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Statement by Jamaica CAUSE on the killing of Jamaica's children

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Jamaica CAUSE is outraged with the recent upsurge of violence in our society. We are greatly distressed at the number of children that are part of these statistics.

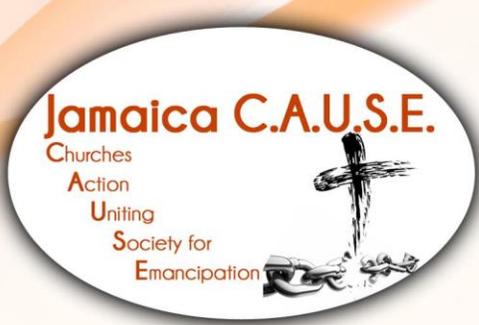
Our society has reached a new low when instead of caring and protecting our children, we are slaughtering them.

The fact that several of these murders involve sexual abuse points to the strong link between our highly sexualized culture, and violence. Persons have become objects, and children are considered easy prey. We do not doubt that there is a connection between the accessibility to pornography via technology and the increase of incidents of sexual abuse.

One wonders at the depravity of the mind of perpetrators as well as those who saw, heard and said nothing while their children, and children within their proximity, were being raped and abused. Those who still refuse to come forward and those who cover up the action of the perpetrators are as guilty as they.

We realize that joblessness and hard economic realities could very well be among the factors driving the prostitution of our children, but economics can never justify destroying a child's soul and body.

Jamaica CAUSE expresses its solidarity with efforts to bring to justice those who committed these heinous crimes. At the same time we warn against vigilante justice. We commit to helping to protect all our nation's children from becoming victims. We call upon all Jamaicans of whatever belief, social or economic class, young or old, to stand as one against the siege on our nation's children. Violence against children jeopardizes our society's future existence.



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The Church must increase its work in the trenches, to provide counselling, teach coping and parenting skills, conflict resolution and relationship guidance to men, women and children. The church must become a safe place for children and persons in distress. We must help children to understand their worth as individuals made in the image of God, and to distinguish between evil and good. Silence and inaction are not options for the people of God. We are constrained by the Lord Jesus Christ's warning, *"But whosoever shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea."* (Matthew 18:6)

May we also heed the admonitions of our National Anthem, "stir response to duty's call, strengthen us the weak to cherish."

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