

**Spotlight
Initiative**

*To eliminate violence
against women and girls*

September 2021

Spotlight

in Jamaica



WELCOME TO THE SPOTLIGHT IN JAMAICA!

Meet the Team



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Welcome to the 1st issue of the Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica newsletter, **The Spotlight in Jamaica!**

In this issue, the Spotlight in Jamaica will feature messages from the EU and UN, highlights of the programme; key milestones; think-pieces surrounding GBV, and user-friendly information to raise the gaze and awareness of Jamaicans with respect to gender-based violence.

This newsletter speaks to the comprehensive approach taken by the programme to throw all hands on deck in ending gender-based violence. With the onset of a novel Coronavirus spiraling into a pandemic, the Spotlight Initiative has faced its challenges amidst the progress. However, the SI in Jamaica remains committed to igniting the passion of allowing women and girls to live a life free of violence with support from men and boys.

The European Union/United Nations Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership, from 2020 – 2023 to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Jamaica has been funded USD 6.6 million to further invest in gender equality and strengthen the programme's effort to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

The Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica targets 4 main parishes. They are Kingston and St. Andrew, Clarendon, St. Thomas, and Westmoreland.



● WESTMORELAND ● CLARENDON ● KINGSTON & ST. ANDREW ● ST. THOMAS

The Spotlight Initiative is led by a 3-member Coordination Team comprising a Programme Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and a Communications Assistant with robust implementation and support from the Recipient United Nations Organisations (RUNOs); UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, and UN Women.

The Spotlight Initiative focuses on 6 pillars that are strategically aligned throughout the life of the programme. They include working on a micro level, with inclusion and strengthening from Civil Society Organisation, Government, and the Private Sector. The pillars are

1. Legislative and Policy Framework
2. Strengthening institution
3. Prevention and Social Norms
4. Delivery of Quality Essential Services
5. Data Availability and Capacities
6. Supporting the Women's Movement.

Welcome again to The Spotlight in Jamaica and let's all play our part in moving the needle to end gender-based violence.

It starts with YOU.

#SpotlightENDViolence #WithHer



Dr. Garry Conille

United Nations Resident Coordinator in Jamaica, The Bahamas, Bermuda, The Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands

Over the past year, the United Nations in Jamaica, in partnership with the European Union, has scaled up our efforts in tackling the issues of family violence and violence against women and girls. Together, with the Government of Jamaica, civil society and women's groups we have been addressing the scourge, head-on, through the implementation of The Spotlight Initiative.

We are happy to launch this newsletter, not only to share the programmes results and growing impact, but also to facilitate another channel for increased awareness of gender-based violence (GBV) and the services available to support the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, and the protection and promotion of their right to live free from violence.

Spotlight's mandate remains clear – to contribute to the reduction of family violence and to improve access for women and girls to essential, safe and integrated gender-responsive services, while engaging men and boys in solutions. The programme also aims to engender a whole-of-society and multistakeholder response to gender-based violence.

Spotlight is not the only solution to this grave challenge. In this regard, the Spotlight Initiative has ably partnered with the government to operationalize one state-ran transition homes for victims of family violence. The establishment of Domestic Violence I-care (DVIC) centres across the island have also upskilled the ability of the Jamaica Constabulary Force to respond to GBV. With supplementary training in Jamaica sign language, DVIC centres are working to ensuring that no victim is turned away and that our response, leaves no one behind. The United Nations also welcomes the recent passage of Jamaica's Sexual Harassment Bill, a move we hope will not only save lives, but be a positive example to the region and the world.

More than one in every four Jamaican women (27.8%) between the ages of 16 to 64, will, over their lifetime experience physical and or sexual violence. This is only slightly below the global average of 1 in every 3 women (30%). We have come face to face with deeply rooted cultural constructs about the meaning of violence within the bounds of households and intimate partners. One

study suggests that GBV represents the most important hurdle to reaching gender equality in Jamaica. This reality, fuels the urgency of Jamaica's Spotlight Initiative.

The Spotlight Initiative has also facilitated increased dialogue among Jamaica's development partners and greater collaboration around prevention and education efforts is already happening. This year, we will join to accelerate prevention efforts with a national campaign to augment the efforts of the government's 'No Excuse for Abuse' programme led by the Ministry of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport.

We must take a whole-of-society approach to moving violence against women and girls out of the shadows and into the Spotlight, if we are to truly end all forms of violence against women and girls and to achieve gender equality in this lifetime.

Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica is committed to this cause of improving the quality of life for women and girls who are plagued by the inhumane act of gender-based violence. We will continue working closely with the Government of Jamaica, implementing partners and civil society organisations to strengthen the nation's response to gender-based violence.





Her Excellency

Ms. Marianne Van Steen

Ambassador of the European Union to Jamaica, Belize, The Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and The Cayman Islands.

The European Union is firmly committed to advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in Jamaica and indeed, around the world. The high level of gender-based violence continues to erode attempts at achieving gender equality and the broader Sustainable Development Goals. That is why the EU and the United Nations are working with the Government of Jamaica and civil society groups to keep women and girls safe.

The EU is serious about tackling family violence and we have signalled this by earmarking eight million euros to finance the Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica, 50 million euros for the Caribbean and 500 million euros globally. Spotlight provides a unique opportunity to move beyond conversations and well-placed intentions, in a push to implement meaningful programmes and

interventions that will prevent and mitigate family violence. Additionally, Spotlight stands out based on its comprehensive approach to tackling family violence by connecting the dots and improving the state of play within and across key sectors.

As a result, the 2021 work plan has a keen focus on improving the ways in which nurses, police officers, justice system personnel and other frontline workers think about and respond to gender-based violence. Other deliverables include, supporting the establishment of national shelters for survivors of abuse as well as educating parents, both women and men, on issues related to gender-based violence. This programme of activities should have a positive impact over the long term.

This year has been filled with highs and lows, but we must ensure that the push to eliminate family violence remains top of mind. The recent passage of the Sexual Harassment Bill in the Houses of Parliament is a major win for Jamaica. We are pleased that the team from the United Nations Development Programme, under Spotlight, played a role in shaping this critical piece of legislation. We look forward to full implementation in due course.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the relevance of the Spotlight Initiative as child sexual abuse and intimate partner violence are often hidden in plain sight. We all have a role to play in the elimination of gender-based violence and now is the time for action. The success of Spotlight hinges on the continued involvement of the Government, civil society and citizens, as we design a future in which every woman and girl can realise her full potential.



Key Milestones of the Spotlight Initiative to Date

OUTCOME

1

POLICY AND LEGISLATION

The Spotlight Initiative supported legislative reform for the following Acts to strengthen EAWG, gender equality and non-discrimination that respond to the rights of women and girls.

- Domestic Violence Act,
- Sexual Offences Act,
- Offence Against the Person Act,
- Child Care and Protection Act,
- The Sexual Harassment Bill

The programme also strengthened staff of human rights institutions and Civil Society Organizations in their understanding of laws around ending VAWG & to advocate for legislative reform and policies on ending VAWG.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

In collaboration with government agencies, the programme supported the development of National Strategies and Plans to prevent and respond to VAWG:

At the parish level the Clarendon and St Thomas Local Sustainable Development Plans were updated to incorporate VAWG strategies.

VAWG strategies were also integrated in national crime prevention programmes through a collaboration with the Jamaica Social Investment Fund (JSIF), that resulted in the inclusion of VAWG Prevention Strategies aimed at supporting the elimination of violence against women and girl in the Zones of Special Operations.

To support the sustainability of EAWG interventions the University of the West Indies was engaged to integrate VAWG modules into pre-service training curriculum for medical students

OUTCOME

2

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KEY MILESTONES OF THE SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVE TO DATE

OUTCOME

3

PREVENTION AND SOCIAL NORMS

To support change in attitudes and perception towards gender-based violence there is an emphasis in developing programmes for inclusion in education curricula to promote gender equitable norms and attitudes.

Training curriculum developed and teacher training initiated to deliver VAWG related content as part of the Health and Family Life Education Curriculum.

Teachers and administrators in eight target schools sensitized on VAWG including support services.

Approximately 480 women, men, girls and boys participated in community-based activities to support gender equitable norms, attitudes and behaviours.

470 women and girls who are victims of VAWG reached through tele support from Eve for Life and 400 teen mothers received counseling and learning support through the Women's Centre Foundation of Jamaica.

OUTCOME

4

ESSENTIAL SERVICES

In collaboration with Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) 6 Domestic Violence Intervention Centers (DVICs) will be established. The DVIC will offer dispute resolution services, counselling and referral services for victims and perpetrators of violence.

OUTCOME

5

DATA AVAILABILITY AND MANAGEMENT

The Spotlight Initiative trained 37 key staff in National Statistical System on methods, approaches and ethical guidelines on the collection and analysis of VAWG prevalence data (17 government organizations participated).

Additionally, 12 CSOs and 2 Government organizations were trained on VAWG Administrative data.

The programme supported the expansion of the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS) in training staff and providing resources for collection and analysis of VAWG at the Princess Margaret & Lionel Town hospitals.

OUTCOME

6

STRENGTHENING THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT

Small Grants of up to USD\$10,000 have been provided to 7 civil society organizations. Cumulatively small grants have aided over 240 women and members of key and vulnerable populations.

- Mona Social Services (MSS)
- Women's Empowerment for Change (WE Change)
- Young Women/Men of Purpose (YWOP/YMOP)
- Jamaica Association for the Deaf (JAD)
- Jamaica Household Workers' Union (JHWU)
- Jamaican Network of Seropositives (JN+)
- Stand Up for Jamaica

The Jamaica Association for the Deaf (JAD) granted supported GBV prevention workshops for Hard of Hearing women and girls: The intervention undertaken were:

GBV awareness sessions aim at building participants confidence to report incidents of GBV and access to victim support services.

Engaged first responders within the Deaf community and mainstream providers of victim support services to identify limitations that prevent Deaf and Hard of Hearing women and girls in accessing services and strategies for increasing accessibility for Deaf female victims.

Addressing family violence from a Men and Boys perspective, highlighting the **Foundations Programme**

By SHERYL-ANN THOMAS-SCOTT

Communication Analyst, UN Women Multi-Country Office - Caribbean

As Covid-19 cases surged across the globe and right here at home in Jamaica, stay-at-home orders were put in place. With many schools closed and workers furloughed, or working from home, people have been confined to their homes. This limited personal movement and increased anxiety because of one public health crisis has contributed to another public health and human rights issue: family violence. Curfews intended to protect the public and prevent widespread infection, have left many victims trapped with their abusers.

The Spotlight Initiative is a global European Union and United Nations initiative to end violence against women and girls. The themes for each region focus on the prevalent forms of violence experienced by women and girls. In Jamaica and the wider Caribbean, it is focused on Family Violence.

When someone experiences family violence, their well-being, security and survival are threatened. There are many terms for family violence with similar meanings. Under the Spotlight Initiative, family violence covers

physical, social, sexual, economic and emotional abuse and acts of aggression within relationships that are considered as family connections or akin to family connection, including intimate partners whether married, living together or dating, and violence between parents and children.

Violence generally has been a challenge in Jamaica with the highest rate of homicide in the region at 46.5 per 100,000 people in 2020. It is therefore no surprise that family violence has also increased. There has been major public outcry in the last year due to the murders of women such as Nevia Sinclair and Andrea Lowe-Garwood who were all victims of different forms of family violence. For interventions and policies to have serious and lasting impact on the Jamaican society, a comprehensive approach must be taken, including actions that engage men who have been perpetrators of violence, and the many men who are not.

Dr. Peter Weller - a Jamaican Community Clinical Psychologist based in Trinidad and Tobago, and former Chairman of

the Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN)- said for interventions to be effective and focused, all key stakeholders – policy makers, social scientists, schools and civil society organizations – should understand the dynamics of family and the varied roles men play.

“Most often we hear about it (family violence) in terms of the physical violence and certainly, most often it is perpetrated by men against those who are perceived as “weaker” We need more specifics about all the dynamics of family violence including the emotional abuse which usually precedes the physical abuse , not to shift focus away from men, but maintained in the fact that violent dynamics, have to be understood from all perspectives. Men are perpetrators, we must deal with that, but that doesn’t take place in a vacuum,” said Dr. Weller.

Dr. Weller also noted that the men and boys who perpetrate family violence, play this role especially if they have been programmed to think that they are entitled to power and control. “The stereotype concepts are that men are all the P words: powerful, protector, provider, procreator and very often portrayed as the perpetrators of violence and aggression and less often acknowledged as the prey of violence and aggression. Yet men are more likely to be the prey of violence primarily from other men. Engaging men is therefore a critical part of the solution”.

He continued: “If a man has been taught and programmed that he should be the provider, then women have also been taught and programmed that men should be providers, and you can have dissonance taking place

if the man is not able to provide but he is expected to provide and he thinks he should provide. Then, that can lead to significant stress. Now, that doesn’t take away his accountability or give permission to act on violent feelings of frustration, rather this is just an understanding of the dynamic and expectations that can lead to certain perspectives and then behaviours and then actions.”

According to The Women’s Health Survey 2016 – Jamaica, 25% of women partnered with men who had witnessed their mothers being abused and were themselves beaten as children. These women had higher rates of intimate partner violence than women whose partners had no childhood experience of violence. It is not inevitable, but if actions aren’t taken to intervene it can become a cycle of violence.

“In the Jamaican context, everyday examples (of unhealthy masculinity) range from an attraction to risky behaviour and a propensity for violent outbursts to the tendency to rephrase words [‘no Mandeville, gyaldeville’ etc],” said Owen ‘Blakka’ Ellis, performing artist, writer, educator and member of CariMAN.

The good news is that there are initiatives such as the Spotlight Initiative and many others led by CSOs and the Government of Jamaica to break the cycle. Director of the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Mrs Sharon Coburn Robinson highlighted several initiatives: the Way Out Project; Young Father’s Initiative with the Women’s Centre; Gender Ambassadors in Schools and the Refocus Perpetrator Intervention Programme, which is training implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Justice.

OPINION EDITORIAL

“This programme looks at the why; why did you become a perpetrator because in many cases we’ve discovered that when we are able to identify the reason behind the violence and how what you did affected the family, the individual themselves and the global village,” said Mrs. Coburn Robinson about the Refocus Perpetrator Intervention Programme.

UN Women also has a family violence - GBV prevention programme for youth - The Foundations Programme. This programme will be introduced this year through Spotlight, aimed at contributing to and strengthening prevention approaches to addressing Gender-Based Violence in the Caribbean, teaching core gender concepts such as gender socialisation, and Human Rights to young women and men (13 to 24 years of age). This programme will be introduced in communities in the parishes of St. Thomas, Clarendon, Westmoreland and the Kingston and St. Andrew Metropolitan Area.

Ellis also outlined grassroots solutions that address family violence from a men’s perspective and have driven change at the community level.

“The exposure to positive alternatives and structured mentoring relationships have worked and can be strengthened. Mentorship programmes as well as solutions that foster empathetic facilitation of spaces where men can bond, bawl, vent and vision together have impacted change,” Ellis highlighted.

Mrs Sharon Coburn Robinson added:

“In many cases, though violence may be between family members, it is done at the community level so when we do one and one engagement with community members, we indicate to them what legislation is in place, what social services exists, and how they can protect them, individuals are more aware of they can truly avert danger.”

An end to family violence and violence more broadly across Jamaica cannot happen without the full engagement of women, girls and men and boys. The Spotlight Initiative will continue to engage all relevant stakeholders, including Jamaican men as advocates and key actors to end Family Violence.

FIGHT LIKE
A MAN
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN



Ending violence against women is everyone's business. Here is a visual reminder from the "16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence" 2020 campaign.

I help parents prevent family violence

By RICARDO BROWN

At age 12, I learned a lesson about violence when I became a babysitter in my extended family. Growing up, I had already learned that the way to discipline was to beat, and so with my brothers, sister, and cousins, that was what I did. But then one day one of my brothers fought back and said, “Wait, when we get older, we are going to kill you.”

Reflecting today, I am of course glad that it never came to that – and that later in life I got to apologize to my siblings. Many of us don’t realize how close we are to becoming perpetrators of violence, or that we might already be, or what terrible things that our upbringings can lead us to do.

When you see the news, the reports of family violence are so appalling you really see the need for something to help resolve things differently. My role as a community facilitator for **Children First** in the **Spotlight Initiative** is to train families on how to improve how they relate to each other to help prevent situations becoming violent.

The realities of inter-generational violence

With the **Spotlight Initiative** I am happy to be on a pathway to recruit families and I am not afraid to go into any community to try and help them become better mothers and fathers, and that includes me as well. We hope for families to recognize that there are other ways to correct their children, to mentor and to nurture children.

Really it is about engaging them in discussions and bringing out from them what they know deep down is right from wrong. Parenting it about how best to deal with a situation, like how to deal with a child who is “rebellious”. We were all brought up with “if you spare the rod, you spoil the child,” but **beating doesn’t work** and that is something that I have realized over the years, including in my day job where I work as an Agriculture and Integrated Science teacher.

Many of the interactions I see between my male and female students I can recognize as inter-generational, passed down from parents and older siblings or relatives. So, for instance, some male students like to do what they say is a “gentle hit”, but which is felt with greater force. Most female students are uncomfortable with this.

Demonstrating non-violent approaches

I have a male student now, and I have seen it more than once, where a girl is verbally abusive, and his response is to use physical abuse. The male student will claim that he was not hurting her, and so I must explain to him that physical approach is wrong.

Likewise, I also must explain to the female student that her language is verbal abuse.

In situations like this we must explain to students what is appropriate and how they can relate to one another to resolve or avoid conflict, which of course might be the opposite of what they have taught at home or in the community. This shows how important it is for interventions to be made available in both the school and home environments.

Our boys and girls need to be given the skills to relate to each other better, but sadly that it is not always what is being passed down to them. All of us can question our own approach and indeed I as a father have had to change mine to ensure I listen more.

Children must be allowed to speak up

Children are not only receivers in the communication process. They must be listened to and given answers in a manner that they are able to understand properly. I no longer hold the view that they must be

seen and not heard. They have a voice too!

I must say that the Spotlight Initiative has made me more aware of the impacts of family and gender-based violence and therefore, I will continue to share what I have learned in formal and informal discussions to bring about the needed change.

Better men and women should work to be better parents, who will ultimately lead to a better society. I am now trained and equipped with my Family Focus Guide from the Parenting Partners of the Caribbean to facilitate families in formal and informal discussions. My thanks go to the Children First Agency for giving me the opportunity to express myself.

I am still a work in progress. I will have to apply the strategies to myself and accept feedback to improve as I go along. The project provides counselling for facilitators, which I welcome to deal with any underlying issues I might have. We must be conscious that even a doctor should not treat him or herself and therefore if we need any help, we should not be afraid to get it.



Ricardo Brown and his family

Supporting survivors of family violence in Jamaica

By JASCENE DUNKLEY-MALCOLM

Communications and Partnerships Specialist, Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean, United Nations Population Fund



A woman collects a care package from Woman Inc., a voluntary NGO in Jamaica dedicated to helping survivors of violence against women and girls. Photo: Woman Inc. Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Leanna Brown*, a 49-year-old mother of three, has been volunteering with Woman Inc. since she was 17. The Spotlight Initiative-supported, non-government organization (NGO) brings together volunteers from all walks of life who are dedicated to assisting survivors of gender-based violence (GBV).

Ms. Brown first heard about the organization through a friend who was experiencing violence at home.

“I realized that we have to do something about this [gender-based violence], because it has so many far-reaching consequences,” says Ms. Brown. “I feel for people when they have [violent] situations.”

Woman Inc. manages a crisis centre with a 24-hour hotline that provides remote counselling and information. They also connect survivors with police; justice, health, and sexual and reproductive services; material and financial aid; and safe accommodation in high-risk situations.

According to the Women’s Health Survey (2016), more than one in four women in Jamaica aged 15 to 64 has experienced intimate physical and/or sexual

“I realized that we have to do something about gender-based violence. It has so many far-reaching consequences.” - Leanna Brown*, Woman Inc. volunteer

violence in her lifetime. Of those, less than 40 per cent seek help. Lack of trust in the system, a lack of knowledge about their rights, fear and the normalization of violence can all discourage women and girls from contacting support services. This makes the work of organizations like Woman Inc. even more critical. In fact, Woman Inc. assisted over 400 women between October 2020 and March 2021.

A universal issue

When Ms. Brown began working with Woman Inc., she never imagined that she might be in the same situation as the women she assisted on the hotline - but that’s exactly what happened. When her husband hit her during an argument, it was her work with Woman Inc. that gave her the courage to leave.

“[I thought,] If I let it slide, it might happen again and we are not going to let that happen,” she says. “I went to my husband and said we can’t do this, you need to go. I think if I were not more aware, I might have allowed it to slide and it would have happened again.”

The road to recovery

Serving women and girls throughout the pandemic means ensuring that survivors of violence can access to the services that they need, but also that they can become and stay financially independent from their abusers.

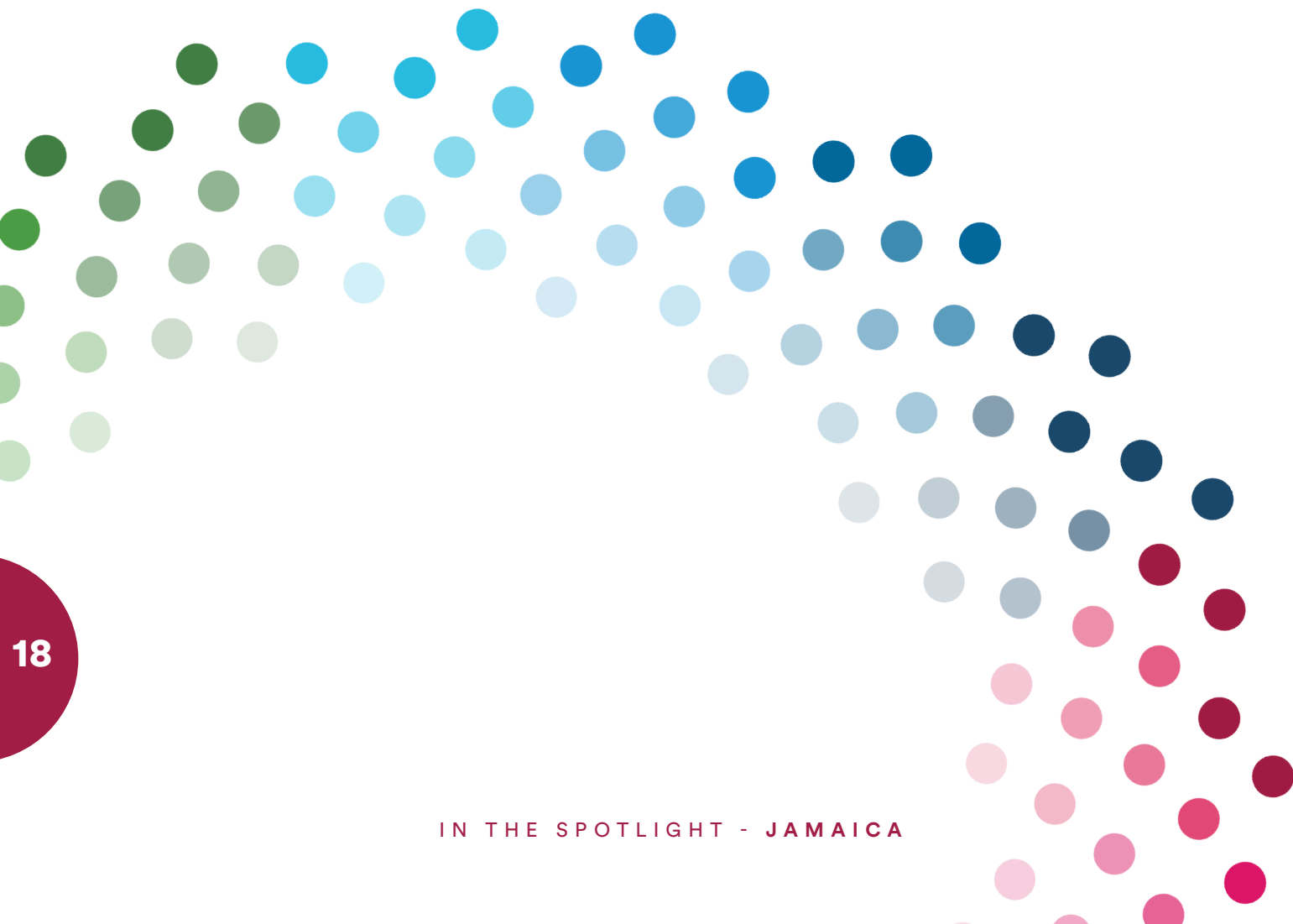
Marie Allen*, a 40-year-old mother of two and a survivor of domestic violence, is one of more than 100 women who recently received a Spotlight Initiative bag from Woman Inc. containing hand sanitizer, masks, soaps, sanitary pads and other essentials to get her through the pandemic. Woman Inc. has also ensured that Ms. Allen’s daughter has the tools she needs to continue remote learning at school.

“It wasn’t easy for me [to leave] but I have some good people around to help me.” - Marie Allen, Woman Inc. client

After meeting her ex-husband at the age of 14, Ms. Allen became pregnant with his child at 16 and they decided to marry when she turned 18. That was when “all the abuse came down on me,” she says.

It was difficult to leave him because her husband was the main financial provider. But she says that counselling, family and friends, her faith and assistance from organizations like Woman Inc. have helped her rise to the challenges. Today, she sees a bright future for herself and her children

“It wasn’t easy for me but I have some good people around to help me, like Woman Inc., the Bureau of Gender Affairs (BGA) and the Ministry of Labour. The counselling is the thing that helped me most of all,” she says.



Building Community Change Champions for Gender-Based Violence - One Community at a Time

By STEFAN MORRIS

Communications, Spotlight Initiative

Preventing gender-based violence (GBV) requires everyone's help. Change starts on the grass-root level with people of influence within their communities.

Junior Rowe, Nicholas 'John' Denton, and Karlene Tyrell are three Community Change Champions for GBV committed to moving the needle to end gender-based violence in Jamaica.

The Spotlight Initiative in Jamaica interviewed them at the recently concluded Community Change Champions for GBV workshop. They shared the positives this training has and will afford them in the future. More notably, they were all very aware of the Spotlight Initiative and its work in Jamaica.

We are the change we want to see

Junior Rowe, Principal of the Riverton Meadows Early Childhood Centre managed by the St. Patrick's Foundation said, *"It (the training) was so amazing! It impacted my life significantly and when I listened that other communities have similar issues with*

Domestic Violence, I was empowered to do more in my community."

Mr. Rowe added that *"This training has raised my awareness of gender-based violence and I will go back into my community and show them that there are avenues to resolve problems in their families without violence."*

"I will also be meeting with the Member of Parliament and formal mentorship groups coming out of this workshop to assist in the process of ending violence against women and girls in my community," Mr. Rowe said.

The goals of each session were to increase self-efficacy and awareness of community leaders; provide participants with core techniques and information to respond to family and gender-based violence, and to facilitate community-led advocacy and networking to effectively respond to family and domestic violence in their unique locations.

The sexual violation of the girl child and violence against women in Jamaica has become normalized, despite laws and institutions to prevent sexual violence. The

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES

socio-cultural contexts that enable violence especially against girls have not been fully addressed. There is a need for a more victim-centered approach to the continuum of prevention, care, and support for young girls who experience sexual violence.

Another participant, Nicholas ‘John’ Denton shared that *“After the workshop, it showed me a lot of things I didn’t understand about GBV. This workshop taught me how to take things from a different approach.”* Mr. Denton is a role model for many boys in his community and shared that he counsels many of the young boys to *“learn to reason out things and discuss before it reaches the point of domestic violence.”*

“This training session helped me a lot because as I returned to my hometown, I saw signs of abuse and I was able to talk to the parties involved and show them what I learned.” “I

want to big up Miss Joy Crawford, Eve for Life Director for changing my life for the better with my response to domestic violence in my community and will help to push me toward seeing people being able to move around peacefully in my community” he added.

Another participant, Karlene Tyrell shared that she has known of Eve for Life since 2019. *“This workshop opened my eyes as I thought I was doing the correct thing. It taught me the difference between tolerance and acceptance for persons within the LGBT community who face domestic violence.”* She further added that *“Gender-based violence is a see no evil, speak no evil concept within her community”*

Her main takeaway from the session was *“I have to work on myself for me to help the community. My partner (who also attended the session) and I are planning our first*



Participants of the Spotlight Initiative Change Champion Workshop pose for the camera after an empowering week of activities to help them make the change they want to see in their communities.

sensitization session on gender-based, family violence with added support through Eve for Life who will do HIV testing.” “We have already identified coming out of this workshop that we can help sensitise and help them to not use their own stigmas to know right from wrong”

There is no excuse for abuse

The Community Change Champion workshop led by Eve for Life, a civil society organization, hosted over 20 community leaders spanning 1 week from July 15 to 19 at Holiday Inn, Jamaica in Montego Bay. The lead facilitator, Executive Director of Eve for Life, Joy Crawford aimed to educate and mobilize community leaders to reduce violence, end sexual abuse and exploitation of adolescent girls and young women in Jamaica. This will positively impact their communities and promote safety and security.

The sessions supported the ethos of the Spotlight Initiative very closely teaching

definitions and characteristics of family and domestic violence establishing change through community synergy and engendering gender equality through psych-dynamic reflections and small group peer learning sessions.

All participants strongly expressed that, “There is no excuse for abuse” and shared collectively that all forms of violence are wrong and as citizens of Jamaica, we must raise the quality of our lives by treating each other with love and respect.

This session will positively impact the lives of the participants and further empower them to take up space and action within their communities. The use of violence is always a choice and taking responsibility is the first step towards behaviour change. GBV is a catalyst in Family and domestic violence and one community at a time, the Spotlight Initiative through Eve for Life will continue to change the lives of women and girls.

GPS Units to support integration of GBV prevention strategies in community plans



Ten GPS (Global Positioning System) Units have been handed over to the government of Jamaica under the European Union/United Nations Jamaica Spotlight Initiative to facilitate the integration of gender-based violence prevention strategies into community-level local sustainable development plans.

The Trimble TDC600 handheld devices valued at \$18 754 USD, will support efficient data collection, community mapping and profile creation in the field. They were officially handed over to the Minister of Local Government and Rural Development Desmond McKenzie by United Nations Development Programme Resident

Representative Denise E Antonio on behalf of the joint coordinating team for Spotlight Initiative, at a recent virtual ceremony.

Minister Desmond McKenzie in accepting the donation said the devices will strengthen not just the capacity of the local authorities to develop and implement its local

sustainable development programme, but will also enhance and create a wider arena for discussion on the challenging issue of gender-based violence.

“I am pleased that Kingston and St. Andrew and Clarendon are going to be in receipt of this advanced level of technology to help them not just in terms of their overall planning and implementation programme but also to look at how we will be able to maintain and sustain the development programmes within the respective communities across the country,” Minister McKenzie said.

The UNDP Resident Representative said the joint UN team recognizes the pivotal role that the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development plays in national and community development, and by extension in driving change at the local levels. “This role is critical in achieving equality at the national, local and community levels and addressing the development needs of women and men,” she said.

Ms Antonio said applying proven technology for improved research and field work to

support and inform strategic planning is critical to knowing the full extent of the challenges in support of more effective responses. “We look forward to far-reaching positive impacts of this donation as we all work together to achieve the development goals of Jamaica,” she stated.

In Jamaica, the Spotlight Initiative will invest €8 million over three years on a range of efforts – focused in four parishes – to prevent and reduce family violence, which mostly affects girls and women. Family violence refers to acts of abuse and aggression in family or close-knit relationships. This includes domestic violence, intimate partner violence, child sexual abuse and corporal punishment.

According to recent statistics, 28 per cent of women in Jamaica experience physical or sexual violence in their lifetime. In 2018, 71 per cent of girls under 18 who were victims of crime had been raped. Two out of 10 girls aged 15 to 19 years think it is okay for a husband or partner to hit his wife or partner, and 85 per cent of children experience violent discipline at home.



Initiated by the European Union and the United Nations.



"Enhanced national capacity to collect, map and analyze the extent of intentional injuries is an important pillar for improving local efforts to reduce violence against women and girls ... We can now generate risk profiles for different types of injuries from 5 high traffic locations."

Spotlight Initiative boosts national capacity to **track violence-related injuries**

Government's capacity to track injuries arising from incidences of violence against women and girls has been bolstered with the provision of equipment, technical support and training valuing 5.2 Million JMD to the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS).

The equipment, including six computers, four wireless routers and two UPS, was officially handed over on Monday (23 August) by Spotlight Initiative Jamaica, a joint intervention of the European Union and United Nations Jamaica, to the Ministry of Health and Wellness.

The donation will be assigned to the Accident and Emergency (A&E) departments of the Princess Margaret and Lionel Town hospitals, which will bring the current number of JISS sites in A&E departments to 11 across the four regional health authorities.

The JISS tracks violence related injuries, accident and unintentional injuries, suicide attempts and road traffic crash injuries.

Ava Whyte Anderson, UNDP Programmes Specialist A.I., in representing The UNDP Resident Representative Denise E Antonio,

disclosed that Spotlight Initiative will make additional donations of computers to the Port Antonio hospital by September, effectively expanding the JISS to 12 sites nationwide.

She said the equipment will bolster national capacity to collect, analyze and apply strategic plans to incidences of violence against women and girls, and will be supplemented by training for staff at the target hospitals to support effective collection and management of the data.

Ms Whyte-Anderson said the support from Spotlight Initiative is packaged to address the significant institutional capacity challenges related to data production and analysis of intentional injuries. "The expanded JISS, combined with police data and community-based surveys, can now generate risk profiles for different types of injuries from 11 high traffic locations. In so doing, it is a valuable asset in tracking and monitoring family violence including violence against women and intimate partner violence (IPV)," she noted.

"Importantly, the data can be harnessed to design responsive monitoring and prevention programmes, as well as support and evaluate policy, legislative and intervention control measures," she further observed.



Ms Nadine Preddie, Lionel Town Hospital, Clarendon, Southern Regional Health Authority receive the gift of networking equipment from Spotlight Initiative

In accepting the donation on behalf of the Government, Kadian Birch, Director, Programme Coordination, Planning and Strategic Initiatives (Actg.) representing the Permanent Secretary Dunstan E Bryan said the Ministry of Health is pleased to receive the technical support to enhance operations of injury surveillance. “This underscores importance of partnership in public health and the successes that can be derived,” she stated.

Ms Birch outlined that the information from the JISS highlights the impact of violence related injuries on communities, identifies the circumstances of road traffic crash injuries helps with the calculation of the cost of treatment of these injuries. She further disclosed that the data is analysed for use by the Ministry of Health and Wellness in planning of hospital operations, injury prevention programmes including public education initiatives, mental health interventions and the management of persons who have been subjected to violence.

The Spotlight Initiative is a global, multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls. Launched with a seed funding commitment of €500 million from the European Union, the initiative represents an unprecedented global effort to invest in gender equality and women’s empowerment as a precondition and driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Information Corner

– Key Definitions

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will that is based on socially ascribed gender differences between males and females. Examples include sexual violence, sexual exploitation/abuse, domestic violence, and more.

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Family violence (FV) is physical, social, sexual, economic and emotional abuse and acts of aggression within relationships that are considered as family connections. It includes married couples, intimate partners whether living together or dating, and violence between parents and children.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV)

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) refers to any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to those in the relationship. Examples include acts of physical violence (such as slapping, hitting, kicking and beating), sexual violence, emotional (psychological) among others.



CALENDAR WITH IMPORTANT WOMEN'S DATES

October 2

United Nations Day of Nonviolence

October 11

International Day of the Girl

November 25

International Day to End Violence Against Women

November 25 to December 10

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence -

December 3

United Nations International Day of Disabled Persons

December 6

UN Human Rights Day

Did you **KNOW?**



Violence against **women** and **girls** is one of the most widespread and devastating human rights violations in our world today.

1 IN **3**

WOMEN WORLDWIDE
HAS EXPERIENCED

**PHYSICAL AND/OR
SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

IN HER LIFETIME



#WithHer

In Jamaica,

1 in every **4** women has

experienced **sexual abuse** in Jamaica - most often from someone known to them.

In Jamaica, girls under the **age of 18** made up the majority

56% of all reported rape cases in Jamaica (2018)

HIGHLIGHTS





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