



PRESS RELEASE – Jamaican Gov’t must resist pressure from the UK

November 18, 2016: The Jamaica Coalition for a Healthy Society (JCHS) urges the Jamaican Government to resist all efforts by the United Kingdom Government and any other Government, international or local agents, to pressure Jamaica into abandoning our sovereign right to self-determination and participation at the United Nations General Assembly on the vote on Resolution 32/2, this coming Monday November 21, 2016.

Resolution 32/2 from the Human Rights Council, a subsidiary body of the UN General Assembly, proposes to appoint 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 will be given a broad mandate to push the LGBT ideology across the world through the United Nations system.

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 simply disagreeing with the LGBT lifestyle.

The UK’s Foreign Office Minister Sir Alan Duncan has stated that the UK was mobilising global support to oppose a motion from African UN member states and that “the UK’s entire diplomatic network has been making this point in all capitals around the globe.”¹

The African countries have called for a fulsome discussion by all member states of the United Nations, of the merits and implications of Resolution 32/2 before any further decision is taken. No such discussion has taken place.

The JCHS supports this call by the African countries. We are particularly alarmed at the punishment being leveled against parents and ordinary citizens in the UK, USA, Canada and other nations where ‘sexual orientation’ and ‘gender identity’ have been legally recognised and protected.

The Jamaican Government must take these facts into consideration along with the overwhelming public health evidence against the legal recognition or protection of sexual orientation and gender identity as valid concepts. 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.

The JCHS therefore encourages all Jamaicans to tweet, email or call the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade to say; reject Resolution 32/2 and support the African motion.

Contact: Dr Wayne West, Chairman 372-7304 / Philippa Davies, Advocacy Officer 779-6219

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/nov/08/uk-opposes-african-move-to-block-uns-lgbt-rights-champion>