



**PERMANENT MISSION OF JAMAICA
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**77th SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
THIRD COMMITTEE**

STATEMENT BY

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AFFAIRS**

ON

**AGENDA ITEM 109: CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL
JUSTICE**

CONFERENCE ROOM 1

MONDAY, 3RD OCTOBER 2022

Mr. Chair,

Jamaica aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas on behalf of CARICOM.

I wish to deliver, in my national capacity, a statement on agenda item 109: Crime prevention and criminal justice.

Mr. Chair,

Like several other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, and indeed, across the globe, Jamaica is faced with an epidemic of crime and violence. Our hard-earned gains towards sustainable development and the national vision of Jamaica as the place of choice to live, work, raise families and do business by 2030 are constantly threatened by the scourge of crime.

As a consequence of the pandemic and the disruption in education, challenges with mental health are being increasingly expressed in violent ways. The propensity to resolve conflict or cope with social and mental stresses through violence requires a public health response.

In this regard, Jamaica continues to engage in global initiatives such as the Partnership to End Violence Against Children, and has increased the allocation of resources for programmes and initiatives targeting vulnerable and at-risk youth, including juvenile offenders and unattached youth. In addition, we have recently empanelled a National Commission on the Prevention of Violence to advise the government on building out an articulated public health and social services response.

Mr. Chair,

Of particular importance to Jamaica is the need to address transnational organised crime. At the domestic level, we continue to adopt short, medium

and long-term strategies that will apprehend and remove criminals from society, within the framework of our Constitution, legislation and jurisprudence. However, the situation is exponentially complicated and exacerbated by the influx of illegal and unregistered small arms into our country. From transnational criminal enterprises to street level gangs, to the misguided youth in impoverished urban communities, the availability of guns is driving an ever-increasing homicide rate, one of the highest in the world, per capita.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness stated in his recent address to the General Assembly that, "Jamaica does not manufacture guns, but our population suffers from the effects of widely available guns. The countries that manufacture weapons that are available to the public must implement stronger measures to ensure that those weapons do not end up on the streets and in the hands of people for whom they were not intended."

The concern surrounding the presence of illegal drugs in developed countries has warranted a war on drugs that is being prosecuted, and Jamaica has been steadfast in the monitoring and protection of our waters and shores.

Similarly, **Mr. Chair**, we implore member states to be concerned about guns on the streets of developing countries like Jamaica and, today, we call for a "war on guns". We are willing to work with our international partners to develop collaborative efforts that will result in the apprehension, conviction and extradition, as appropriate, of those who play an integral role in the guns for drugs trade.

In closing, Jamaica reaffirms its commitment to support all efforts towards the prevention of crime and violence within the United Nations framework, and to strengthening multilateral cooperation as we seek to ensure the safety, security and prosperity of all our peoples.

I thank you.

