



PERMANENT MISSION OF
JAMAICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS

STATEMENT BY

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AT THE

**FIFTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

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JAMAICA'S STATEMENT TO THE 51ST SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

MADAM CHAIR
MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION
DISTINGUISHED DELEGATES

It is a privilege to be here and to be given the opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the Government of Jamaica concerning issues of gender equality, women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and the girl child.

Let me also commend you the members of the Commission on the tireless contribution you have been making through the years to ensure that women's status is enhanced in the pursuit of gender equality and gender justice.

Jamaica's Efforts to Promote Gender Equality

The Government of Jamaica is committed to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls and continues to make efforts to promote gender equality and human rights in keeping with the tenets of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform of Action, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international treaties espousing women's rights and gender equality.

In that regard, several initiatives were pursued to afford greater protection to women and girls. These include the establishment of a National Gender Advisory Committee in 2004. The main objective of the Committee is to advise the Government on the strategic policy direction for its gender portfolio and to develop a multi-sectoral consultative process, in order to facilitate gender mainstreaming activity in all Government policies, plans and programmes. The policy will entail addressing the issue of violence against women and the girl child and provide for the development of a national action plan on violence against women and girls.

The Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls

Although a number of initiatives on violence against women and girls have been ongoing over the years, the deeply entrenched stereotypical views regarding power relations and masculinity along with the negative images of women in the media and other electronic forms still counter the aggressive work being carried out by Government and NGOs in this area. The rising problem of human trafficking is also presenting its own challenges.

the wider international community in the area of women's empowerment and gender equality.

Madam Chair

In conclusion, as we gather together again as women and men from our various regions, we know that we face both common and peculiar challenges but we also know that the discourses and best practices shared through this 51st session will not only guide us as to the way forward but will also re-energize and re-ignite our spirits in the struggle towards gender equality and sustainable development.

Finally allow me to re-affirm the commitment of the Government of Jamaica to the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls and to the full inclusion of women and girls as active participants in all aspects of the development process.

I wish for us all a useful and fruitful session. Thank You.