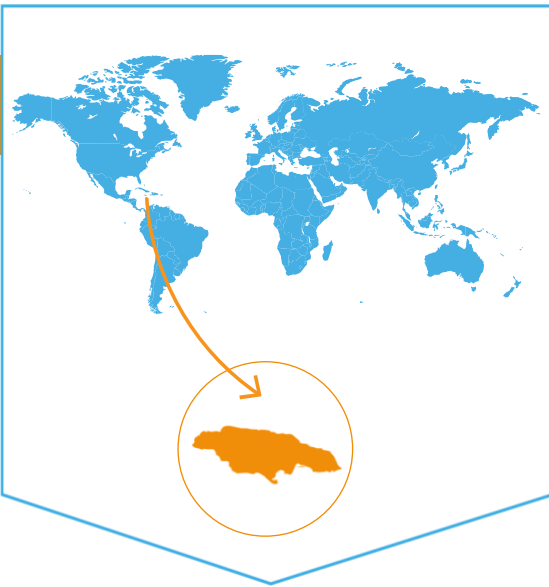




## Jamaica



### Government focal points

**Kamina Johnson-Smith**

Minister of Foreign Affairs and  
Foreign Trade

**Alando Terrelonge**

Minister of State in the Ministry of  
Education, Youth and Information



**Government  
Contacts and  
References**

Pathfinding since March 2016

### Recent developments: National Action Plans, Laws, and Budget

**2004**

The [Child Care and Protection Act](#) was passed.

**2006**

The [Victim's Charter](#) was passed.

**2007**

The [Children's Home Regulations](#) were passed.

**2017**

In November, Prime Minister Andrew Holness stated his commitment to prohibiting corporal punishment in schools and to commencing discussions in Parliament on prohibition in all settings, including the home.

**2018**

In June, the government finalized a draft 5-year National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence 2018 – 2023, but has not yet launched the plan.

**2018**

In December, the Minister of Education, Youth and Information pledged to work with the Office of the Children's Advocate (OCA) to build awareness about alternative approaches to corporal punishment. OCA partnered with ISPCAN to host the ISPCAN Regional Caribbean Conference.



**Multi-stakeholder  
Collaboration and  
Consultation  
with Children**

- In November 2016, close to 100 stakeholders from six ministries and key government line agencies, the United Nations, the private sector, academia, youth and civil society representatives met at the Office of the Prime Minister for a high-level launch of the Jamaican initiative.
- The revision of the national action plan (NAP) was consulted amongst a wide range of stakeholders and partners, including government ministries, departments, and agencies; civil society organizations; and international development organizations. Special consultation sessions were held with media and communications specialists for the development of a public education strategy. Consultation with children is ongoing, spearheaded by the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA).
- A two-day meeting of the Anti-Bullying Technical Working Group took place in February 2019 to strengthen national efforts to tackle bullying.

- Jamaica undertook the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) in 2005 (MICS3) and in 2011 (MICS4), which included questions on child discipline.
- In 2018, Jamaica launched the results from the first national survey on gender-based violence (GBV). This used the WHO CARICOM model, a region-specific adaptation of a global model on GBV prevalence.
- In 2015, the results of the anti-bullying study *Investigating the Prevalence and Impact of Peer Abuse (Bullying) on the Development of Jamaica's Children* were released.
- The Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA) manages the Office of the Children's Registry (OCR) and a Child Protection Database which has more than 80 indicators. The OCR collects and analyzes disaggregated data on children affected by or at risk of violence, both by topic and geographical area.
- The national action plan calls for the development of a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system using OCR, Police and JAMSTATS data. Child protection statistics are currently accessible through JAMSTATS.



### Data Collection and Situation Analysis



### Collective Action and INSPIRE

- The 2018-2023 action plan and an associated roadmap articulate the government's plan to implement the INSPIRE framework. The plan calls for a reduction in the number of reported cases of violence against children by 15 per cent, a 20 per cent increase in the provision of services for children who are victims of violence, promulgation of laws protecting children and an investment into public awareness campaign to change social norms. The Child Care and Protection Act is currently before a Joint Select Committee of Parliament (alongside the Sexual Offences Act, the Offences Against Persons Act, and the Domestic Violence Act) in order to strengthen the legislative framework to better protect children and other vulnerable members of society.
- Several Jamaican NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) are involved in violence prevention and response. The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) Jamaica has provided coordinated and continual engagement with partners of the Technical Working Group and the government of Jamaica. A social media plan was developed highlighting VPA's work in violence prevention and VPA has had a regular presence in print media, online media, radio, and television discussing violence against children in Jamaica and violence prevention activities. VPA has also provided technical support to the development of the Final Draft of the National Plan of Action for Integrated Response to Children and Violence (NPACV).

### Reporting into CRCs and SDGs



Reported to the CRC in 2015.  
Underwent UPR in 2015.



Reported to the High-Level Political Forum in 2018.



Will undergo next UPR in 2020.  
Will report to CRC in 2021.



### Opportunities for 2019 where End Violence will engage

#### Build political will/global movement

1. Support the government in launching the 2018 action plan in a high-level event, possibly in coordination with other child-related events in May for Child Month with the Office of the Children's Advocate.
2. Encourage law reform that prohibits corporal punishment in the home, day care and school.

#### Resource mobilization

3. Budget for NAP to ensure that once launched, the plan is fully budgeted, gaps in funding are addressed, and that the planned annual increase of 5 per cent occurs.
4. Consider opportunities for collaboration with the Spotlight Fund and the EU, combining funding for VAC with VAW.
5. Reach out to CARICOM for resource mobilization opportunities around violence against children.
6. Appeal to IMF and other financial institutions to include Social Indicators (particularly for children) in their loan agreements.

#### Equip practitioners

7. Organize a policy dialogue with the Ministry of Education on a Handbook to prevent school-based violence (UNICEF/UNESCO/WHO).
8. Support VPA as a Think and do Public Safety Institute to fast track the rollout of INSPIRE strategies, not only in Jamaica but across the Caribbean.
9. Undertake a national survey to establish baselines for monitoring the Jamaica National Action Plan to End Violence Against Children.
10. Train frontline healthcare providers in the identification of and response to children who have suffered physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect.