



PRESS RELEASE – Critical vote at UN on November 10, 2016

November 8, 2016: The Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society (JCHS) fully anticipates that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade will defend Jamaica's right to self-determination and constitutional freedoms at a critical vote at the United Nations in New York on Thursday, November 10, 2016.

The UN General Assembly is being asked to adopt Resolution 32/2 from the UN Human Rights Council which appointed a global Independent Expert *on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity*. The Expert is a prominent 'gay' rights activist who has been given a broad mandate to push across the world, the acceptance of abnormal sexual behaviours, as normal.

The JCHS denounces violence against all persons and affirms the inherent value of all human beings. Growing trends however, are that the meaning of the words 'violence' and 'discrimination' are being distorted to include mere disagreement with the LGBT Agenda in order to punish anyone who does not affirm behaviours that are unhealthy and that do not promote human flourishing.

'Sexual orientation' and 'gender identity' are nebulous terms that are not supported by science, international human rights law, or public health and policy. These words have been used to remove the freedoms of conscience, speech, religious liberty and parental rights of ordinary citizens in the USA, Canada, UK and other EU nations. Persons who have been punished include nursery day care attendants, human resource officers, teachers, IT specialists, parents of kindergarten students, doctors, florists, pastry bakers, hoteliers, pastors and judges among others.

We are grateful that the Jamaican Parliament in 1999 provided clear leadership in rejecting the protection of 'sexual orientation' and 'gender' in the Charter of Rights. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica is expected to vote in accordance with the direction provided by our Parliament.

We are encouraged by the fact that this appointment is being actively resisted by the African Group of 54 nations who have requested a deferral of the appointment until its legal basis can be examined by the General Assembly.

The JCHS trusts that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade will continue to play its critical role in being a gatekeeper against UN activities that will negatively affect the security and freedoms of every Jamaican.

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