



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS & FOREIGN TRADE

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Ref. No.:

March 21, 2016

Mr. Antony Lake
Executive Director, UNICEF
c/o Institute of Sustainable Development
13 Gibraltar Way
The University of the West Indies
Mona
Kingston 7

Dear Mr. Lake,

The “Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and Adolescents” has as its principal objective the guaranteeing of the implementation of SDG 16, especially 16.2 (“to end the abuse, exploitation and all forms of violence against children”) and other relevant goals related to a commitment to the protection of the rights of children. This Global Partnership will bring together governments and stakeholders from across the world.

The Jamaican Government is dedicated to the cause of ending violence against children and has been working on evidence informed policy initiatives, some of these include:

- Prohibition of Corporal Punishment in Early Childhood institutions;
- Passage of the Child Care and Protection Act;
- National Plan of Action on Children and Violence;
- National Plan of Action on Child Justice;
- Establishment of the Office of Children Advocate, the Office of Children Registry, the establishment of the Early Childhood and Parenting Commission;
- Separate lock-ups for children, males vs. females and legislation to allow video evidence in court;
- Strengthening of the Child and Adolescent Clinics with “Smile Mobiles” providing psychiatric services for children homes and juvenile institutions;
- Task Force on Behaviour Modification and Corporal Punishment in Schools;

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- Training of teachers and guidance counsellors in schools and the training of teachers in alternate disciplinary measures in the classroom;
 - Supporting the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) Jamaica alliance to end violence against children led by NGOs, CBOs and working coalitions.

With this in mind, I would like to express, in principle, the interest and willingness of the Government of Jamaica to become a Pathfinder country which will constitute initial membership of the Global Partnership. Upon receipt of your response to this expression of interest, we look forward to consulting further on the way forward.

Yours sincerely,



Kamina Johnson Smith (Mrs.)
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade

Cc: Ms. Susan Bissell
Global VAC Partnership Director, a.i.