policy. This was a labour department initiative to address Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, one of the worst forms of child labour
- 2009, the Department of Human Services took over responsibility of victims from a pilot project that was done in 2007-2009 and appointed Social Workers to coordinate the response
- 2010 they had the incorporation of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Bill that was developed in 2007, into the Trafficking of Persons (Prohibition) Act.

Mrs. Pennill gave us a national over view of Belize, using the preliminary findings of the 2010 census. She stated that the population is approximately 350,000 with the majority living in rural communities. She also pointed out that there has been a marked increase of migrant communities. Their official language is English, however, Spanish is the language most spoken. Belize is ethnically diverse with Hispanics being over fifty percent of the population. She noted that the strong ethnic diversity impacts program design and service delivery, because there are various beliefs and practices to be addressed.

Our attention was drawn to factors contributing to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, with poverty being the main contributor given that 44% of the population is below the poverty line. Technology, Gender Issues, Social and Peer Pressure, Migration, Tourism Development and lack of Recreation and positive social outlets, were also stated as contributing factors.

Cultural values usually influence the outcome of sexual offence cases, because of beliefs that might be prevalent. Cultural values also contribute to low rates of conviction, as victims are sometimes blamed because of the way they dress and are seen as a temptation for men. There is also community tolerance as sexual exploitation is sometimes seen as a means to a better life especially if they perceive the victims to be foreigners.

Mrs. Pennill emphasized, that the stigma and shame attached to sexual crimes perpetrates silence, and is therefore, seen to be the major inhibiting factor in reporting of such cases. She also pointed to legal factors that need addressing, like the ability of parents to withdraw cases- not in the interest of children, but due to possible loss of economic support from the perpetrator.

She stated that the old law needs to be updated, especially given that Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children is not properly defined.

Mrs. Pennill reported manifestation of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in Belize as follow:

- Children under 12 years being sexually molested in exchange for sweets, food or other personal items
- Children under 12 years engage in Commercial Sexual activities, in order to acquire enough money to contribute to family income from selling food or other items on the street.
- Adolescents having relationships (approved by parents) with older persons who contribute to the family economically
- Adolescents left on their own to provide for their economic needs, engage in Commercial Sexual activities for survival.
- Immigrant adolescents working in Bars.
- “Hit me on the hip”- Intermediaries contact girls usually through a phone call to make contact with a client for sexual service.
- “Dalla Wap”- Children provide commercial sex in exchange for fry chicken or food.
- “The 90lb test”- general acceptability of older men cohabiting with physically developed children

We were informed that there are renewed public awareness campaigns to educate the public on the rights of Commercial Sexual Exploitation victims, as well as where to report incidents and where help can be accessed. The public awareness campaign will also address issues contributing to men being the main exploiters of children and adolescents for Commercial Sexual Exploitation.

She advised that they have also implemented a new Trafficking in Person Bill to incorporate the crime of Commercial Sexual Exploitation. Existing laws, including the present Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act of 2003, are currently being used to respond to cases.

The Care Model, as reported by Mrs. Pennill, is a cyclical response to persons who have been victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children. The aim of the model proposes to serve as a guide for service providers in undertaking actions regarding care within a range of services that cater to the specific needs of the child.

The model works in conjunction with criminal justice systems in order to report cases of sexual crimes established by law, and offer the necessary cooperation for investigating, reporting and prosecuting the commercial sexual exploiters and their intermediaries. The model ensures immediate care when there are signs that the under aged person may be in danger of being lured by the sex exploiters again.



Mrs. Pennill further stated, that the model proposes to offer emotional recovery from violence experienced, while trying to strengthen family and community networks, which will allow the underaged person to remain within the family or community. They also help with reintegration into school life, and the development of occupational abilities and capacities in persons over 15 years.

Mrs. Pennill stated that there needs to be consideration for girls, boys, and adolescents as persons with rights and not recipients of our favours or concessions. She also expressed the need to re-examine the myths and prejudices, especially in regards to sexual violence and commercial sexual exploitation, and the need to incorporate an approach that encompasses the wide ranging needs of the victims.

## DOMINICA

**Ms. Jemma Azille**

**Co-ordinator Child Abuse Prevention Unit, Welfare Division, Ministry of Social Services.**

Ms. Azille commenced her discussion by introducing the programmes already in place in Dominica. She indicated that:

- An institution, named Chances, was recently (April 2011) opened in Dominica (as a place of safety to house children at risk).
- The home is funded by the government which allocated \$697, 967.00 for the financial year 2011-2012
- Chances is a residential homes and children between newly born and 18 years old are sheltered there; however they are housed for up to 6 months to a year, after which they are placed in foster homes
- The home operates everyday on a 24 hour basis
- Chances has the capacity to house 36 children; presently 8 children are in residence
- Chances are governed by a Board of Directors and falls under the care of the Ministry of Social Services, Community Development & Gender Affairs. It is headed by a Managing Director, Assistant Director, 2 social workers, 1 counselor 8 care givers, 1 domestic worker and a cook
- Entry into the home may be carried out by either: (1) emergency placements or (2) planned placements. Emergency placements are initiated by the police or a social worker; planned placements are initiated by the social worker and is done through the court system, where an assessment is carried out and children placed accordingly
- Children housed at Chances are each assigned 2 social workers, a counselor and a care giver
- The main challenge faced by Chances is finding suitable foster homes for children older than 8 years old.

A service treatment plan is developed for the children who are housed at the institution, referred to as the survival skills for healing. Such skills include:

- Believing the act of abuse took place
- Breaking the silence
- Make children understand that what happened to them was not their fault
- Anger management
- Grieving and mourning
- Learning how to deal with family members (e.g. in cases where incest is involved)
- Providing guidelines for healing, sexually
- Resolving the issue
- Encouraging parental relationship. Parents are allowed to visit children at the home and participate in group sessions

One concern expressed by persons in attendance at the conference is the fact that there seems to be no one in the home with the special skill set needed to deal with persons with

disabilities (e.g. deaf children), given the extreme vulnerability of such children. The recommendation was therefore that the resources should be put in place, with urgency to deal with same.

## **GRENADA**

### **Mrs. Shirley Ann Edwards-O'Neal Child Protection Officer, Child Protection Authority**

Mrs. O'Neal in providing an insight into the background of the country pointed out that Grenada is a tri-island state comprising of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, which when combined is 133 sq miles. It is also known as the Isle of Spice.

The Child Protection Authority formerly known as the Child Welfare Authority is mandated by the Ministry of Social Development to deal with Child Protection and Adoption issues.

Like most Caribbean countries, the problem of commercial sexual exploitation is not recorded. The main reason provided is that there have been increases in reported cases of sexual abuse and incest.

Grenada is the first country in the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), as part of a massive regional Family Law Reform initiative, to pass the Child Protection and Adoption Act 20 of 2010.

On May 16<sup>th</sup> 2011, the Child Protection and Adoption Act, as well as the Domestic Violence legislation came into effect.

The primary purpose of the Act includes:

- The care and protection of a child from abuse and neglect in a manner that ensures that the best interests of the child are given paramount consideration;

In terms of the adoption, it will be carried out in a way that:

- Promotes the well-being and best interest of the adopted child throughout his life and supports efficient and accountable practices in the delivery of adoption services.

The Authority therefore under this Act conducts all investigations, placement and supervision of children; approves and conducts all reviews of facilities within which children are placed and the children's needs are also reviewed occasionally according to their care plan.

The act makes provision for persons who fail to report, resulting in them committing an offence which upon summary conviction can be charged a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three (3) months. It also makes provision for those persons who collect or attempt to collect money for the adoption of children.

The safety and protection of children is one of the most important elements especially for those involved in the Human Resource Departments of the Child Care entities and anyone else working and dealing with children.

The Act enables the Court to make a number of different types of Orders including:

- Emergency Protection Order

- Care Order
- Supervision Order
- Custody Care Order

The Child Protection Authority was established by Part II 7(1) of the Child Protection and Adoption Act and the principal function of the Authority as described by the Act, is to provide for the care and protection of children by ensuring that procedures and policies are in accordance with the main purpose of the Act.

The Authority is managed by a Board of Directors that oversees the current 32 members of staff. The following make up the Board of Directors: Minister of Social Development/Permanent Secretary/Director/Port Officer (Rank of Inspector) – Immigration/Solicitor General/Chief Education Officer/Social Worker/Attorney General/Medical Practitioner and Two Appointed persons from non Government Organization concerned with the safety of Children.

The Child Protection Authority now has the role of not only placing children as it did under the role of the old Act but now has to oversee all the arrangements provided for in the legislation which includes fostering, adoption and institutional care.

#### Success/Achievements of the New Authority

- The Authority has moved from the fragmented approach to a far more comprehensive coordinated role in affording protection to Grenada's children from reporting to adoption.
- The Human Resource capacity has grown.
- The Child Protection Authority is able to benefit from the UNICEF funded technical support of a consultant attached to the Ministry of Social Development who was retained to assist with the implementation of the Family Law Reform process.
- The mandatory reporting requirements has heightened the public's perception in terms of the Authority's physical presence in the community and in turn requires the Child Protection Authority to lift its profile, to be more visible and to be more in contact with the communities and resources.

#### Challenges

Despite the achievements of the Authority in making steps in the right direction, it is also confronted by some harsh realities such as:

- Human Resource limitations and capacity
- Lack of sufficient training and education
- Lack of adequate financial resources
- Resisting the temptation of the status quo
- Lack of sufficient infrastructural support

Despite the challenges, the Government of Grenada is satisfied with the enactment of the new legislation as well as the creation of the new Child Protection Authority (CPA).

This new CPA regime brings Grenada much closer to compliance with the Rights of the Child. Article 19 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that member states must take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educative measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or maltreatment including sexual abuse while in the care of parents or legal guardians.

## **HAITI**

**Ms. Jean Pierre Bernard**  
**Institute of Social Wellbeing & Researches**

**Andolphe E. D. Guillaume**  
**Legal Assistant**

**Diem Pierre**  
**Project Coordinator**

Ms. Bernard et. al. began their presentation by indicating that visibility and coverage of exploitation is a wide spread issue, given that 60% of the population lives in rural areas and the urban population lives well below the poverty threshold. Ms. Bernard pointed out that the issue will be overcome by Haiti however (reference to Mr. Simpson's comment on a 'river to cross')

She added that conferences such as this offer the opportunity to learn from neighbouring countries through which to gather information and address resource issues. This could be achieved by implementing similar best practices which are suitable to addressing the issues of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Caribbean.

The principal cities in Haiti are coastal and overcrowded. She pointed out that approximately 2000 children originating from three geographic regions of Haiti (North, Northeastern, and Northwestern) emigrate to the Dominican Republic to find work. This results in exposure to conditions that perpetuate the exploitation, according to a study by the UNICEF and the OIM in 2002. These children often work according to their age and their sex, in domestic capacities, as shoeshine boys or devote themselves to begging, to prostitution, or are engaged in the construction of buildings or in agriculture.

In June 2006, a report from the Department of American States placed Haiti among the countries which have special cases while being recognized as a country of origin and destination for the trafficking of men, women and children forced into sexual misconduct and work.

After the earthquake of January 12 2010, the position worsened with the weakening of management systems and the ability to offer social protection to the children.

The phenomenon of sexual misconduct of children for commercial purposes puts Haiti in a multidimensional situation, specifically social, cultural (taboos) and economical. The principal causes that explain this phenomenon are: the poverty of the parents, the lack of supervision, the loss of the morals and violence in the family.

### Social protection

To provide special protection for children, women and the family; Check the application of the social laws; integrate social and technical measures in the current legislation; organize the social Police.

### Social rehabilitation

- The improvement of economic, social and morale conditions of the population
- Reinforce the information gathering component
- Develop with the IIN-OAS an integrated and continuous program of implementation for the reinforcement of policies pertaining to the Convention on the Rights of the Child from all kinds of abuse

There is lack of proper social services and lack of natural capacities, for children in different or similar situations (eg. Street Children or Sheltered Children)

### Measures

Restoration of the Rights of Children. There are several laws that have been passed: 1920-2011 that have not been fully exercised.

The Government stands as a natural protector for children since 1958 and since 1961, there has been an obligation to send children to school

There are plans underway to address the minimum age of individuals able to work in an effort to prevent incidents of child labour. However, there is currently no law to address the issue of trafficking

### Abuse of Children within Children's Homes

A number of recommendations were made to address the issues being perpetuated in children's homes. The first is to be active within Children's Homes and to make it clear that vested interest is being taken in the welfare of victims.

Secondly, there needs to be border representatives between Haiti & Dominica Republic. Further, onsite agents are to be positioned to monitor activities to minimize vulnerability of children and individuals at risk. Also, the education of communities to help them understand the importance of identifying cases

Haiti's representatives are willing to look closely at their laws and also the situation at a National Level and coordinate with neighboring countries to not only learn but to ensure laws are enforced as well as develop partnerships with IIN/OAS to work quickly in restoring all rights.

## **JAMAICA**

**Newton Douglas**

**Director, Policy Planning and Research, Child Development Agency**

### **Establishing a Framework that Protects Children from Exploitation, Abuse and Maltreatment.**

Jamaica ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child in May 1991 and are presently in the process of completing the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> periodic report for dispatch. The country is aware that more needs to be done around the issue of Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking, Child Labour & Child Abuse.

He pointed out that Jamaica's involvement in the Regional Meeting demonstrates a commitment to do what it must to address the issues. However, before this can be done, it is necessary that we seek knowledge on the subject area so that we can have a better grasp of the problem. In doing so, we can work to establish systems and frameworks that meet these needs and which enable us to work individually and collectively to combat the issues of commercial exploitation of children.

#### Legislative and Institutional Framework

He pointed to the advancements made by Jamaica in putting both a legislative and institutional framework in place to address the issues confronting children.

#### Legislative Framework

- The Child Care Protection Act was established in 2004. He pointed out that after 7 years in existence, the time is right for the Act to be reviewed to reflect this and other new and emerging issues impacting Jamaica's children.
- Trafficking (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) in Persons Act was established in 2007 and was established in keeping with Articles 19, 32 and 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Act underscores Jamaica's commitment to preventing and punishing the crimes of trafficking in person which includes children.
- Child Pornography Act was established in 2009. This Act makes the production, possession, importation, exportation and distribution (Sale or Purchase) of Child Pornography illegal and a criminal offence which carries a penalty of 20 years imprisonment and fines as high as \$500,000.00JA. He pointed out that the Optional Protocol to the CRC on Child Pornography was recently signed by Cabinet and has been submitted to Parliament for ratification.
- Early Childhood Act, Early Childhood Commission Act and the Early Childhood Regulation were put in place to regulate the critical years of a child's education and care and caters to children between the ages of 0-7years
- Other legislations that have been put in place are the Sexual Offences Act, the Children's Home Regulations, the Children's Registry Regulation and CyberCrimes Act.

#### Institutional Framework

- Office of the Public Defender: Investigates the allegations of injustice and any constitutional right infringement.
- Child Development Agency was established in 2004 and saw the merging of three child-centred entities, the Children Services Division, Child Support Unit and the Adoption Unit.
- Office of the Children's Advocate was established in 2005 and the country's first advocate appointed in 2006.
- Office of Children's Registry was established in 2007. The office is required to receive, records, assess, and refer reports of children who have been, are being or likely to be abused or maltreated or others deemed in need of care and protection from first responders. The first responders are the Child Development Agency and the Office of the Children's Advocate. Reports are also referred to the police in instances where it is deemed that children are in eminent danger.
- The Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences & Child Abuse (CISOCA), has the responsibility to receive, investigate and take action on matters pertaining to sexual offenses & child abuse.
- A Trafficking in Person Unit (TIP) has been established and operates out of the Ministry of National Security / Jamaica Constabulary Force.
- Establishment of Children's Courts.
- Victims Support Unit

#### National Policies

He pointed out a number of national plans of action/policies that are either in place or in advance stages of completeness. Some of those that came up for mention were:

- National Policy on Children 1997. This Policy laid the foundation for a number of plans of action. However, given the datedness of the policy, he opined that it now does not reflect new and emerging issues such as commercial sexual exploitation and as such a review needs to be done. He indicated that there is commitment for this process to begin in 2011-2012.
- National Framework for Children is now complete pending a review and sign-off by the Human Resources Committee of Cabinet. One of the areas of responsibilities outlined in the framework is the need to provide a secured Environment and Protection from Violence and Exploitation for all children.
- National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence was first done in 2007 and is the subject of a review under the GOJ/IIN Child Rights Project. This review is currently underway.
- National Plan of Action on Child Labour is in place and is being used to inform the Occupation Health and Safety Bill, which is currently being developed.

#### Success

Mr. Douglas indicated that the Children's Registry was established in 2007 and has since received over 11,434 reports on child abuse and neglect matters. The report does not necessarily demonstrate an increase in the number of incidents of child abuse but rather a

increase in confidence level in the system which translates to an increase in the number of persons who come forward to make reports aimed at protecting our children.

#### Action Plan

- The law makes provisions for sanctions for persons found guilty. However, there is a growing feeling that this is not being applied aggressively enough and as such sanctions should be taken against those persons who are aware of but do not or fail to report incidents in a timely manner.
- The public needs to be notified of such sanctions and encouraged to take action not to avoid penalties but more out of an interest to protecting our children.
- 87 Cases have been reported over the past 4 years.

Challenges include greater dis-aggregation of data to reflect new and emerging issues, such as child pornography or commercial sexual exploitation.

#### Office of the children's advocate – Its mandate and objectives

- Demonstrates Jamaica's Commitment to self monitoring to ensure that the best interest of each child is met.
- An independent Human Rights Institution promoting and ensuring the implementation, not only on the principles of the Convention of the Rights of the Child but also the Child Care and Protection Act of Jamaica.
- Part of its work is to carry out studies & Forensic Audit along with other agents that work with children. One such initiative has been the review of the Foster Care System in Jamaica. This study not only occurred but the content thereof was used to inform improved efforts in programme delivery by the Child Development Agency. Another study recently concluded was the profiling of children who are in conflict with the law.
- The Government of Jamaica established a Task Force on Child Abuse Prevention in response to the matter of children who go missing. The aim of the task force was to identify the problem, assess its impact and to develop pragmatic solutions aimed at stemming this issue. Coming out of this initiative, the Ananda Alert System was established. It demonstrates a collaborative approach in tackling the matter as it pools together resources and effort by State and Non-State Actors in examining and addressing the issues of missing children. The system is currently being managed by the Department of Local Government. Based on figures presented, at least 65 percent of the children who go missing return home.

Outside of resources, one of the major challenges affecting the system is the lack of communication of those children who have returned home. As such, the return rate may be higher. This matter will require further discussion and action in an effort to find a workable solution to address the communication issues.

#### Hear the children cry

- A study conducted by this NGO in 2009, found that most children who go missing are mostly female between the ages of 8 and 9 years and such reports are usually made by the parents or a relative.

### Successes

- Special Trafficking in Persons Unit (TIP)
- Child's Programming Code – 2002: Protect Children from harmful content on airwaves. (Responsibility: Provides an extra eye for everyone)
- The Country has a very healthy working relationship with out International Development Partners who are very responsive to our needs. The recent incursion in particular in Jamaica, demonstrated this commitment and togetherness to meet the needs of children.
- The current Multi-Agency working relationship which requires the carrying out of joint interviewing of victims has helped to reduce the level of trauma being faced by the victim and has shown a high success rate of diverting children from the Court system.
- There was a strong recognition of the budgetary support for children in the child protection system which increased by more than 270% when 2004 is compared with current allocation. What defines the Agency is what is accomplished with the limited available resources to ensure that all areas of our programmes receive assistance. What is allocated is not nearly enough.

### Challenges

- Presently, there is not one Coordinating Body with responsibility for implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This is a matter that needs to be addressed going forward.
- Unskilled, under resources which make it difficult to meeting needs on a consistent basis.
- The resources to support our public education campaigns are limited and as such we will need to have the issue addressed if we are to maintain visibility and create an environment of continued communication on the issues negatively impacting children. The messages we embrace and promote must be transformative ones.
- There is a strong need for there to be a more accessible, structured programme in place to meet the psychological needs of our children. The Child Development Agency has started discussions with agencies such as the Planning Institute of Jamaica and the Ministry of Health and a few others to see how we can come away with creative ways to meet the psychological needs of our children.
- The Agency has never been in a practical position to determine the status and performance of children who exit the care of the state. As such, the CDA has worked with the PIOJ in the execution of a Tracer Study. The results of this study will provide greater insight on the effectiveness of the programme in preparing the children for life outside of the care of the State.
- We must begin to update such pieces of legislations such as the Child Care and Protection Act, the Children's Home Regulations and the Adoption "Of Children" Act.

### The way forward

- Expansion of the multi-agency response cross country
- Greater public education and sensitization



- Get children involved through meaningful child participation. This will allow children to be consulted on issues. Decisions and programmes which are being made on their behalf.
- Concerted effort to break down bureaucracy in the system which will enable a child to receive the services they are entitled to in the quickest and most effective timeframe, all of which must be delivered in their best interest.

In closing, Mr. Douglas urged the plenary to recognize that we must do what is necessary to build relationships, which will enhance the lives of our children given that they are our future and the strongest ingredient for success. This must be achieved if Jamaica is to realize its Vision as “the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business”.

## **SURINAME**

**Mr. Raoul Frank Dankoor**  
**Head of the National Child Rights Bureau, Ministry of Social Affairs & Housing**

Mr. Dankoor in his report stated that the Government of Suriname has a vision of a Sustainable Human Rights Development, and it is their wish for every inhabitant of Suriname to experience ultimate freedom. He went on to say that, International and Regional Human Rights obligations are of utmost importance to Suriname.

Mr. Dankoor said that, producing, owning or selling pornographic materials in Suriname is severely punishable. He also stated that the Government has undertaken to adjust the Penal Code regarding, Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons, especially of those under sixteen years. We were also informed by Mr. Dankoor of the reactivated Service Child Help line in November 2008 as well as the undertaking by the government of the Thematic Integrated and Sustainable Action Plan for Children 2007-2014.

We were further informed by Mr. Dankoor, that in 2006 several convictions were made based on the Traffic in Person Bill. He said that in 2009 and 2010, through the Child Help Line, a total of nine children were discovered to be victims of Sexual Exploitation. He therefore thinks it is fair to say, that there is Sexual Exploitation issues in Suriname, and policies are needed to tackle this. Mr. Dankoor went further to say that, the Action Plan for Children 2009-2014 has a sustainable and integrated approach were the Convention on the Rights of the Child (and its optional protocols), World Fit For Children (WFC) document and the Conventional Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) are observed, with the latter being in the process of ratification.

Mr. Dankoor said, some of the challenges for Suriname are:

- Legislation regarding Sexual Exploitation of Children and Child Abuse.
- Establishment of strong monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
- Lack of specific data.
- Lack of recourses and specific experts.

Suriname is now positioned for an integrated cross border approach to fight Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children, has recognized that the strengthening of families is necessary in order to increase awareness on human rights especially child rights and that integrated protection of orphans and children in foster homes are crucial.

Mr. Dankoor stated some of Suriname's goals. The first is to undertake in-depth research on the reason for the demand to sexually abuse children. This will require the allocation of sufficient financial resources for research on this matter; the receipt of cross border assistance in tackling sexual exploitation of children; the membership in the OAS regional net work for legal cooperation in the area of Family and Child Law; and for special attention to the vulnerable children and children in foster homes.

## **ST. KITTS & NEVIS**

**Mrs. Vincia J. Merritt**

**Senior Child Protection Officer, Ministry of Health, Social Services, Community Development, Gender Affairs and Culture**

Mrs. Merritt commenced by giving a background of the country, where she pointed out that the country is a Republic and it is the smallest independent Caribbean states. She advised that it was one of the first countries to sign the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child on 26<sup>th</sup> January 1990 and ratified on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 1990.

She assured that every effort is being made to ensure conformity with legislation. She also indicated that a child is recognized as any person under the age of 18, while the age of consent is 16 years.

The Parliamentary Bill to increase the age of consent to 18 years was raised three years ago.

She indicated that there has been some decline in the number of child related acts of abuse, in that in 2009, there were 26 victims of physical abuse, 18 victims of sexual and 41 cases of neglect. In 2011 however, there were 11 cases of physical abuse, 7 victims of sexual abuse and 31 cases of neglect.

She indicated that parents encourage the act of child exploitation by grown men who in return give families cash or kind such as phones, phone top ups, etc. This is in direct contravention to Article 34 of the Convention which states that parties must secure children from sexual exploitation.

St. Kitts and Nevis's Department of Probation and Child Protection Services defines exploitation as 'child labour, child prostitution and any activity detrimental to the mental and spiritual health of the child'

She indicated that in St. Kitts, the internet is a dominant factor that exposes children to predators.

She also indicated that efforts to protect victims are sometimes thwarted given that 1) their efforts are often compromised in a medley of ways and 2) families do not often provide any support, therefore separation of victims from family is most times useful.

### Strengths

She indicated that the law requires that all incidents of child abuse must be reported by care providers such as teachers, lawyers, doctors.

Another strength that was highlighted is that legislation is in place but there is no specific Court and there is no clear definition in the law, resulting in no judicial structure being in place.

## **ST. LUCIA**

### **Mrs. Elizabeth Lewis**

**Director, Division of Human Services and Family Affairs, Ministry of Health, Wellness, National Mobilization, Family Affairs, Human Services and Gender Relations**

Mrs. Lewis indicated that commercial sexual Exploitation is deeply embedded in the culture and affects more so low socio-economic communities. She indicated that St. Lucia ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 16<sup>th</sup> June 1993 but they have not yet signed Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. In 1972 they passed into the law, the Children and Young Persons Act and in 2010 and enacted the Counter-Trafficking Act No. 7, to define hostage taking, migrant smuggling, participation in organized criminal group and sexual exploitation of children as offenses.,

To undertake judicial proceedings, there is the Family Court and the facility in place to prevent secondary victimization by having child victims giving evidence via video link in an effort to preserve their safety. They also provide care to victims through Transit Homes and Foster Care.

Inter-Agency response is provided through the Police, the Immigration Department, the division of Human Services and Family Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs.

## ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

**Mr. Eli Francis**

**Senior Assistant Secretary, Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Non-Governmental Organizations Relations, Youth, Sports, Culture, Gender Affairs, Family Affairs, and Persons with Disabilities.**

### Policy Statement

***".....legislation will be prepared to give effect to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially involving women and children and other vulnerable groups."*** -- Throne Speech, His Excellency Governor General, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sir. Frederick F. Ballantyne, January 24, 2011.

Goal:

To develop a Work Plan/Programme with the view of enhancing anti trafficking efforts in St. Vincent and the Grenadines within the context of the United Nation's framework. This Work Plan is currently being developed.

Objectives:

- Enhance multi-lateral cooperation and collaboration on this issue of Human Trafficking with the United Nation's framework
- Strengthen existing legislation relating to trafficking in persons, including children

### Legislative Agenda – Regulatory Framework that Safeguards the rights of children

#### Action Taken to Date

- Ratification of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Adoption and implementation of the Education Act 2006 effecting / granting Universal Access to Secondary Education
- Establishing National Commission on Crime Prevention Unit in 2002 through Parliamentary Motion
- Introduction of the Drugs Awareness Resistance Education (DARE) Programme in schools since 1997
- Passing into law two (2) out of four (4) pieces of Draft OECS Model Family Legislations

These form part of the Family Law and Domestic Violence Reform Project, and which Member States are expected to adopt to their respect legislative agenda. The current status is as follows:

1. Children (Care and Adoption) Bill, passed on 30. 08. 10; assented on 07. 10. 11
2. Status of Children Bill, passed on 05. 04. 11; assented on 23. 05. 11
3. Domestic Violence Bill; The AG's Chambers is dealing with this.
4. Juvenile Justice Bill; The AG's Chambers is dealing with this.

- Existing legislations providing for criminal sanction on a range of matters touching and concerning human trafficking.
- Enacting Visa Regime to manage Migration – 2007.  
 Countries requiring Entry Visa to St. Vincent and the Grenadines are China, Dominican Republic, Nigeria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria
- Launch of the Pan Against Crime Programme in 2008.  
 The introduction of steel bans in challenging communities to dissuade children and youth from involvement in illegal activities. Eight (8) new Pan Sides (steel bands) have so far been launched and operational, attracting children and youth from these communities.
- Appointment of a Coordinator within the Police Department to deal with Trafficking in Persons issues
- Delivery of Human Trafficking Programme in 2010 with assistance from the USA, involving Law Enforcement Agencies – Police, Director of Public Prosecution Office, Immigration and Ministry of Social Development.

**Action to be Taken: Anti Trafficking Law Agenda 2011**

- Poverty Reduction Action Plan being developed drawing from the findings and recommendations of the SVG Country Poverty Assessment – 2007/2008
- The Hon. Attorney General's Chambers to develop the following for approval of Parliament:-
  - Draft Legislation on Trafficking in Persons for Parliament
  - Draft OECS Model Family Legislations
    - Domestic Violence
    - Juvenile Justice
- With technical assistance from the USA, further training in Human Trafficking to be delivered to key stakeholders. Educational Agenda for 2011 includes:
  - Address to Parliament, His Excellency the Governor General, Sir Frederick Ballantyne, January 24, 2011.
  - Debated in Parliament on January 26, 2011 – Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - Live Radio Call-in Programmes – where the General Public will make contribution on the issue of Trafficking in Persons and implications of engaging in such illegal activity
  - Police On the Beat Radio Programme (panelists to include Police, Immigration, Social Worker)
- Collaborate with Airlines and Immigration Department to develop special requirements for children to travel and monitor.

- There are the ongoing Social Protection Policies and Programmes of the Ministry which include:
  - Children Against Poverty (CAP) Programme
  - Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Campaign
  - Street Children Pastoral Care Programme
  - Back to School Teen mothers Programme
  - Crisis Centre Programme

### **Government Position on Human Trafficking**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines views Human Trafficking as a threat to society that “deprives people of their human rights and freedoms; increases global health risks, and fuels the growth of organized crime.” (Wikipedia) The Ministry strongly condemns Human Trafficking in all its forms, and joins with the International Community in effectively fighting it. The words of Condoleezza Rice, former US Secretary of State apply to St. Vincent and the Grenadines when she said: “All nations that are resolute in the fight to end human trafficking have a partner in the United States.”

1. The Ministries and Departments of Government are being guided by the Ministry of Legal Affairs on the issue of Human Trafficking;
2. The Government will not condone Human Trafficking nor turn a blind eye to it;
3. The Government is taking a pro-active approach and put preventative and curative measures in place to deal with it;
4. The Government will continue its cooperation and collaboration with other countries to effectively fight Human Trafficking, within the United Nations Framework.

### **Existing / Ongoing Social Protection Policies and Programmes**

The Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Ministry of Social Development, the Family, Youth and Gender Affairs, etc. recognize children and youth as valuable partners in national development and has moved to invest heavily in them. The Government, through the Ministry, had developed and executes social safety net protection policies and programmes to protect and provide for these young citizens, especially those who are disadvantaged and subjected to commercial sexual exploitation, to restore / bring stability and quality of living to their lives. Following is a list of some of programmes through which the Ministry seeks to achieve this objective:-

### **Legal Reform Programme--Strengthening Existing Laws that Protect Children & the Family**

The Ministry is continuing its collaboration with relevant stakeholders such as the Legal Department, the National Committee on the Rights of the Child (NCRC), the National Council of Women to effect legal reform around social issues including abuse, commercial sexual harassment and exploitation of children and protection and rights of disadvantaged families. By ratifying the UN Conventions on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Rights of the Child, and complying with the provisions of the Beijing

Platform, the Governments of the OECS Member States have committed themselves to the eradication of violence against women and also to the protection and restoration of the rights of the children in their respective jurisdiction.

Of particular reference are the four pieces of Draft OECS Model Family Legislations that form part of the Family Law and Domestic Violence Reform Project, and which Member States are expected to adopt to their legislative agenda. The Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, the Hon. Mr. Justice Hugh Rawlins, in his address to mark the opening of the Law Year 2008/2009, Castries St. Lucia, September 15, 2008, describes the purpose of the OECS initiative as "...consolidating and updating our family laws and also for unifying the jurisdiction of the Court in family matters in a new Family Division of the Court...."

The Ministry is continuing its collaboration with the Attorney General's Chambers and other interested stakeholders regarding the passing and implementing of the Domestic Violence Bill and the Juvenile Justice Bill. Discussions are also ongoing for the assignment to the Ministry of Social Development, the Family and Gender Affairs of a barrister-at-law to give institutional capacity strengthening support for the protection of the socially unprotected and abused citizenry.

### **The Crisis Centre Programme**

The Ministry, in collaboration with the National Council on the Rights of the Child, the National Council of Women and other interested stakeholders, has established a Crisis Centre to provide shelter, counseling and other support services to battered women and children who are victims of domestic abuse and related acts of violence against them. The establishment of this Centre therefore is a critical area of development and empowerment for the Ministry in its provision of support services to disadvantaged persons in society.

The Protocols and Operational Manual are completed. Plans for Staff training and completion of external enhancement works are being put in place. The Centre is expected to be operationalized later this year (2011).

### **Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Campaign**

These activities are conducted annually by a Committee with the objective of enhancing public awareness / knowledge of child abuse and engaging members of the public in measures and activities to prevent it. Stakeholders involved in this critical exercise include the Ministries of Education and Health, the Police, National Committee for Crime Prevention, National Committee on the Rights of the Child, National Council of Women, Roving Care Givers Program, National Children Fund and Early Childhood Education Department. The following are some of the activities successfully conducted during the month of April 2011:

- **PRESS CONFERENCES, TELEVISION AND RADIO PROGRAMS** – During the month of April (2011), the Media was engaged at least once per day to disseminate information to the public and to engage children in radio quiz, essay and poetry competition focusing on the issues of child abuse. Winners were awarded.

- **MOTORCADE AND RALLY** – Participants included both Public and Private Sector Stakeholders and members from the general public. For increased coverage, participants were divided into two groups and journeyed from North and South respectively, into Capital Kingstown, disseminating critical information to the public by way of a public address system and distribution of information leaflets. The culmination rally was well received and supported by over 500 primary and secondary school students who sent a very clear and strong message against child abuse to the adult population.
- **COMMUNITY WORKSHOP** – was held at Pole Yard, a small, depressing, squatting community. The workshop was well attended and received by over seventy five (75) persons and well received. The residents, which included men, women and children, were engaged in discussions regarding their specific needs. The media was also there.
- **RELIGIOUS LEADERS WORKSHOP** – This session was convened to enhance the support of the church community. Thirty (30) representatives attended. Ms. Lisa Trotman from UNICEF facilitated spoke on Sexual Abuse in the Caribbean.
- **SECONDARY SCHOOL WORKSHOPS** – Three were held that targeted 200 students and parents' guardians. The focus was, "Child Abuse Parental Responsibilities".
- **UPTOWN EXHIBITION** – During this session, the Ministry distributed information pamphlets held interactive rap sessions with members of the public who shared their experiences and knowledge on child abuse.
- **"BLUE RIBBON FRIDAY" CAMPAIGN** – This year the Division embarked on a campaign to have every Friday in the month of April termed as "Blue Ribbon Fridays", and to appeal to both the public and private sectors to wear blue on these Fridays. The response was overwhelming.
- **FAMILY WORKOUT DAY** – The Physical Education and Sports Division of the Ministry coordinated the activities for the day. This session was well attended.

### **Street Children Survey & Pastoral Care Programme**

In January 2008, a Pilot Survey was conducted on street children in eight (8) communities within the selected 20-mile coastal area of Diamond on the Windward side to Layou on the leeward side of the island (including Capital Kingstown) to determine the causes and extent of the problem of why children take to the streets and to devise a Strategic Plan and Pastoral Care Programme to deal effectively with it.

The findings revealed that within the selected communities, there were 32 children who 'make their living on the streets' during the day and go to some place of abode during the night. None of these sleep on the streets. There were 25 boys and 7 girls ranging between ages 6 – 17. 50% were in the age group 14 – 17 years. 21 of them were from single parent home; 16 from large family households of 6 – 10 persons. Of the 32 children, only 11 parents or caretakers were reliably employed.

The Ministry, with the support of the Ministry of Education, the Police, the National Committee on the Rights of the Child and other partners, developed a Pastoral Care programme to give support to these children and their parents/guardians through counseling and parenting and skills transfer workshops and back-to-school support in an effort to reintegrate them into their families or providing an alternative place of safety.

To date, considerable progress has been made as follows:

- A number of home and school visits were made and teachers and parents/guardians were engaged in dealing effectively with the problem
- Parents/Guardians better equipped and empowered to give support to their children
- Improvement seen in school attendance records
- Numbers of children on the streets reduced

The Ministry will continue to work with these families to ensure the well-being of these children, and will continue to work at facilitating the reduction of the number of children taking to the streets in the future.

### **Children Against Poverty (CAP) Programme**

The Children Against Poverty (CAP) programme is a vacation programme that provides remedial educational training for students, ages 5 – 13 from poor, low income households:

- a) Who are low academic achievers
- b) Whose parents are low income earners or unemployed;
- c) Who have behavioural problems;
- d) Who have low self-esteem

There is also a Behavioural Modification component that caters for students with behavioural problems and an After-school Support Programme that provides extra tuition to students. The programme is conducted once a year and runs for 3 weeks (July/August). These students are selected from poor communities throughout SVG and participated in various fun activities including art and craft, drama, field trips, sports and music – including learning to play the steel pan. The programme was designed to be creative and more relaxed than the rigid classroom setting – so that the students can have fun while engaged in remedial work. The programme is being implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

The 2010 CAP Programme catered for 1,487 students from poor families attending 56 primary schools throughout mainland St. Vincent and Bequia and Union Island in the Grenadines, at a cost of \$198,775.00. This year (2011), the Programme will cater for 1,325 students.

The following table shows the level of Government's investment and number of persons and/or households benefitting for the period, 2007 – 2010.

<b>Children Against Poverty (CAP) Programme</b>									
<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>		<b>2011</b>	
<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>
	650	100,000	800	115,852	1,281	198,775	1,487	175,000	1,325

### **Liberty Lodge Boys Training Centre (L.L.B.T.C) Programme**

Through this programme, the Ministry provides a caring environment in which boys 7 to 16 years of age who are from poor and disadvantage families, having familial, educational, emotional and or behavioral difficulties, can acquire skill that would enable them to become responsible and productive citizens. The parents of these boys are also engaged in counseling and effective parenting workshops in order to enable them to give better support to their sons. The following are some areas of activities / accomplishments during 2010:-

- a) Participation in the formal education system,
- b) Participation in skills training such as computer, music, woodworking, art and craft,
- c) Participation in various sports, agricultural and poultry farming
- d) Participation in workshop sessions on Building Self-esteem, Human Rights, Understanding the Adolescent, Human Growth and Development, Conflict Management/Resolution.
- e) Regular medical examination of all students at the Centre
- f) Regular training sessions for parents in various aspects of parenting;
- g) Implementation of the AGANAR training programme. AGANAR means "to win". It elaborates the concept of using sports as a vehicle for social and economic development of youth. This programme was executed in collaboration with USAID and Partners of the Americas.

### **Development of Cooperatives**

The Ministry continues to promote and facilitate co-operatives (including the School Thrift and Agri-business programmes) development in communities as a mechanism for poverty reduction, food security, employment creation and money management. Two examples of this are the Pineapple Growers Co-operative of Wallilabou and the Hibiscus Garment Construction Co-operative of Mesopotamia. During 2010, the Ministry plans to facilitate the formation of another five (5) co-operatives in rural communities.

The schools cooperative programme has two components as follows:-

#### **1. The School Co-operative Thrift programme**

This component currently comprises eighty-seven primary and secondary schools. Through this programme, Children are empowered through the management of money and maintenance of a savings account. This poverty alleviation initiative through co-operatives involves a collaborative effort of all stakeholders, of which youth is prime participant and beneficiary.

#### **2. The School Co-operative Agri-Business Enterprise programme**

This second component was implemented on the 25th March, 2010 and engages both primary and secondary school students in practical experiences in agri-business activities such as poultry rearing, farming and vegetable cultivation. Live chicks, feed, feeders, farming implements and fertilizers were distributed to schools participating in the programme. This initiative has shown considerable success to date; fifteen (15) schools have benefitted so far and the Cooperatives Division plans to include another fifteen (15) selected schools during 2011.

physical fitness and wellness exercises, physical fitness and wellness education, monthly walks, sports development

### **Public Assistance**

#### **1. Monthly Cash Payment**

The Government, through the Ministry, makes monthly cash payments to financially disadvantaged persons including a large number of children and youth whose parents are poor, imprisoned, terminally ill or dead. For the period, January – December, 2010, the total amount of \$10,759,855.00 was paid out as public assistance to a monthly average number of 5,291 persons, the majority of which are children and youth.

The following table shows the monthly Public Assistance expenditure and number of Beneficiaries for period, 2007 – 2010.

<b>General Monthly Public Assistance</b>							
<b>2007</b>		<b>2008</b>		<b>2009</b>		<b>2010</b>	
<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>No. of Persons</b>
8,365,495	5,540	10,783,383	5,510	10,946,230	5,211	10,759,855	5,291

For the period, January – December, 2010, a monthly average number of 5,291 disadvantaged persons received financial assistance totaling \$10,759,855.00. These persons include the elderly and a large number of children and youth whose parents are poor, imprisoned, terminally ill or dead.

The Ministry continued the process of “cleaning up” of the Public Assistance List through the re-assessment of recipients and issue of Life Certificates. This process is uncovering a number of cases where recipients are either dead or overseas, or whose lives have been improved.

Further, effective from January 2011, the Government increased Public Assistance by 25% as follows:

<b>25% Increase in Public Assistance</b>				
<b>Category</b>	<b>Number of Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Monthly Payments 2010</b>	<b>25% Increase from January 2011</b>	<b>Amount Increased By</b>
Over 65	2,631	\$175.00	\$220.00	\$45.00
Under 65	2,711	\$160.00	\$200.00	\$40.00
Foster Care	161	\$220.00	\$275.00	\$55.00
Transportation	7	\$100.00	\$125.00	\$25.00
Transportation	6	\$ 80.00	\$100.00	\$20.00

#### **2. Housing Materials**

Through this programme the Ministry assisted with housing materials to destitute persons for the repair of their homes, and to improve their standard of living. One of the ways that the

Ministry sought to create a more holistic approach to the delivery of social welfare programmes in 2008 was by establishing a building team in each constituency to ensure proper utilization of building materials allocated to clients.

### 3. **Immediate Financial Assistance**

The Ministry provides assistance to disaster victims such as fire and flood, and to needy persons requesting assistance to bury their dead. Additionally, assistance is given in the form of payment of house rent, provision of food items, personal effects, medical and educational assistance such as uniforms, school supplies, payment of school fees and external examination fees, transportation for needy students attending secondary schools and Community College. In this regard, the Ministry of National Mobilisation gives full support to the Ministry of Education in consolidating, extending and deepening the Education Revolution. The records show 5,375 children received assistance at a cost of \$1,045,621.94 in 2010, while \$53,257.24 was spent on examination fees for 164 students. Also, a total of \$26,287.98 was paid out to 16 families who were victims of fire and \$93,105.00 to 61 families to assist in burying their dead

Although the Ministry of Education has responsibility for the Education Revolution, the Ministry of Social Development gives considerable support to the Education Revolution through its various programme initiatives. These are tangible ways in which the Ministry collaborates with the Ministry of Education in Consolidating, Extending and Deepening of the Education Revolution

### 4. **Foster Care Programme**

This programme is part of the Public Assistance support given by the Government and provides care and financial help to children who have been grossly neglected, abandoned or abused. These children are taken out of abusive situations and placed in safe, private homes for foster care. Material support is provided to the foster parents. Counseling is provided to both natural and foster care parents. There is periodical assessment of these foster homes to ensure that quality care is maintained.

Many of these children attempt the external examinations at the CXC and Advanced levels. The Department continues to provide them the opportunity to maximize their fullest potential. The Ministry, with the collaborative efforts of all its partners and stakeholders, continues to intensify its fight against child abuse in all its forms.

The following table shows the level of Government investment and number of persons benefitted in 2010, follows:

<b>Programmes</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>No. of Beneficiaries</b>
Exam Fees	\$53,257.24	164
Housing/Building Material	\$464,343.22	640
School Supplies	\$1,045,621.94	5,375
Fire	\$26,287.98	16
Funeral	\$93,105.00	61

### 5. Hot Meals Programme

The Ministry gives support to the Catholic Soup Kitchen -- an outlet operated by the Roman Catholic Church, Kingstown, in providing hot meals for indigent individuals.

### The Youth Empowerment Service (YES) Programme

The YES Programme, which began in September 2001, continues to engage school leavers and others unemployed youth in practical, on-the-job training in preparation for the job market, while at the same time paying them a monthly stipend. Participants are placed in both the private and public sector; certificates are issued on completion of training. During their training, these Youth are also encouraged to study and, as a result, those who acquire the required qualifications go on to attend the various Divisions at the St. Vincent Community College. This Programme impacts positively on participants and their families in that the income received enhances their total family-income, and enables them to making contributions to the National Insurance Services. Also, the workplaces gain from their labor, enhanced skills and services.

Two critical issues facing the Ministry are: (1) the change in lifestyles of youths, mostly males, that involves getting big, fast cash – hence their involvement in activities that are undesirable. (2) The number of males accessing the Programme is extremely low in comparison to females. For the period, January – August 2009, for example, 3,726 youth participated in the programme, of which 3,009 (80.76%) were females and 717 (19.25%) were males. Emphasis continues to be placed on the recruitment of more males to the programme and to foster a stronger and more effective collaboration with all partners and stakeholders in promoting the meaningful engagement and development of Youth.

The Youth Empowerment Service (YES) programme was awarded for job creation opportunities at a conference on Best Practice in Youth Policies and Programmes in Latin America and Caribbean countries in Mexico from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2009.

Table 1: Showing the level of Government investment and number of beneficiaries for period, 2007 – 2008:

The Youth Employment Service (YES) programme							
2007		2008		2009		2010	
Amount	No. of Persons	Amount	No. of Persons	Amount	No. of Persons	Amount	No. of Persons
2,213,104	485	2,722,729	527	2,877,698	615	2,846,503	555

The following table shows Youth participation on the YES Programme from its inception in 2001 to 2010

Year	No. of Persons Placed	No. of Persons Completed Training	No. of Persons Gaining Employment	Reasons for Termination			
				Voluntarily Discontinued	Migration	Abandoned	Deceased
2001	363	290	27	43	3	--	--
2002	481	440	11	28	--	2	--
2003	421	372	30	8	2	8	1
2004	424	285	52	44	9	33	1
2005	548	391	47	63	6	41	--
2006	447	352	50	33	7	5	--
2007	485	425	28	23	2	7	--
2008	527	450	29	8	9	7	1
2009	615	350	27	17	7	22	1
2010	555	528	20	15	5	12	2
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>4,866</b>	<b>3,883</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>6</b>

Of the total number of 4,866 youth placed, 3,883 completed the training and benefitted positively from the Programme. The remaining 796 youth did not complete the training due to the various reasons shown.

One critical issue facing the Ministry is that the number of males accessing the programme is extremely low in comparison to females. The general trend seen is that of the total number of Youth engaged, female participation represents 86 – 89% while male represents 11 – 12%.

Community-based Surveys are done periodically to determine the impact of current programmes and also to inform on areas for intervention. Staff training support is therefore required in the area of sustainable youth development and their participation in national development. The Ministry will continue in 2011 to work more closely with its partners and stakeholders in enhancing the meaningful participation of males in the programme. This programme is financed by the republic of China on Taiwan.

### **“Youth on the Bloc” and “Youth Friendly Space”**

The Ministry continues to engage Youth on the blocks in meaningful, developmental activities. In this programme youth on the bloc in poor and depressed communities team up to contribute to environmental development of communities. Each team would adopt a section of their respective community and participate in community enhancement and beautification projects. Working together in teams also helps them to learn the value of corporation, collaboration and networking. It also helps to dissuade them from gravitating towards illegal activities.

The Ministry recently conducted a youth intervention survey to determine why young males congregate on the block, and the most appropriate community intervention technique. The

findings from the survey are currently being analyzed. A broad-based Research Advisory Committee was set up to take the process forward.

Also, a Youth Friendly Space, with support from UNFPA, was established in Park Hill. (A Youth Friendly Space is an area where both male and female Youth can interact comfortably). Other strategic interventions will be undertaken in 2011.

### **Re-entry of Teen Mothers into Secondary Schools Programme**

This programme which commenced in 2003 allows teenage students who drop out of school due to pregnancy to re-enter secondary school to continue their education. To date, 123 students have benefitted from this programme. In addition, the Gender Affairs Division in the Ministry engages these teen mothers in training in family life, healthy lifestyles, child development and entrepreneurship skills, domestic violence and other gender issues. Also, tracer studies are being done on these students to determine their progress in relation to their further education, employment, etc. A career orientation program for these teen mothers has been developed. This programme is a policy response by the government to further empower mothers and their children. It is a highly successful one, with a drop-out rate of a mere one or two. It is well received and reported on by both the beneficiaries and school management. The teen mothers are further supported where necessary through the Social Welfare programmes of the Ministry.

Presently there are twenty-three (23) students on the program as from June 2010 and forty-six have applied and are awaiting re-entry into the program for the school year 2010-2011. Of this number, 12 reentered secondary schools and 4 entered Tech-Voc. The others were disqualified because of age and other conditions set by the Ministry of Education. As of 2010, there are five (5) males presently participating in the programme. Fifteen (15) schools are currently participating in the programme.

Table 8: Showing Participants in the Teen Mothers Programme for period, 2003 – 2010.

<b>Teen-Mothers Program</b>			
<b>School Year</b>	<b>No. of Students Enrolled</b>	<b>No. Graduated</b>	<b>No. Discontinued</b>
2003-2004	16	-	-
2004-2005	11	17	1
2005-2006	12	-	
2006-2007	13	3	3
2007-2008	11	6	3
2008-2009	17	2	
2009-2010	12	13	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>8</b>

### **Retrofitting schools to accommodate students with physical disability programme**

This programme allows students who are physically challenged and who use wheelchair to be able to access school. Structural adjustments (access ramps) have been effected at educational institutions to enable these disadvantaged students to access the classroom.

### **Supply of Potable Water Supply to Poor Households**

This project provides a reliable supply of pipe-borne water to poor households throughout the country. Poor communities throughout St. Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to benefit. This project is funded by the government of Venezuela under the Community Poverty Alleviation programme and is being done in collaboration with the Central Water and Sewerage Authority (CWSA).

Over the period, 2007–2010, 1,433 households throughout mainland St. Vincent were connected to the main water supply at a cost of \$452,025.00. It is anticipated that by the end of 2011 that an additional two hundred (200) poor households would be provided with water.

### **National Wellness Programme**

The Ministry believes that promoting good health is one way of reducing the doctor's bills and keeping more money in the family purse, therefore, reducing poverty. In keeping with the Cabinet Revised National Sports Policy of November 2005, the National Wellness Programme was launched in 2008, as a part of the Wellness Revolution, to cater for the physical fitness education and wellness of all citizens in the society. The Physical Education and Sports Division of the Ministry therefore engages citizens throughout the country in a programme of physical fitness exercises and sports to enhance their wellness and fitness and to better enable them to fight against Chronic Non Communicable Diseases. Although this programme involves mainly youth, of special note is the involvement of our senior citizens, sixty years and over, at the Golden Years Activity Centres at the Thompson Home (a residential home for the aged), and also the inmates of the Fort Charlotte Correctional Facilities. To date, over 500 persons are benefitting.

The Division also executes the National Schools Sports Programme which engages students of all primary and secondary schools in the State in the development of sports.

### **Upgrading of Community Playing Fields, hard courts and other facilities**

There are 63 hard courts and 56 playing fields in St. Vincent and the Grenadines under the care of the National Sports Council. During 2010, substantial upgrades were effected to some of these facilities as follows:

- a) North Windward, a hard court was constructed in Sandy Bay
- b) North Central Windward, the Chili playing field was upgraded significantly. In Park Hill, a new playing field was constructed, and significant work was done on the South Rivers playing field.
- c) South Central Windward – the Greggs hard court was constructed, a playing field was constructed in Diamond Village while the new Mt. Grennan playing is nearing

- construction. Presently, a washroom and change room is being constructed at the North Union playing field (below the gas station).
- d) Marriaqua, the Richland Park hard court was constructed and lighted, and the playing fields in Cane End and Richland Park were upgraded significantly.
  - e) East St. George, the Calliaqua playing field was lighted
  - f) West Kingstown – upgrading of the hard court in Rose Place and a new playing field is being constructed at Edinboro
  - g) South Leeward – upgrading was done on the Penniston playing field and a new hard court was constructed.
  - h) Central Leeward – a new pavilion with change room and washroom was constructed at the Layou playing field. Also, a new playing field is presently being constructed at Peters' Hope to serve that and the Central Leeward Secondary School.
  - i) North Leeward – work was done on new playing fields in Cumberland, Cane Grove in Fitz Hughes and Troumaca.
  - j) The Grenadines – a state-of-the-art multi-purpose sporting facility was constructed in Canouan.

### **Promotion of Gender Equity and Equality and effective Fathering programmes**

The Gender Affairs Division in the Ministry continues to work diligently towards achieving Millennium Development **Goal No. 3: Promote gender equality and empower women** by lobbying for legal reform around social issues of gender equity and equality, domestic violence, sexual harassment, discrimination, protection and care of the disabled, age of consent, protection and rights of the family and the child. Also, the Division seeks to strengthen State accountability and community action for ending gender based violence and the promotion of social and cultural change.

The Ministry is of the view that the positive involvement of fathers in the lives of their children enhances child protection and well-being. In this respect, the Ministry continues to promote effective fathering programme and paternal parenting, and working collaboratively to engage men as partners in advocacy. This Fathering Programme initiative was aimed at empowering fathers in tackling issues such as HIV/AIDS, male marginalization and under-performance, parenting skill, health and healthy Lifestyles, stress and anger management and conflict resolution as a means of deepening family bonds. Greater emphasis is being put on programming to promote gender mainstreaming in both the public and private sector

### **The Development of Culture and the Annual Cultural Calendar**

The Ministry, through its Division of Culture, is engaging all Vincentians and visitors in the effective development and appreciation of the national culture and heritage of the Vincentian Society in areas such as National festivals (e.g. Carnival), Visual Arts, Artifact and petroglyphs, Cultural Heritage Preservation and the development of the Creative and Cultural Industries such as Association of Music Professionals, SVG Calypso Association, SVG Craft Association, and Performing Arts Guild.

The Annual Cultural Calendar includes Dance, Drama, Fine Art, Film, Fashion and various events and festivals such as Carnival, Heritage Month, Gospel Fest, Emancipation Month,

Independence Programming, Christmas Nine Mornings Festival, Union Island Easterval, and Bequia and Canouan Whitsun Regattas

**Statement from “Our Lady of Guadalupe Home”**

The following is a statement received from “Our Lady of Guadalupe Home” for girls, and is testimony to the support given by the Government to strengthen institutional capacity support to better enable the Home in its service delivery to these disadvantaged and vulnerable girls.

The “Our Lady of Guadalupe Home” is the brain child of Sr. Patricia Ann Douglas, of revered memory. As a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, she had been Principal of the Secondary School, Marriaqua, St. Vincent, for twenty-five (25) years. During this time she became aware of the plight of some of her students and strove as she could, to assist them. Unfortunately, just two months after beginning the construction of the present Home, she died in a terrible vehicular accident.

After some time, Archbishop Robert Rivas, DD., was able, with the assistance of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Government of the Republic of China on Taiwan as well as of other concerned and interested citizens, was able to complete the building sufficiently to have it blessed on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Since then it has been under the administration of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny.

The residents, girls 12 – 18 years, may be recommended by private or public individuals, members of Churches or Principals of Schools. However, they are referred to the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of National Mobilization ..... for further investigation and recommendation. The Board of the Home then finalizes admission.

Once admitted, the Home takes responsibility to house, feed, clothe and educate the girls. They all attend a Secondary school but several of them arrive below the educational standard for their ages. However, with private tuition provided by Staff members of the Home and by Peace Corps volunteers’ resident nearby, those who need, are helped to improve. The first resident to arrive in May 2008 aged 14 and in Form 1, was totally incapable of reading. With assistance at the Home and at school, within a year and a half, was able to read in public and was awarded at school as the “most improved student”.

In addition, the girls are assigned a personal Counselor whom she sees weekly. There are also frequent group sessions organized by Staff members or Case Workers of the Social Welfare Department. The girls are also encouraged to participate in co-curricular activities at school, e.g. Guides, Cadets, Young Leaders and as extra-curricular, Lawn and Table Tennis.

Our overall aim is to re-unite the girls with their families, when and where feasible. One joined her family in Canada; another, her father in Tortola. Unfortunately, we cannot claim total success as some of the girls, despite advanced instruction, think we should be running a “Hostel” where they can come and go as they like, at any time of their choice. A major problem with some, is getting home from school at a reasonable time. Some girls, unable to get their way, have chosen to leave.

During the July-August vacation last year, 2010, sponsored by the “Basic Needs Trust Fund”, we were able to organize and run successfully, 6-week courses in Culinary Arts, Cosmetology

and Garment Construction. There were 15 participants in each group and all were required to follow the additional course in Skills Training. Besides our present and past residents, other persons in the area were able to participate profitably and receive Certificates at a concluding Graduation ceremony.

The Staff of the Home attended the meeting organized by officers of the United States Department on Human Trafficking as well as other relevant and pertinent sessions. They also attended the initial Virtus "Protecting God's Children" program, organized by the Catholic Church.

Government's support to the running of the Home includes an annual subvention of \$30,000.00, duty free concessions and most recently (2011), the provision of a new vehicle for the effective administration and delivery of services of the home. Supplementary support comes from voluntary donations, aid from donor Agencies and from our own efforts at fund-raising. For all of this, we are very grateful, happy that we can at least aid a few of the many teen-age girls who are exposed to abuse of one kind or another.

## **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**

**Ms. Aileen Bruce**  
**Project Coordinator**  
**National Plan of Action for Children**  
**Ministry of the People and Social Development**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION:**

Latin American and Caribbean region is challenged by an array of contemporary social problems which impact negatively on daily living, just like the rest of the world. Children, being one of our most vulnerable populations, often fall prey to these problems, and find themselves victims of various forms of abuse. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children features as a growing concern which if left unchecked can threaten our very future.

In Trinidad and Tobago, while research is available on sexual exploitation, information specific to sexual exploitation of children for commercial purposes is anecdotal. There is therefore lack of a clear understanding of the nature and scope of the problem in the country. Nevertheless there are several measures from which victims may benefit.

### **2.0 NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION FOR CHILDREN:**

In 2006 the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago approved the country's second National Plan of Action for Children (2006-2010). The Plan had been formulated with the assistance of a National inter-sectoral Committee in consultation with key stakeholders in the social sector. The Plan sets several targets to achieve better protection of children from (all forms of) abuse, exploitation and violence. Although the document's "Action Plan/Matrix" does not single out victims of commercial sexual exploitation (CSE), it highlights several groups of children who are at risk for being victims of CSE. These include, children in situations of abuse, neglect, and violence; victims of child labour; and sexually exploited children in general. The actions proposed in the NPA include the conduct of coordinated on-going public education programmes in communities, on issues of abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence against children; and implementation of the Package of Children's Legislation. Gaps in the achievement of the targets are expected to be considered for inclusion in new NPA which is due to be prepared to cover the ensuing period up to 2015.

### **3.0 PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES:**

#### **PREVENTION**

Poverty and poor education are universal influences which make children more vulnerable to CSE. In an attempt to buffer the effects of these, Trinidad and Tobago has achieved universal primary and secondary education and the Government has implemented poverty reduction strategies which redound to the benefit of children. These poverty reduction strategies include the Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP) (a food assistance and developmental programme); School Nutrition Programme (which provides deserving students with breakfast and lunch); the Unemployment Relief Programme (which provides short-term

employment) and several Micro Entrepreneurship Programmes (which provide self employment opportunities). Social welfare grants are provided for low-income and needy families, elderly persons and persons with disabilities to facilitate an improvement in their standard of living. In addition, children are allowed to travel on public buses free of charge while dressed in their school uniforms.

The Citizens Security Programme of the Ministry of National Security also reaches out to communities in an attempt to reduce child abuse/neglect and provide some psycho-social support for victims of same.

The Ministry of the People and Social Development observes November 20<sup>th</sup> each year as Child Rights Day. During this month efforts to sensitize or engage the population (including children) on the issue of Children's Rights are strengthened with the assistance of a Cabinet appointed, inter- sectoral Committee. Over the years, products of the Ministry's programme have been Children's Child Rights Performing Arts Competition, Radio Quiz, and the production and distribution of Children's Rights Educational Calendars. Through its National Family Services Division, the Ministry continues to provide counselling and psycho-social support to victims and families affected by sexual abuse and other social problems; and to host its weekly interactive radio programme, "Its family time. Let's talk", where issues including sexual abuse are discussed and questions are fielded from listeners who call the programme.

The Labour Inspectorate Unit of the Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro-Enterprise Development has redesigned its information booklets to be more user-friendly. The booklet informs employers and employees of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace, and includes a section on the employment of children. In addition, a draft Policy on the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Trinidad and Tobago has been completed. This is intended to provide specific guidelines on the issue. The Ministry intensifies its public education efforts against Child Labour each year during the month of June.

Government has also provided funding to "ChildLine", in providing a 24 hour children's hotline and other related services. This NGO provides children with telephone counselling and conducts awareness raising and support programmes in schools, correctional facilities for children, and communities throughout the country. "The organization focuses on providing callers with a safe, virtual space in which they can ventilate feelings and receive support from someone who believes what they say without being judgmental or prejudiced. Many of the children who telephone ChildLine have never before spoken to anyone about their situations." (ChildLine 2011)

In October 2010 a Child Protection Task Force was established under the auspices of the Ministry of the People and Social Development. Its primary mandate was to review existing systems for child protection, with the aim of making recommendations for their strengthening. The Task Force comprises representatives with a depth of experience in treating with domestic violence, child abuse and other social problems. The Task Force has utilized the information emanating from public forums held in Trinidad and Tobago to develop a Plan of Action which will be implemented in collaboration and consultation with relevant Ministries and other agencies. This Plan of Action will also tie into the work of the Ministry of the People and Social Development as it pertains to child protection, victims of domestic violence and the family.

Awareness raising and educational activities on child abuse have also been conducted in both the Government and NGO sectors. Some examples are the Task Force's nationwide series of community forums on domestic violence and child abuse, and its Child Abuse Media Campaign. Feedback from the community forums has facilitated a better understanding of child abuse and domestic violence in the society; and assisted in evaluating the impact of the current suite of programmes and services available to the public. In addition, a "Children at Risk Conference" was hosted in June 2011 by a consortium of faith based organizations and Compassion International. The Conference targeted mainly church leaders and organizations involved in the care and development of children. It sought to sensitize participants on the issues affecting children at risk in light of emerging challenges, and to encourage them to recommit themselves to a united and effective response.

The NGO, Rape Crisis Society of Trinidad and Tobago provides psycho-social support to victims and perpetrators of sexual abuse and conducts child abuse education workshops in communities and with interested organizations across the country. The organization also conducts counselling training programmes with interested parties.

"Break the Silence" (BTS) is an action research project on issues surrounding Child Sexual Abuse, which is being conducted by the Institute for Gender and Development Studies, at the University of the West Indies in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition Against Domestic Violence and in partnership with UNICEF and the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. The project has been also supported by ChildLine and the Ministry of the People and Social Development. The short-term objectives of the Project are to generate new knowledge and understanding of child sexual abuse/incest and the implications for HIV; empower women, men, girls and boys to understand and address child sexual abuse/incest and its implications on the spread of HIV through action research; and to encourage service providers to revise (or) enhance policies and procedures related to child sexual abuse/incest, which conform to international human rights standards. Key outputs of the project have so far comprised a study of service provision related to child sexual abuse/incest in Trinidad and Tobago; protocols for five key areas related to child sexual abuse/incest service delivery; production of an awareness raising seven-episode radio soap opera; BTS advertising and educational materials; and a service provider policy training manual. The BTS project is being conducted in phases, three of which have been completed.

## PROTECTION

The Package of Children's Legislation: The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has attempted to bring children's legislation into conformity with provisions of the CRC via a Package of Children's Legislation, which was first passed in 2000. The "Package" has since been revised and now comprises the following seven (7) pieces of legislation: The International Child Abduction Act 2008 (Act No. 8 of 2008), the Children's Authority (Amendment) Act 2008 (Act No. 14 of 2008), the Community Residences, Foster Homes and Nurseries (Amendment) Act 2008 (Act No. 15 of 2008), the Children Bill (2011), the Family Court Bill (2009), the Adoption Bill (2009), and the Status of Children Bill (2009). The revised Package promises to provide an adequate legislative framework for the protection of children from several violations of their rights. Key among its pieces is the Children Bill which proposes to introduce an expanded range of sexual offences and stiffer penalties for offenders against children; and the Children's Authority (Amendment) Act which establishes a Children's Authority to Act as the guardian of

children. The individual pieces of children's legislation are at varying stages of becoming part of the laws of Trinidad and Tobago. *See Appendix I.*

ILO Convention on Worst Forms of Child Labour: The Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro-Enterprise Development is guided by the ILO Recommendation No. 190-Worst Forms of Child Labour Recommendation 1999, which recommends that the following be considered: work which exposes children to physical, psychological or sexual abuse: work underground, under water, at dangerous heights or in confined spaces; work with dangerous environment machinery and heavy loads; work in an unhealthy environment or which may expose children to temperatures, noise levels, or vibrations damaging to their health; and work under particularly difficult conditions, such as work for long hours or during the night or work where the child is unreasonably confined to the premises of the employer. In addition, the Occupational Safety and Health Agency is guided by the US Code of Federal Regulations which has been adopted by the state of California. The Regulations include restrictions, exceptions, and detailed descriptions of the occupations declared hazardous to minors less than 18 years of age.

The Trafficking in Persons Act 2011: The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has recognized that given the country's geographical, economical, and social characteristics, it is quite vulnerable to the challenges of irregular migration, one aspect of which is human trafficking.

Since 2005 the Ministry of National Security has been working with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to raise awareness of this issue and to provide training to relevant officials. The Ministry also worked with the Caribbean Umbrella Body for restorative Behaviour (CURB) since 2009.

Training workshops have been taking place since 2008 within various Ministries and Agencies, especially within various divisions of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Immigration Division, and among NGOs. CURB, together with the IOM, continues to raise awareness through these workshops.

#### Multi-Sectoral Task Force

Cabinet in July 2009 agreed to the establishment of a Multi-Agency Task Force to oversee the implementation of the Nine-Month Plan to counter human trafficking in Trinidad and Tobago.

Under the rubric of *Prevention and Protection*, the Plan called for the establishment of an informal working group that will eventually be formalized into a Multi-Agency Task Force. The Task Force commenced its work in September 2009 and was responsible for the following:

1. Overseeing the Implementation of a Plan of Action
2. Developing and overseeing a medium to long term Plan of Action
3. Implementing and systematizing a referral process to identify and assist the victims
4. Establishing a permanent hotline to take calls pertaining to human trafficking
5. The developing of a nationwide information campaign using IOM material, featuring the hotline number.

The Task Force produced a *Policy Framework* which was later used to inform the Trafficking in Persons Bill, 2011. This Bill was assented to on June 9 2011, and it is Act No. 14 of 2011, and will take effect upon Proclamation. The Act gives effect to the *Supplementary Protocol of the United Nations Transnational Organised Crime Convention: "The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children"*. It is a most comprehensive piece of legislation, placing particular attention on women and children. The Act recognises a responsibility to protect children, and proposes harsher penalties for offences relating to children. For example, a person who

(a) recruits, transports, transfers or receives a child into or within Trinidad and Tobago;  
(b) harbours a child in Trinidad and Tobago; or  
(c) recruits, transports or transfers a child from Trinidad and Tobago to another jurisdiction, for the purpose of exploitation, commits the offence of trafficking in children and is liable on conviction on indictment to a fine of not less than one million dollars and imprisonment for not less than twenty years.

#### **4.0 REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION:**

At present there are at least four (4) NGOs which operate prevention and rehabilitation programmes for street children and other children at risk, with financial assistance from the Government. These are Credo Foundation, YMCA, Marion House, and Rainbow Rescue.

#### **5.0 STRENGTHS**

Children's legislation is comprehensive, easy to locate, "reader-friendly", and provides wide coverage against violations of the Rights of the Child. In addition, persons involved in the review and or development of the legislation and operational requirements related to Trafficking in Persons and to the Package of Children's Legislation have displayed a high level of dedication and commitment.

#### **6.0 CHALLENGES**

Passing of some Bills which form part of the Children's Package has been delayed. In addition, full implementation of the Children's Authority (Amendment) Act, the Children's Community Residences, Foster Care and Nurseries Act and the Trafficking in Persons Act are still to be achieved.

Understanding the nature and extent of the problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation in Trinidad and Tobago is hampered by the absence of research. Statistics regarding the number of human trafficking cases are inadequate as there is currently no central depository for such information.

Massive public sensitization to influence mindsets in the population is needed before the full impact of the new legislation can be felt.

#### **7.0 POTENTIAL AREAS OF SUPPORT:**

1. Concrete Research on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children



2. Training of teachers, parents and caregivers to provide psycho-social support to victims of sexual abuse.
3. Mobile Unit to be used for counselling to children in remote and difficult-to-access areas.

#### **8.0 THE WAY FORWARD:**

1. Preparation of a new National Plan of Action for Children which is due to cover the ensuing period up to 2015.
2. The streamlining of interventions for children through a newly formed Ministry of Gender, Youth and Child Development.
3. The Trafficking In Persons Act provides for the establishment of a Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU), comprised of the relevant law enforcement and civilian officers who will collect and analyse data as well as investigate all incidents of human trafficking, thus streamlining all activities related to Trafficking In Persons.



ACTS/BILLS	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
<b>International Child Abduction Act 2008 Act No. 8 of 2008</b>	<p>Gives effect to the Hague Convention of the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction and provides an administrative mechanism for speedy, peaceful, and orderly return of children who have been wrongly abducted/retained.</p> <p>Establishes the Civil Child Abduction Authority (launched Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 2008) in the Ministry of the Attorney General</p>	<p>Proclaimed on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2008</p> <p>Legal Notice 155 of 2008</p>
<b>Children's Authority (Amendment) Act 2008 Act No. 14 of 2008</b>	<p>Establishes a Children's Authority to Act as the guardian of the children of Trinidad and Tobago. Operations of several other pieces of children's legislation are dependent on this Act.</p>	<p>Partially proclaimed on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008.</p> <p>The Board of the Children's Authority was appointed on April 27<sup>th</sup> 2009.</p>
<b>The Community Residences, Foster Homes and Nurseries (Amendment) Act Act No. 15 of 2008</b>	<p>Provide for the monitoring, licensing and regulating of foster homes, nurseries and community residences in Trinidad and Tobago.</p>	<p>Assented to on September 29<sup>th</sup> 2008</p> <p>Expected to be proclaimed when the Children's Authority (Amendment) Act has been fully proclaimed because of its link with the Children's Authority (Amendment) Act.</p>
<b>Children Bill (2011)</b>	<p>Provides for the protection of children. Proposes to introduce an expanded range of sexual offences and stiffer penalties for offenders.</p>	<p>Lapsed on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2010.</p> <p>Currently being finalized to be laid in Parliament.</p>
<b>Family Court Bill (2009)</b>	<p>Vests jurisdiction for all family matters and juvenile matters in a new division of the High Court.</p>	<p>Lapsed on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2010.</p>
<b>Adoption of Children (Amendment) Bill (2007)</b>	<p>To be administered through a sub-committee of the Children's Authority Board</p>	<p>Lapsed on September 28<sup>th</sup> 2007.</p>
<b>Status of Children (Amendment) Bill (2009)</b>	<p>Speaks to the use of DNA to determine the paternity of children</p>	<p>Lapsed on January 8<sup>th</sup> 2010.</p>

## THEMATIC PRESENTATIONS

**Mrs. Florencia Barindelli**

**Sexual Exploitation Specialist, Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights, Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OEA) Organization of American States (OAS)**

### **Third World Congress Against Sexual Exploitation: New Forms of Exploitation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Ms. Barindelli commenced by informing participants and delegates that since 1996, governments, NGOs, academics and other stakeholders have been organizing world conferences against sexual exploitation, which have resulted in declarations and national programmes of action being adopted. The declarations are however, not legally binding but are of political significance and serve as an indication of their commitment to move forward in setting and implementing standards for the care and protection of children.

#### What is meant by CSEC?

"The commercial sexual exploitation of children is a fundamental violation of children's rights. It comprises sexual abuse by the adult and remuneration in cash or kind to the child or a third person or persons. The child is treated as a sexual object and as a commercial object" (Stockholm Declaration).

She indicated that CSEC is only one form of sexual violence and encompasses sexual abuse, which is widely spoken about in the Caribbean. CSEC extends to when some form of remuneration is given to the child or a third party.

She pointed out that in reviewing the main points of the Rio Pact and comparing it with what exists, as reported to the IIN, it was noted that enforcement is critical but that reports to date did not take the Caribbean into account. She added however, that this would soon change to include reports and statistics from the Caribbean.

She indicated that CSEC should by any means necessary, be prohibited, criminalized and made an extraditable offence. She stated that progress is being made to clarify related sex acts, including the penalization of those paying for the acts. However, she indicated that legislation does not cover all forms in all countries. She advised the plenary that consensus is still needed to target adult demand for sex with children, as there are too few sentences imposed on perpetrators, in part because the perception persists that sex with an underage child is not morally a crime.

In this regard there have been modifications to procedural codes which provide more solid ground for the protection of children who are victims. However, limited resources, the lack of properly trained personnel and the structure of the judicial process make the use of non-revictimized methods a rare occurrence.

To assist with strengthening the drive to stamp out sexual exploitation of children, National Action Plans need to be implemented that are:

- inter-agency
- include a gender perspective
- have child participation in its design
- possess an implementation and evaluation component
- involves the participation of civil society
- has adequate funding

While it is agreed that there has been progress in the design and partial implementation of national action plans in various countries including inter-agency co-ordination and co-operation, there remain challenges such as the gap between discourse and actual institutional practices and the lack of definition for handling CSEC cases within and between agencies.

Although to definitively estimate the number of children affected, it is widely accepted that public policy reaches just a small percentage of cases and where institutional care of victims is concerned, agencies rarely assist victims with social re-integration and safety. This particularly affects children who are witnesses in court matters, who are oftentimes stigmatized, especially given that institutions rarely have programmes in place for CSEC victims.

Another, action plan is the issue of networking. This would serve to make the problem be a community matter and not just a problem being faced individually by the child. Also, community institutions as well as health, education and tourism would be engaged.

The challenges with the foregoing however, is that it would require co-ordination at the national, regional and local levels, which from experience are areas where gaps exists, especially in the areas of communication.

These plans would also need to examine the social re-integration component of CSEC victims. Given that gangs involved in the trade have been known to take action against witnesses, assurance of safety should be mandatory. She asserted that steps should be taken to provide them with opportunities for a new sense of identity, enhanced by the provision for them to establish their economic base, in addition to providing some kind of compensation for victims.

All stakeholders need to have his/her awareness raised. She asserted that more training is necessary for those handling CSEC cases and victims, including CSEC police, members of the judicial systems and customs/immigration officers. She indicated that information must be disseminated on where to file complaints which builds confidence in the system and which will help the process of eradicating child sexual exploitation. Yet another recommendation was implementing staff help-lines with trained personnel.

She asserted that attention to the tourism sector is also important. Codes of Conduct should be created for tour operators and incentives offered in an effort to encourage buy-in and influence proper conduct within tourism related businesses. Attention should be paid to unregulated tourism, where promoting tourism through sexual imagery should be avoided. Tourists/visitors should be warned about existing laws and enforcement of CSEC and there should be the engagement of emerging tourist destinations to foster social responsibility.

Children need also to be protected from the Internet and online predators. Campaigns on the risks of the internet are needed and should target, children, adolescents, parents and

guardians. These campaigns should prohibit the production, intentional possession and consumption of child pornography and use legislation to ensure compliance of tech-industry. The research and development of technology to track and identify offenders and identify and supports victims of child pornography is greatly encouraged.

Ms. Barindelli also encouraged the research into, for instance, what motivates a child to produce and distribute sexual violence on the internet. She stated that actual behaviours of children and adolescents online should be researched and questions such as, “do they have ways of protecting themselves and their group? What are the measures and how effective are they?” should be posed.

She indicated that there must be a move towards greater collaboration in the following ways: Involve mobile phone companies, internet providers and internet café owners in public-private partnerships. The adoption of codes of conduct and other methods of social responsibility; the inclusion of the Ministries of Telecommunications or Data Protection Agencies in cross-agency collaboration activities.

Recovery and restitution is significant if a CSEC child is to be rehabilitated and as such we have to accept that children and adolescents are victims, even if they irresponsibly provided information about themselves on the internet. There must also be active searches for CSEC victims on the internet, resulting in the removal of CSEC content from the web, particularly from social networks and sites used by the victim.

In closing, in an effort to protect children and adolescents from the ills of the internet, it should be noted that that is a huge comfort zone for many. Preventative measures should be designed to be age and group-oriented and be positive and not fear based. Children and adolescents should be involved in the design of prevention strategies, especially in the use of youth language. Self protection should be promoted and encouraged in children as they are going to be making decisions while alone online.

**Dr. Morella Josephs**

**Programme Manager, Human Resource Development, Directorate of Human and Social Development, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat.**

**Regional Framework of Action for Children 2002 – 2015: Performance, Expectation of & Reporting Responsibilities of Member States.**

Dr. Josephs made an impassioned plea to the representatives at the Meeting that collectively, the region has not done nearly enough to take care of the children and adolescents. She intimated that the governments of the region need to make children's issues a priority. She agreed with Mrs. Barindelli that the crucial issue is not only the occurrence of sexual exploitation, but the root causes and the many factors and circumstances that contribute to the occurrence of sexual exploitation of our children.

Dr. Josephs indicated that many member states were not aware of the Regional Reporting Framework and that the National Plan of Action for children, which is based on the Framework is supposed to guide the work that is done as it relates to the welfare of the region's children.

She further indicated that her report will take the form of outlining what the Reporting Framework is, the prevailing regional issues, the cost of reporting, how countries report and the challenges of implementation. She then advised that the deliberations at a Special Session on children's issues, which was convened in Guyana in 2002, formed the platform for the regional action plan.

Dr. Josephs indicated that the 7th COHSOD meeting approved Regional Priority issues identified during a Special Meeting on Children in 2002. The document identified socio-economic conditions negatively affecting the well being of children in the Community. Decisions were taken on Child Protection, early Childhood Development, Child Health and Child Rights.

A Regional Framework for Action (RFAC) was developed to guide programming of regional activities to address issues and priorities approved by the COHSOD. Regional Framework and National Plans will represent the region's attempts to improve legal, education, health and other social services infrastructure. They will ensure follow up to the UN Special Session on Children, the MDGs and the Plan of Action of the World Fit for Children (WFC).

She pointed out that the World Fit for Children has ten principles:

- Put children first;
- Eradicate poverty: invest in children;
- Leave no child behind ;
- Care for every child;
- Educate every child;
- Protect children from harm and exploitation;
- Protect children from war ;
- Combat HIV/AIDS ;
- Listen to children and ensure their participation, and

- Protect the earth for children.

There were four MDGs of relevance. They include:

- Achieve universal primary education - ensure that all children complete full course of primary schooling ;
- Reduce Child Mortality by 2/3 the mortality rate of children under age five;
- Promote gender equality and empower women: examine gender disparity in primary and secondary education; and
- Sustain the advances made in the realization of health and education targets/goals and children's rights; Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases: reverse spread of HIV/AIDS: reduce incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

RFAC Strategies 2011-2012 include the development of comprehensive policies and strengthening of the legislative and administrative systems, as well as measures to ensure the provision of basic services. It also includes capacity building among policymakers, parents and practitioners and speaks to the design and management of shelters as well as prepare disaster prevention programmes with children's needs in mind.

Some of the priority actions expected of Member States include:

- a comprehensive legislative agenda aimed at harmonization of legislation affecting children
- audit of legislation about age of sexual consent, criminal responsibility, compulsory education and age of employment aimed at harmonization;
- develop an early warning and multi-service response for vulnerable children;
- develop child protection protocols for children in emergency shelters.

There are three Regional working groups – Health and Family Life Education (HFLE); Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Child Rights and Child Protection (CRCP). The groups comprise of two arms. The first is the supporting arm that deals with Development partners, Agencies and Organizations, Institutions, the OECS and CARICOM. The other is the Technical Arm, which is comprised of experts, specialists, consultants, practitioners and technicians.

General observations of the working group include that there is a lack of understanding about what is meant by child protection in the region. Therefore, there is the need for clear and common understanding and the recognition that MDGs need to address child protection.

She indicated that a call has been made for greater co-ordination, collaboration and complementarities in respect of efforts aimed at addressing child protection. She indicated however that there is a lack of social services to support laws passed (family and Child Laws) particularly in the OECS.

She indicated that the implementation challenges include no regional and national Plan of Action for parenting and that there is limited access to support systems and service by the most vulnerable and high risk children. She also indicated that in addition to the unavailability of resources whether financial, human and material, the strengthening of political will was also needed.

She indicated that the Reformulation of Regional task Force on Child Right Protection (RTF CR CP) is the group equipped to provide strategic and technical direction on issues relating to child protection. It would meet face to face in May and November annually and work virtually during the other times. The UNICEF "Say yes for children" campaign resulted in the development of the document and plan of action for A World Fit for Children. There was the mobilization of resources to include the provisions of CRC, WSC and MDGs.

She recommended that Technical Officers from CARICOM Member States should meet every June or September to work on child protection issues aimed at information sharing and providing policy and programmatic guidance on relevant matters. She also proposed that the AG, CR, CP, and reps from HFLE and ECD meet annually.

These collaborations are critical for greater research and data collection; institutional strengthening: legal, education, health, policy, and social service interventions. She recommends using a multi-sectoral approach to bring about the ideal Caribbean person, who has respect for human life and forms the foundation on which all the other values must rest.

Other characteristics to be inculcated is raising individuals who are emotionally secure and morally strong with a high sense of self-confidence, self esteem and self worth; is an independent and critical thinker; demonstrates a positive work ethic and has appreciation for family and community.

This ideal Caribbean person would also have values including – honesty, respect, self-control, empathy, compassion, responsibility and tolerance.

**Mr. Cordel Green**  
**Executive Director, Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica**

### **Regulating in the Digital Age: Creating an Environment of Protection for our Children**

The Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica (BCJ) is a statutory body established by the Radio Re-Diffusion Act of 1986 with the following responsibilities:

- Regulation of free to air radio
- Regulation of free to air television
- Subscriber television

The BCJ however, does not regulate music on public transportation vehicles, sound systems, stage shows, billboards or satellite television.

At present in Jamaica, there are 3 national television stations, over 28 radio stations, 42 cable operators and 1 mobile television station. A second wireless license will be released shortly and IPT TV will also be released late in the month of July.

#### Future Plans of the BCJ

The BCJ has undertaken to implement the following:

- Introduction of more channels for new content e.g. special interest programmes geared at protecting children from being exposed to sexual content via the media
- Switching from analog to digital
- The option of mobile television

Under the Children's Code for Programming Act established in 2003, the BCJ is responsible for:

- Evaluating programmes before they are aired to check for violence, sexual content or inappropriate language.
- Schedule programmes to be aired at appropriate times
- Advise audiences before airing if content is not fit for children
- Rate local and foreign programmes on cable television channels
- Set cut off time for general audience viewing
- Establish rules for adult channels to be subscribed to on cable channels

Despite the attempts by the BCJ to curtail inappropriate material being aired via the media, boundaries continue to be breached. As such, timelines have been established for regulatory action:

- February 2009- 3 directives were issued
- March 2011- radio programmes were banned from broadcasting unsuitable content, which proved to be unfavourable with the public at large. This initiative served to prevent the transmittal of lyrics, live shows, presentations or music videos promoting "dagging", explicit sexual positions, etc. The promotion of live stage shows, dances or any events in which children participated, while publicly

displaying sexual positions or simulation of same (e.g. carnival parades) was targeted also by the BCJ.

### The future of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica

There has to be a vigilant and ongoing process in content regulation and this will require a quantum shift. This has taken the approaches outlined below.

Firstly, the BCJ has partnered with UNESCO on a joint media literacy programme in which children will be empowered through media literacy. Media literacy will be infused into the school curriculum and a four (4) module video provided to support the teachers' guide. Children will be taught the dangers they face when exposed to some content on the media and how to make informed decisions when exposed to same

Secondly, a legislative reform established to replace the Broadcasting and Radio Re-diffusion Act with a new Electronic Commission Act. This may require temporary amendments to the Act to further protect vulnerable audiences.

Thirdly, an agreement is about to be signed with CARIMAC to research the needs of audiences, especially children which will involve comprehensive automated content monitoring (generate automatic alert on music content; expand citizen based content monitoring)

### "The Future is Digital"- Era of complete re-think

Mr. Green indicated the power of the web and added that it changes everything. Digital transmitting is central to planning. Digital technology/medium (web 2.0) includes:

- Podcasts
- Wikis
- Forums
- Social networks
- Blogging
- P2P
- Mobile phone videos

### Future of the internet

Mr. Green indicated that there will be a number of changes pertaining to the internet:

- In 2013, the internet will be four (4) times larger than 2009
- The sum of all forms of video will account for over 91% of global consumer traffic by 2013
- The explosion of the internet is leading to a new society
- The year 2015 will see the introduction of web 4.0
- With the improvement of touch, taste and smell technology, there will be a total technology immersion
- The human experience will prove difficult to separate from reality
- Technology will blur the line between the tangible and the intangible environment

### Children and the Internet

He further indicated that there is a growing awareness of children and the internet:

- Children are technology veterans
- Children are the drivers of social networking
- Children go online for multiple reasons, with a total of 100% going online to merely have fun/pass time
- The effects of the media are far reaching, yet the problems are not properly quantified by results of surveys conducted. Findings from a survey conducted at the Mona School of Business reflect that only 15.6% have access to the internet; only 24% have computer access
- The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 13 states that children should have freedom of expression, but this is balanced by article 17 which gives the Member States the right to develop appropriate guidelines

### Issues Raised by Digital Revolution

- The ability of children to make their own decisions regarding content and how to treat it
- Regulation focuses more on empowerment than inoculation

**Mr. Aldo Magoga**  
**UNICEF Representative TACRO**

**Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse & Sexual Exploitation: A Caribbean Perspective**

Mr. Magoga began by introducing the Regional Strategy to prevent and combat child sexual abuse and incest which started as a study carried out in the Eastern Caribbean, specifically Anguilla, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat and St. Kitts. The purpose is to develop strategies for national response and prevention of child sexual exploitation. He stated however, that the actions taken to combat the problems differ worldwide.

He outlined the main forms of sexual abuse, which are:

- Child sexual abuse
- Intra familial
- Non-family
- Transactional
- Child sexual exploitation

He indicated that the following are the emerging trends worldwide:

- Using the cell phone as a vehicle for pornography
- Child sex tourism
- Abuse of the internet
- Sexual aggression by girls
- Transactional sex between children

He further intimated that the following are risk factors which lead to child sexual exploitation

- Poverty – MAIN FACTOR
- Poor family relationship between children and adults
- Violence in the home
- Alcohol/drug abuse
- Families that have been isolated or unsupported
- Children left at home alone
- Children not encouraged to speak up
- Financial struggle in affording basic necessities
- History of abuse in households
- Multiple or serial partnering of parents
- Lack of proper sexual boundaries
- Shared sleeping arrangements
- Males in the household with a predilection for sexual abuse

He added further that there are systems that perpetuate the problems of child sexual exploitation, which include:

- Gender inequality
- Harmful sexual cultures
- Domestic violence
- Social norms

- Economic dependence
- Officials with collusive behavior
- Dis-empowerment of children
- Ineffective reporting systems
- Outdated value system which protects the status of the male above protecting the child

He indicated that research reveals that the Caribbean has many negative social and economic characteristics associated with CSEC such as high rates of unemployment, poor educational levels and gender inequality, social class inequalities and social deprivation.

He shared that an Action Research Project, called Break the Silence, which is a multi-sectoral approach to preventing and addressing child sexual abuse and incest and the implications for HIV was an initiative which was developed by the Institute for Gender Development Studies, UWI, Trinidad & Tobago. This Project will aim to remove the taboo associated with child sexual abuse by empowering parents and children.

Long Term Goal of this initiative is to reduce the prevalence of sexual abuse, while the Short Term Goals are to:

- Generate new knowledge in understanding child abuse and implications of HIV
- Encouraging service providers to revise or enhance policies

He purported that the foregoing will be achieved by:

- Forming partnerships
- Conducting Action oriented research
- Developing the capacity of the service providers

He indicated that the following are knowledge products which will aid in the fight against child sexual exploitation:

- Review of existing laws
- Review literature on sexual abuse
- Study service providers
- Establish protocols for service delivery
- Use of various media to promote messages e.g.: break the silence soap operas, posters, post cards, digital billboards, etc.

The idea of the campaign is to formulate strategies in the Caribbean region that will generate knowledge and raise awareness, therefore multiplying good practice throughout the Caribbean region.

**Mr. Fitz Bailey**

**Senior Superintendent of Police, Organized Crime Investigation Unit, Jamaica Constabulary Force.**

**Creating a Protective Environment: Cross Border Challenges & Strategies to Overcome Child Sexual Exploitation**

Mr. Bailey started off his presentation by purporting that the slave trade still exists.

The United Nations estimates that there are approximately 800,000 victims of human trafficking annually, in a trade that is worth about \$32B each year, almost running parallel with the monies made in the drug trade and gun running.

It is a worldwide problem and children are also victims of that type of crime.

Child trafficking benefits fraud, bondage, forced child labour, forced sex acts, domestic servitude etc. Women, girls and increasingly boys from broken homes and inner-city areas controlled by dons are most vulnerable. Oftentimes they are lured into prostitution in nightclubs, bars, massage parlours and private homes, under false pretense of stable employment.

CSEC is rampant in tourist areas

Criminal groups across the world unite and pool resources to utilize sophisticated equipment and methods to operate, eluding law enforcement in many instances. Traffickers also have assistance from public officials, including from the political directorate, government officials, the Ministry of Labour, police, customs, to name some.

Trans-national organized crime poses problems for legislators, prosecutors and law enforcement officials. Current international co-operation is not able to cope with these challenges. It is very costly and complex to undertake cross border investigations. A lack of training and awareness in identification and detection of human trafficking by immigration, customs and other law enforcement arms make it even more difficult to crack down on human traffickers.

There is a lack of political will to fund and implement anti-trafficking strategies.

There is underreporting of human trafficking cases and those reported take two to three years for prosecution. Human trafficking cases need speedy trials. The lack of efficient border management and controls, compounded by an ineffective screening of the mixed flow of persons entering and exiting the country poses problems. Lack of enforcement of entertainment visas, work permit rules also contribute to human trafficking.

Prevention and awareness strategies for anti-trafficking need to be launched at all levels with special focus placed on first responders at our borders. Counseling of persons and families in vulnerable groups and communities can help in the fight against human trafficking.

Co-ordination and networking among all stakeholders in Jamaica and across borders need to be strengthened through regular meetings and workshops to create consensus against human trafficking.

A regional task force is needed.

There is no law enforcement point of contact specifically to deal with human trafficking in other countries. Need to develop comprehensive mechanisms for lobbying and advocacy to pressure the Community at all levels. A fully vetted unit is needed for the task force.

Build NGO/law enforcement partnership.

In order to effectively achieve law enforcement partnerships, SSP Bailey indicated that there needs to be increased work on:

- Rescue, Rehabilitation and Re-integration of victims
- Establish coordinating units to deal with child centered investigation of trafficked children, not as criminals but as victims.
- Make all acts of sexual exploitation of children extraditable.
- Encompassing transparent and regular monitoring and evaluation mechanisms necessary to visualize the real situation of human trafficking.
- Governments must ensure that all children born in their territories are registered free of cost, giving extra attention to not yet registered children and those in marginalized situations.
- There needs to be strict adherence to anti-trafficking laws from grass root to national is critical to overcome CSEC.

He advised at this juncture that Herma Linda Parker is wanted for child sex exploitation and who operates in Panama, the Bahamas and Guyana.

**Mr. Ronald Jackson**  
**Director General, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management**

**Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Emergencies**

He commenced his presentation by indicating that Mechanisms for the protection of children during emergencies do breakdown, as police and other institutions charged with the welfare of children are stretched during emergencies and in many instances are not adequately resourced financially or with manpower.

Mr. Jackson stated that emergencies increase the room for harassment, abuse, sexual exploitation, given the increased vulnerability of especially children and women, particularly in female headed households.

An emergency can shift the power base of a community, breaking down the normal framework – children can become separated from parents/guardians (Haiti after the earthquake as an example). Aid becomes a tool for attracting the needy (children) and can be used as a tool to sexually exploit and abuse children.

ODPEM has no empirical data of such exploitation during emergencies in the Jamaican context. However, after the 2001 floods in Portland and St. Mary, with the support of UNICEF, ODPEM began to look at women and children in emergency situations. Began looking at their specific challenges when displaced, whether in emergency shelters or displaced within their communities.

Data specific to them, their needs, demographics, where they were, were not being collected. Registration forms concentrated on adults. The research showed the need for relief policies that were focused on the special needs and vulnerability of children.

There were assumptions that were operated under for a long time – parents/guardians would take care of the children in shelters. The reality differs in some instances, especially where parent (s) were trying to see what could be salvaged from the home, or doing repairs, temporary re-roofing, getting the house into some sort of habitable condition – children would sometimes be ignored, left with strangers or aid workers.

The research showed that children and adolescents experience emotional problems, educational needs were not addressed. There was restlessness and reduction in attention span, potential recipe for problems. School attendance levels fell, nutritional needs went unmet, especially for babies. There was also an inadequate water supply in shelters.

The report recommended an expansion of the roles and responsibilities of relief committees, to look specifically at special needs, demographics of children and to enlist social workers to provide post traumatic stress counseling for children and adults. Teachers are also to be trained to handle trauma in emergencies. It was noted that there needs to be continued education while children are in shelters and that mothers are to receive post natal care.

Children are to be educated about all aspects of disasters, including the threat to their safety while in displaced conditions. A workshop that looked at the report recommended that Child Friendly Guidelines for Managing Responses in Disaster Situations be developed.

Another recommendation was for it to be clearly stated which agencies were responsible before, during and after a disaster, as it relates to eight considerations dealing with children – vulnerability of children; special problems of children in disasters; child protection issues; health related issues; water and sanitation; food and nutrition; shelter issues and educational issues.

The guidelines also state that children, adolescent girls, pregnant women and women need special attention in these situations as they are quite vulnerable. The socio-economic status of minorities also increases their vulnerability.

The report however shows the family to remain the main form of protection for children and that is encouraged at the level of the community. ODPEM is gradually changing the approach to how disasters are handled to ensure that children are specifically taken into consideration. Agencies with responsibility for children are addressing those issues.

It was also listed that children in shelters are potential victims due to overcrowding, limited space in which to operate, lighting, sanitary facilities and if they are accompanied to use such. Children also subject to intra-family violence.

Current actions include looking at the layout of shelter facilities and addressing some of the issues where possible.

- Identifying someone to oversee recreational activities at shelters.
- Promoting parental supervision at all times.
- A list of all open facilities provided to the police so they can carry out periodic patrols.
- All entrants to the facilities registered. Easier to make out a stranger to the community.
- Psycho-social support for children in shelters is necessary and being addressed.
- Under State of Emergency Declaration children can be placed under protective care of the State if it is believed there is a risk of them being exploited.
- ODPEM is now training and sensitizing NGOs and workers to address the issue of aid workers and security personnel exploiting children.
- Data collection is critical on children in these types of situations.

**Mr. Robert Fuderich**  
**Country Representative, UNICEF Jamaica Country Office**

### **Combating Child Abuse & Sexual Exploitation in Jamaica**

Mr. Fuderich indicated that it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Meeting of its kind. He stated that from the discourse so far, there were:

- Overwhelming issues
- A number of Violations
- Need for urgent action
- Time Wasting

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Conference of this kind and was highlighted in the Jamaica Observer on July 7<sup>th</sup> 2011. He indicated that 16 years ago, several institutions gathered to address the issues of sexual exploitation in children. The purpose of the meeting was to find solutions without being overwhelmed and lost.

He further pointed out that 16 Years ago in 2001 & 2008, the government and citizen services gathered with stakeholders to find a solution for the growing problems with child sexual exploitation. He posited that the sole purpose of this meeting is truly to find a solution while not getting overwhelmed.

He reiterated that there is a general theme throughout the various presentations so far, which is that: Children are not property to be bought and sold and or to be abused and exploited and they have fundamental rights that are to be promoted and protected and that in fulfilling those rights, their views are to be heard and acted upon. He stated that the clear and consisted message of UNICEF is that Commercial Sexual Exploitation is a federal violation and invasion of Children's rights. He also indicated that it is akin to terrorism and should be abhorred.

He indicated that there is a rise in cases of commercial sexual exploitation around the world and Jamaica is no exception. He supported the SSP's presentation that the issue of exploitation is affecting own children in alarming ways.

He pointed out that in recent news reports there are similar issues everyday. He stated however, that instead of dealing with the nature of the problem, solutions needed to be found. He stated that UNICEF has put together a critical legal instrument for global use to be used as a guide to help protect children from sexual exploitation.

However, he advised the group that there is no 'single silver bullet' and no one solution for the massive problem. He indicated that all countries are culturally related to one another from the experience that has been shared. He added that for instance, the Convention on rights of the Child (CRC) written in 1989 sets the grounds for all governments to meet. He stated that it is referred to as the UNICEF Bible and requires governments to report every five years. He advised that Jamaica is in the position of sending its 4<sup>th</sup> report soon to be published to the public. This will be accompanied by a follow up document which includes any information that may have been left out.

He stated that Articles 19, 32, 34-36 of the CRC provides sufficient framework for the protection of a child or children.

The CRC Report of January 2002 provides detailed requirements to end illegal adoption, sale or organ trade. He stated that any individual, who engages in providing sex, engages in forced labour even those who accept children under any of the mentioned circumstances should be punished.

He added that though a children's audit is needed, at the time of budgeting no provision is made. He stated that though reports and protocols are completed, the Government does not follow through with providing resources. He indicated further that monitoring systems and, independent child rights facilities are needed.

He further added that there needs to be added legislation for prosecution of offenders, proper care for victims (to prevent double victimization), aid from International Corporations, quality and care of children in institutions and psychological care for abused children

He explained that even today, eight years after the protocol was adopted, Jamaica has not ratified. This creates a major gap in the legal framework required to protect children. In 2013 Jamaica will be required to submit an initial report on the rights of the Child as a follow up to the Protocol.

Mr. Fuderich closed by stating that the ratification should not be considered a mere formality but a legal accountability that all nation states should engage in, in an effort to monitor and enforce these rights.

**Mrs. Katia Dantas**

**Policy Director for Latin America & Caribbean, International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children**

**Evaluating the Caribbean's Model Law on Child Pornography and Adopting Effective Systems for Combating Child Pornography**

Ms. Dantas pointed out that the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children was created in 1998 in Alexandria Virginia, with a global mission to protect missing and exploited children. All reports are made through the ICMEC.

They have in place a search system called the LEXXUS/NEXUS which is used to help provide information for authorities. A payment is done in order to receive this information as it would not be economical to pay each time information is needed. Other technology includes photo DNA Programs, to see if images are found in their systems, search windows and live email.

People are often under the impression that child pornography is a victimless crime. However, once an image is uploaded to the internet it cannot be erased.

She indicated that victims are getting younger and younger, and are often times under 12 years of age. She indicated that there are statistics to support that 40% of victims are offenders. That is why it is important to criminalize the possession of child pornography material in an effort to decrease the risks of these individuals becoming offenders.

The statistics also showed that 89 of those countries did not have the first 4 criteria. Also, the Caribbean unfortunately does not have much legislation in place to address the various types of child sexual exploitation..

Since 2006, progress in legislation can only be seen in a few Caribbean countries, namely Barbados, Jamaica and Suriname. However, despite the milestones achieved, a comprehensive approach is not enough. There needs to be significant disruption of the business of child pornography, which is proven to reduce reports by 50%. As such, advances have been made in capacity building such as through Law Enforcement Training in 2003 in Microsoft and Interpol.

She stated however that though training is important, it alone is not sufficient. Therefore, there needs to be collaboration and vetted bodies.

Yet another intervention is to change the mindset of the internet being safe from hackers and by educating the children of the consequences of using the internet. This would be achieved by a campaign called "Think before you post" This would simply apply to the issue of having digital citizenship and the consequences of using the internet.

She advised that there is a network of 18 Countries, which comprise the "Missing Children Network" where pictures are posted and information shared pertaining to missing children. There is also a dedicated YouTube Channel to broadcasting missing children around the world. There was a 2010 Relocation Conference in Washington DC where various issues such as children who are required to move with one parent and leave another behind.

Ms. Dantas closed by agreeing that there is indeed 'no silver bullet', or no single cure to the scourge of child sexual exploitation. She however implored that if there is to be any meaningful change, there would need to be a coordinated response and a harmonization of the legislation, where everyone can speak of the issues and the preventions on the same level.

**PANEL DISCUSSION: Internet Driven Commercial Sex Exploitation.**  
**Aim: to help families detect, react and report social networking evils.**

**Chairperson - Dr Leith Dunn**

**Senior Lecturer/Head, MONA CAMPUS UNIT, Institute for Gender & Development Studies, University of the West Indies.**

Dr. Dunn highlighted the importance of ensuring that we engender whatever policies and strategies that we use in response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation. She also urged us to recognized, that on the internet, the profile of users has to be considered (gender dimension).

Her key messages were; Commercial Sexual Exploitation violates Children's rights, and she emphasized the importance of not just seeing Commercial Sexual Exploitation as a broad issue, but to look at the gender dimension in the activity. Dr. Dunn said that it's recognized, that eighty percent are girls and twenty percent are boys.

She stated that in our homophobic society we do not know how many males are actually sexually exploited, and is of the view, that this environment increases the risk for boys in particular, and also girls because of bi-sexuality, so we need to be mindful of this.

The Internet, Dr. Dunn said, offers opportunities and challenges for development, it enhances, and is also dangerous.

According to Dr. Dunn the family's response must be research based, and gender sensitive. Child participation needs to be included in the process, and it should be multi-sectoral.

Dr. Dunn emphasized the need for research and analysis, and to use the findings to influence policies. She encouraged, expanding partnerships between academia, advocates, children, government agencies, international partners and law enforcers. Dr. Dunn asked that technology be used to increase awareness and implored that we share best practices while ensuring that we protect our children and change the value and attitude that contribute to Sexual Exploitation.

Panel Speakers

*Mrs. Florencia Barindelli, Specialist on the topic of Sexual Exploitation Area for the Promotion and Protection of Rights, Inter-American Children's Institute (IIN-OEA) Organization of American States:* Mrs. Barindelli, reminded us that, internet users in the world have increased, and there is greater accessibility to materials of sexual content are available, she also noted that the Internet is one of the main places of interaction, and parents should know how to use it. Mrs. Barindelli pointed out, that the internet is used to advertise prostitution. She said Children use the internet to gain trust, which is sometimes betrayed and result in scandal, and even expulsion from School.

*Dr. Ashley Hamilton-Taylor, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computing, University of the West Indies:* Dr. Taylor commenced by examining some of the issues in relations to internet and global media. He referred the plenary to a book by Sherry Turkle entitled "Alone Together"

where in wide ranging sets of interviews, the author shows her concerns about the direction in which the world is heading. He talked about cyber stalking, and pointed out, that the entire world is grappling with these issues.

Dr. Taylor said the whole notion of privacy and sharing is changing rapidly, and there is a conflict between what the social media provider wants, and what most persons want. He used a graph to demonstrate how the use of social web sites affects privacy.

Dr. Taylor said research done in the United State of America found that the internet is a constant distraction, and has negative effects on children, especially the poorer ones who are often without proper supervision when using the internet. He said it is also found that children who are technology savvy often perform poorly in school, because they are not using it in a productive way.

Dr. Taylor brought to our attention, the negative effect the internet is having on our Caribbean Culture, he gave the language that the children use on the internet as an example.

Dr. Taylor advice parents to make agreement with their children about appropriate use of the internet, challenge youth to take leading role in engaging their peer in using positive internet material, educate children on the risk associated with using the internet, and encourage them to inform you if they are contacted by unknown people on the internet.

Dr. Taylor stressed the importance of Teachers “Google “search for information before giving assignment, as the information might not be on the internet. He also advice them to avoid short notice assignment, because this can lead to children going to internet Café in search of information, and be expose to Sexual Exploitation.

Dr. Taylor said Internet Service Provider should give parents the option to block inappropriate websites, and should install devices with capability to be able to trace criminal contact with children.

*Mr. Daren Miller, President of the National Secondary Students’ Council (NSSC) & Executive Chairman of the Jamaica Youth Crime Prevention Council:* Mr. Miller, in a very eloquent speech, said we should see Commercial Sexual Exploitation, beyond the physical; we should look at the psychological aspect, which has always been played upon, by social networks. Mr. Miller said that as a people we should ensure a coalition is formed, with all sectors of the economy to ensure that, our children are taught good values, and learn what true development is.

*Mr. Travis Williams, Electrical Engineer Student University of Technology, Jamaica:* Mr. Williams in a very brief address reminded us that, whatever is putted on the internet is always there. He thinks that, lack of communication is the main problem in parent and child relationship, and encouraged parents to set boundaries for their children.

Mr. Williams encourages parents to try and learn the internet with their children, and to seek help where it is needed. He also pointed out that most people show their “true colours” on the internet, and should be careful, because it can affect their life in a negative way.

## GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

**GROUP 1: Mechanism for identifying and sharing lessons learnt & best practices among CARICOM Member States.**

**Facilitator: Mrs. Grace Ann McFarlane – Regional Director, Southern – Child Development Agency**

**Discussions within this group include:**

- 1) Harmonization of legislation around the Convention of the Rights of the Child
- 2) Networking – collaborating, sharing ideas, data. Utilizing social media for public education and awareness regionally and nationally
- 3) Exchange programmes and personnel
- 4) Regional Conferences structured annually within CARICOM
- 5) An umbrella group within CARICOM to oversee and organize conferences etc relating to Child Protection Issues
- 6) Portfolio Responsibility for Family and Children's Affairs to be in its own Ministry
- 7) Skills bank – to build capacity for implementation of best practices
- 8) Technology – to improve capacity building
- 9) Sports and the media to highlight missing children within all CARICOM States at the same time
- 10) Regional funding – private and public sector support. International donors to be encouraged. Target those that have children's issues as part of their mandate
- 11) Multi-agency approach to child protection issues

### Best Practices

- 1) Signs – billboards with positive messages
- 2) Positive popular artistes as ambassadors for Child Protection Issues
- 3) Child friendly legal documents
- 4) Back to school programmes involving Jamaica, St. Kitts and St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- 5) National Action Plan
- 6) Pan against crime – St. Vincent
- 7) Community sport activities – Jamaica has competitions among small to older children in communities that have hostilities toward each other. Competitions used to help break down barriers and create harmony
- 8) Video links to be used for evidence gathering with child victims
- 9) CISOCA – Jamaica
- 10) Police Department specializing in trafficking - St. Vincent, Jamaica

## GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

**GROUP 2: Gaps that exist in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation and resources required to address them. Make recommendations outlining what is required to address them.**

**Facilitator: Mrs. Jennifer Williams - Director, Policy Planning & Research- Bureau of Women's Affairs**

The participants in Group 2's breakout session agreed to identify the gaps that exist in commercial sexual exploitation under the headings:

1. Policy
2. Legislation
3. Service Provider

### Policy (Numbered gaps correspond with recommendations)

#### Gaps

1. There is a gap between policy formulation and implementation.
2. Some existing policies are outdated
3. There is no specific policy in place to deal with CSEC victims (Tiffany Garbutt- Dept. of Human Services; Belize)

#### Recommendations

1. Ensure that policies put in place are followed through for strategic implementation (Jennifer Williams; Bureau of Women's Affairs)
2. Review policies with a view to ensure that CSEC victims are protected
3. Formulate specific policies to address matters related to CSEC

### Legislation

#### Gaps

1. There is no unified approach across the region regarding legislation in matters related to CSEC.
2. Persons are not aware of an existing CARICOM policy framework to aid making informed decisions. (Lisa Chen; Jamaicans for Justice)
3. Some countries do not have an early childhood legislation.
4. Where a society is homophobic, data regarding sexual abuse of boys is not captured.
5. There is a gap between the age of consent and being deemed an adult.(Tiffany Garbutt; Dept. of Human Services- Belize)
6. No penalties related to sexual exploitation of children stipulated on entrance to some countries.
7. Victims of abuse are required to testify in court, with the offender present sometimes. (Tiffany Garbutt, Dept of Social Services; Belize)
8. Victims of abuse are not aware of an existing victim support system
9. There is no power of arrest when fathers visits underage child in the hospital who they impregnated.

10. The testimony in court changes re age of victim when brought before court. (Kim Byers; JFJ)

#### Recommendations

1. Form a central implementation steering committee, including government and CSO to seek a unified approach in dealing with matters related to CSEC. This will encourage better sharing of information inter & intra region. (Lisa Chen; Jamaicans for Justice).
2. Regions should have similar policies and provisions in the legislation to deal with CSEC related matters (J. Stewart; ISCF).
3. Where there is no early childhood legislation, an Act should be established or provisions be put in the existing Act to deal with same.
4. Ensure that gender related abuse (girls and boys), be included into legislation. (Jennifer Williams, Bureau of Women's Affairs)
5. Harmonise the age (re consent for sex and being regarded an adult) to deal with legislation and policies.
6. Make it mandatory for signage to be displayed upon entrance into the country advising of penalties against child exploitation.
7. Offer more victim support; have a more child friendly court system which includes the police, social workers and support agencies; introduce video testimonies.
8. Introduce victim support services where they do not exist. Where they do, generate more public awareness of their existence.

#### Service providers

##### Gaps

1. Children are not aware of their rights.
2. Conferences such as this (IIE) are held, issues discussed but information is not disseminated or solutions implemented. (Lisa Chen; JFJ)

#### Recommendations

1. Conduct CSEC training in schools, making children aware of their rights under the programme. (Kadeem Simpson; Child Representative-GOJ/IIN Project Steering Committee). (b) Create awareness among children about the role of the police. (Centre of Investigation for Special Services & Child Abuse- CISOCA)- J. Stewart; ISCF
2. Appoint a representative in the Ministry of Youth (suggestion was that it be a point person from the Child Development Agency), for implementing a regional communication framework for CSEC and broader issues which fall under the programme. (Lisa Chen; Jamaicans for Justice)

#### Resources that are needed to address the gaps highlighted:

- Financial resources
- Training of personnel to deal with CSEC victims to ensure they are sensitive to the needs of the children
- Improved technology to capture data collected
- Establish shelters for victims of human trafficking
- Speedier investigation process
- Modern equipment in the court system (e.g. video testimony)



- Mandatory minimum levels of training for care givers
- Psychometric tests should be administered to care givers to ensure they have the aptitude to deal with victims of abuse

## GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

**GROUP 3: Formulating strategies towards the establishment of a regional network of cooperation on child protection matters, develop terms of reference/agreement and create plan of action for year one activities.**

**Facilitator: Dr. Morella Josephs - Programme Manager, Human Resource Development, Directorate of Human and Social Development, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat.**

Dr. Josephs began the discussion by recommending that a Regional Technical group convenes twice a year to agree on how to operate instead of each country making decisions in isolation.

Ms. Bruce of Trinidad & Tobago suggested that communication needs to be examined between member states given that there is minimal communication and collaboration.

Dr. Joseph further raised the point that the right people, who are the practitioners in the field, are not the ones attending working meetings and as such, oftentimes when country representatives go back to their offices, there is no continuation of the dialogue and no implementation.

### Type of Regional Network to be set-up

- TOR/strategy for regional cooperation which will inform work, dialogue, networking at the regional level
- The question was posed about the structure of the network and the form it should take. The consensus was that in some cases if the structure exists, it should be strengthened. However, in situations where such structures do not exist then implement one.
- Another recommendation is that each country should have a 'focal point' which would network and operate regionally while applying the suggestions for the structure used by the IIN. Further, Ms. Whitter (YMCA) indicated that there must be timelines and reporting structures that are put in place.
- Mr. Francis (MOE) recommended that there should be a core group within the regional network with responsibility for specific areas.
- Dr. Josephs indicated that the Regional Framework should be used as a guide and a basis on which each country's National Plan of Action can be designed.
- Ms. Budhi (CDA) indicated that the National Plan of Action is directed at the Cabinet level which makes it much easier for the decision making process especially given that a number of agencies are involved. She further indicated that an agreement and consensus should be taken that capacity building and hand holding maybe required and should be provided for those member states that require it. She further recommended the development of a Train the Trainers programme with the assistance of organizations such as the IIN.
- Mr. Francis recommended further that a website should be developed regionally which would allow information sharing and networking opportunities.
- Mr. Douglas (CDA) volunteered to provide a template/sample of the Framework/Plan of Action which could be tailored to suit other member states.

- The following were also recommended:
  - Set up virtual linkages via the internet
  - Implement monitoring body (if not already done) for National Plan of Action
  - The Agency responsible for monitoring child related issued should be used as the focal point
  - Focal point should be persons/organizations who are familiar with country's National Plan of Action
  - Knowledge of Human Rights Convention
  - Use IIN criteria as the template for focal point identification and implementation

## GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

### **GROUP 4: Strategies to enable Compliance with Regional Framework of Action for Children 2002-2015.**

**Facilitator: Mr. Noel Stennett - Regional Director, South East Child Development Agency.**

From the discussion it was acknowledged that before Dr. Morella Joseph's presentation to the Conference no member of the group knew about the Regional Framework of Action for Children 2002-2015. It was therefore agreed that the first strategy to embark upon is a Massive Public awareness of the Framework. Thereafter, this could lead to the creation of an inventory of our local situation relating to the objective of the Regional Framework.

It was also agreed, that we should look at our local Laws and harmonize them to identify with those of other Caribbean nations. it was agreed also that we should integrate the objectives of the regional framework into existing national framework ( e.g. In Jamaica the Vision 2030 plan; In Haiti, the National Children Protection Plan).

It was also agreed that we should bring agencies of each country together to provide codification of perspectives creating consensus and decision.

## GROUP BREAK OUT SESSION

**GROUP 5: Identify Human Resource Development needs to effectively respond to threats of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Caribbean. Examine and propose legal frame work to support efforts.**

**Facilitator: Mr. Ricardo Sandcroft – Legal Officer (Child Development Agency)**

Identified were the threats that already existed in our society, such as:

- Lack of Parental Education: It is said that Parents themselves are not aware of the laws or the actual act itself of Sexual Exploitation of Children and as such will not be able to readily act if there is a situation at hand that needs to be addressed.
- Livelihood Options: This was related to the common issue of poverty. (An issue shared by both Jamaica and Belize)
- Public Awareness: Education is lacking in those individuals who are not parents but may have interaction with children whether it be through work or the general public.
- Child Neglect: Parents are often guilty of poor supervision
- Vulnerability: Too trusting
- Not enough time in schools: Too much out of school time, this is especially so with those institution with shift systems.
- Cultural Diversity & Cultural Beliefs: This is said to be one of the major issues that may not only cause but help the fuel the already existing issue as it relates to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of our children as it is harder to get a message across to individuals trapped in their own beliefs which may be an obvious harm or merit to the issue at hand.
- Bio Psycho Damage: The abused individual without the proper care or psychiatric help may intern become the abuser contributing even more to the exploitation itself.
- Belief System of Individuals Involved in our society structure: Workers in our Organizations, Care Providers, Teachers all have an impact on our child's development and can also contribute to the negativities as it relates to the lack of education will be able to indentify cases of Commercial Sexual Exploitation whether or not the situation is present in their environment.

### Human Resource Needs for Threats

Parental Resource Centre: Virtual/Physical space offering a support group system. (It was also mentioned by Mr. Sandcroft that work is being done on developing and housing a program that supports individuals on a whole in order to enhance the development).

### Institutions

Woman Centre Foundation (Guided by the Ministry of Social Security) with further development with knowledge of children being sexually exploited will help to better educate the young mothers who are seeking to better themselves having been given the second chance from a mistake made.

Self Empowerment: A healing station for parents

### Programs soon to be established

Nurses deployed to Health Centers to educate Mother on the issues our country currently face as it relates to the children.

### Pre-Puberty Education

Allowing our children of today's education (the future) to be more aware of the issues at hand. Create materials that will enable them to better understand what Commercial Sexual Exploitation is, because being the victims themselves who else is better able to indentify if there is already a problem or identify the problem if and when it happens in the near future, or even help to prevent avoid even more so avoid.

Home & Family Life Education (Guided by the Ministry of Education & Ministry of Health) An expansion of programs in schools to ensure that the information is being spread on an all-island basis.

Sex Education (Guided by the Ministry of Health) A taboo subject often avoided needs to be more open and available as the topic of today which is Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in the Caribbean directly relates to this topic (SEX) this information needed to be clear cut and readily available.

Expansion of the 'Citizens Security and Justice Programs'. The structure is already in place and there is a support system or core individuals already available once the data is available or any other information given. This also is a Human Resource tool.

Community Based Institution: To work along with the Community and its members and parents alike.

Grass Root Response: A trained person in the community to act as a watch dog or support contact. A better feeling of confidentiality to contact someone of your own kind or closer to you instead of report to someone in a foreign institution.

POINT: Parents are especially important to get the message across to as they themselves may be guilty of exploiting their own children and are not aware of such a negligible and criminal act.

Peering up with the Ministry of Justice to formulate a way to hold Parents accountable of such acts.

Job recruitment: Exploitation may also result from various types of job employment.

Government entities to partner with:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of National Security Ministry of Social Development

Create an inter-country communication strategy to deal with cross border trafficking and examine and propose legal frame work to support efforts.

**Border Patrol:** Collaborate with the Law Enforcement and Immigration bodies to develop a program to deal with the issue of Un-accompanied minor across borders.

**Information/Border Sharing:** For Example: Ananda Alert could be expanded across the region so that there could be a database of 'missing children' across the Caribbean.

**Sex Offenders Registry:** Have on file information on individuals who have committed these illegal acts, as it will help to also provide information for individuals who need to employ for eg. Nannies, Nurses, etc. especially in the homes.

**Updated Photographic Records:** Promote photographic data log of children regularly to be mandatory in schools and by extension practiced in the homes.

**Moving Children:** Develop a system compulsory for Children on the move; parents needed consensual agreement for a child to be moved from one location to the next (out of the country)

- Tighter Border Control
- Ratifying the Hague convention on international adoption
- Strengthen Policy Implementation
- Strong Public Awareness Campaign (Education is Key)
- Training: Trained staff to take statements from Children.
- Training: Forensic
- Training: Support Personnel

## **CONCLUDING DISCUSSIONS: THE WAY FORWARD**

This session, which was led by Mr. Newton Douglas, offered the opportunity to reflect on the Conference's two-day deliberations and their implications for the ongoing talks on Child Sexual Exploitation. This came at the end of the panel discussion and break out groups which provided final observations and comments from the floor. The discussions, which revolved around five key themes included; identifying regional mechanism for sharing lessons learnt & best practices; identification of existing gaps and resources required to address them; formulation of strategies, terms of reference/agreement and plan of action, strategies to enable compliance with Regional Framework of Action; and identification of Human Resource Development needs.

Mr. Douglas, in wrapping up, charged the countries across the region to collaborate with other sister countries who may already be further along in their implementation of programmes and strategies in their fight against child sexual exploitation. He stated that we must collaborate on these and other issues to tackle the prevailing issues that affect most if not all CARICOM countries. He also indicated that we should seek to implement the Regional Framework which should serve as a guide and a basis on which each country's National Plan of Action should be designed.

He also urged the expansion of the multi-agency response within individual countries and regionally where possible. He encouraged greater public education and sensitization and encouraged that children become involved through meaningful child participation, which will allow children to be consulted on issues, decisions and programmes which are being made on their behalf. He added that there must be a concerted effort to break down bureaucracy in the system which will allow greater efficiency and accessibility.

He also urged that coming out of the session, countries should endeavour to implement where there are no policies and strengthen existing ones so that adequate sanctions can be taken as regards perpetrators. He urged that participants get familiar with the Human Rights Conventions and while considering IIN criteria as the template for focal point identification and implementation.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of recommendations emanated from the two day discussions pertaining to best practices on how to decrease, if not, eradicate the incidents of sexual exploitation of children.

These recommendations are as follows:

1. Increased training for those handling CSEC cases and victims, including CSEC police, members of the judicial systems and customs/immigration officers.
2. Form a central implementation steering committee, including government and CSO to seek a unified approach in dealing with matters related to CSEC. This will encourage better sharing of information inter & intra region.
3. Regions should have similar policies and provisions in the legislation to deal with CSEC related matters.
4. Where there is no early childhood legislation, an Act should be established or provisions be put in the existing Act to deal with same.
5. Ensure that gender related abuse (girls and boys), be included into legislation.
6. Harmonise the age (re consent for sex and being regarded an adult) to deal with legislation and policies.
7. Make it mandatory for signage to be displayed upon entrance into the country advising of penalties against child exploitation.
8. Offer more victim support; have a more child friendly court system which includes the police, social workers and support agencies; introduce video testimonies.
9. Introduce victim support services where they do not exist. Where they do, generate more public awareness of their existence.
10. Tourists/visitors should be warned about existing laws and enforcement of CSEC.
11. The engagement of emerging tourist destinations to foster social responsibility.
12. Harmonization of legislation around the Convention of the Rights of the Child.
13. Networking – collaborating, sharing ideas, data. Utilizing social media for public education and awareness regionally and nationally.
14. Exchange programmes and personnel.
15. Regional Conferences structured annually within CARICOM.
16. An umbrella group within CARICOM to oversee and organize conferences etc relating to Child Protection Issues.
17. Portfolio Responsibility for Family and Children's Affairs to be in its own Ministry.

18. Skills bank – to build capacity for implementation of best practices
19. Technology – to improve capacity building.
20. Sports and the media to highlight missing children within all CARICOM States at the same time.
21. Regional funding – private and public sector support. International donors to be encouraged. Target those that have children's issues as part of their mandate.
22. Signs – billboards with positive messages.
23. Positive popular artistes as ambassadors for Child Protection Issues.
24. Child friendly legal documents.
25. Create CISOCA like agencies in other countries.
26. Police Department specializing in trafficking.
27. "Pan against crime" or the creation of groups practicing other musical forms in an effort to bring awareness in various countries.
28. Community sport activities used to help break down barriers and create harmony.
29. Video links to be used for evidence gathering with child victims.
30. Conduct CSEC training in schools, making children aware of their rights under the programme.
31. Create awareness among children about the role of the police.
32. Appoint a representative in the Ministry of Youth or other related Ministries regionally, for implementing a regional communication framework for CSEC and broader issues which fall under the programme.
33. Each country should have a 'focal point' which would network and operate regionally while applying the suggestions for the structure used by the IIN, with timelines and reporting structures that are put in place.
34. There should be a core group within the regional network with responsibility for specific areas.
35. Dr. Josephs indicated that the Regional Framework should be used as a guide and a basis on which each country's National Plan of Action can be designed.
36. The development of a Train the Trainers programme with the assistance of organizations such as the IIN.
37. The creation of a website for use regionally which would allow information sharing and networking opportunities.
38. Set up virtual linkages via the internet.

39. Implement monitoring body (if not already done) for National Plan of Action.
40. The Agency responsible for monitoring child related issued should be used as the focal point.
41. Focal point should be persons/organizations who are familiar with country's National Plan of Action and has knowledge of Human Rights Convention.
42. Use IIN criteria as the template for focal point identification and implementation.
43. Embark upon a massive public awareness campaign of the Framework, which could lead to the creation of an inventory of local experiences relating to the objective of the Regional Framework.
44. Examine local laws and harmonize them to identify with those of other Caribbean nations.
45. Integrate the objectives of the regional framework into existing national framework ( e.g. In Jamaica the Vision 2030 plan; In Haiti, the National Children Protection Plan).
46. Bring agencies of each country together to provide codification of perspectives creating consensus on decisions to be made.
47. Sex Education needs to be more open and available and information and statistics made more clear cut and readily available.
48. Expansion of the 'Citizens Security and Justice Programs'. The structure is already in place and there is a support system or core individuals already available once the data is available or any other information given.
49. Community Based Institutions structured to work along with the Community and its members and parents alike.
50. Grass Root Response which involves a trained person in the community who will act as a watch dog or support contact. This will provide a greater sense of confidentiality given that this person is able to relate socially as well as providing closeness as opposed to reporting to someone in a foreign institution.
51. Instituting ways for parents to have greater accountability for such acts occurring.
52. Create an inter-country communication strategy to deal with cross border trafficking and examine and propose legal framework to support efforts.
53. Border Patrol involving collaboration with the Law Enforcement and Immigration bodies to develop a program to deal with the issue of Un-accompanied minor across borders.
54. Information/Border Sharing, for example, Ananda Alert could be expanded across the region so that there could be a database of 'missing children' across the Caribbean.



55. Sex Offenders Registry where information on individuals who have committed these illegal acts are on file and accessible. This will help to also provide information for individuals who seek employment e.g. Nannies, Nurses etc. especially in the homes.
56. Updated photographic records which will involve photographic data log of children regularly to be made mandatory in schools and by extension practiced in the homes.
57. Develop a system compulsory for children on the move, where parents must agree to a child being moved from one location to the next (out of the country).
58. Ratifying the Hague convention on international adoption.

## ANNEX

### Agenda

#### Day 1: Wednesday, July 6

8:00 a.m. – 10:05 a.m.	OPENING CEREMONY	
10:05 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
10:20 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	SESSION ONE	
10:20 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Third World Congress against Sexual Exploitation: New Forms of Exploitation in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Florencia Barindelli IIN-OAS
10:50 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	Regional Framework of Action for Children 2002-2015	Dr. Morella Joseph CARICOM Secretariat
11:20 a.m. – 12:20 a.m.	CARICOM Member-States' Reports – Group 1	
12:20 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.	Regulating in the Digital Age: Creating an Environment of Protection for our Children	Mr. Cordel Green Broadcasting Comm.
12:50 a.m. -1:00 p.m.	Session Wrap-up	Moderator
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	LUNCH	
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	SESSION TWO	
2:00 pm. – 3:00 p.m.	CARICOM Member-States' Reports – Group 2	
3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.	Protecting Children from Sexual Abuse & Exploitation: A Caribbean Perspective	Mr. Aldo Magoga TACRO/UNICEF
3:30 p.m. – 3:40 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
3:40 p.m. – 4:40 p.m.	CARICOM Member-States' Reports – Group 3	
4:40 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Recap & Analysis of CARICOM Member-States' Reports (Groups 1 – 3)	Rapporteurs
5:10 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.	Day 1 Wrap-up	Moderator

Day 2: Thursday, July 7

8:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m. OPENING EXERCISES

8:40 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. SESSION ONE

8:40 a.m. – 9:20 a.m. CARICOM Member-States' Reports – Group 4

9:20 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. Protecting Children from Sexual Exploitation & Abuse In Emergency Situations Mr. Ronald Jackson ODPEM

9:40 a.m. – 10:10 a.m. Cross-Border Challenges & Strategies to Overcome Child Sexual Exploitation SSP Fitz Bailey, JCF

10:10 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. Session 1 Wrap-up Moderator

10:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. COFFEE BREAK

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. SESSION TWO

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Recap & Analysis of CARICOM Member-States' Reports (Groups 4 – 5) Rapporteurs

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Combating Child Abuse and Sexual Exploitation In Jamaica Mr. Robert Fuderich UNICEF

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Evaluating the Caribbean's Model Law on Child Pornography and Adopting Effective System Mrs. Katia Dantas Intl. Centre for Missing Children

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Panel Discussion: Internet-Driven Commercial Sexual Exploitation: Helping Families Detect, React & Report

Session Two Wrap-up Moderator

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. LUNCH

2:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. SESSION THREE

2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Panel Discussion: Technical & Financial Support for Initiatives to Combat Commercial Sexual Exploitation And Child Abuse in the Region

2:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. Group Break-out Sessions:

Group 1: Mechanism for identifying and sharing lessons learned and best practices among CARIOM Member-States

Group 2: Gaps that exist in the fight against commercial sexual exploitation and resources required to address them.

Group 3: Formulating strategies towards the establishment of a regional network of cooperation on child protection.

Group 4: Strategies to enable compliance with Regional Framework of Action for Children 2002 -2015.

Group 5: Identify HRD needs to effectively respond to threats of CSEC in the Caribbean; create inter-country communication strategy on cross-border trafficking; examine legal framework to support efforts.

3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK	
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	PLENARY	Ms. Audrey Budhi CDA
5:00p.m. – 5:10 p.m.	Next Steps & Vote of Thanks	Ms. Kerry-Ann Lewis IIN Country Coordinator