



VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE

VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE
SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES
10 Years of Working for a Violence-Free Jamaica



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Front cover: Peace Day 2008 – Over 1,000 balloons were released in memory of persons who died violently since the start of the year. This was sponsored by PAHO/WHO.



Introducing the little ones to AutoSkills at Peace Festival

Acknowledgements

Thanks to our funding agencies – without their support we would not be able to achieve our objectives.

Thanks also to our implementation partners, in particular, Mona Geo Informatics, Peace Management Initiative, Ballazs and Whole Life Sports, Children First, Holy NetWorks, August Town Township project, the Jamaica Baptist Union, Yallahs Baptist Church, Ministry of National Security/the Community Security and Justice Programme (CSJP), Ministry of Health and the University Hospital of the West Indies.

Thanks to Christine McMorris of Kronos Investments for accounting support and to KPMG for assistance in providing audited accounts.

Thank you to our Board Members. When we come to the policy or negotiating table, both at the local and international level, your reputation is our backbone. Your ongoing support is vital as we work to achieve the goal of creating a violence free and safe Jamaica.

Thanks also to our many volunteers, who have assisted in the writing of proposals, reports and other areas that help us achieve our mission.

Message from the Chairperson

Violence is not a problem we can shoot our way out. As Mahatma Gandhi said, *“An eye for an eye leaves everyone blind”*.

In 2004, the Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) – Jamaica, was launched on the UWI Mona Campus with the message “Violence is Preventable” and a mandate to build an alliance with all sectors of society that would build safe communities where our children could grow up free from fear and violence.

Over the years, VPA has maintained linkages that provide crucial guidance and information to government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), Faith Based Organisations (FBOs), Community Based Organisations (CBOs), and the media, and has shared expertise internationally. VPA’s track record of violence prevention initiatives in Jamaica is based on:

- channelling of resources into programmes that exhibit best practices;
- collection, analysis and dissemination of violence-related data; and
- providing support for systematic change at the policy level.

In 2015, VPA’s mandate remains relevant to our survival as a nation. Experience has taught that harsh policing is ineffective in breaking the cycle of violence, and that violence will begin to reduce when a sustainable community-based approach is employed. Firm policing delivered to all communities an effective judicial system, and people-centred community development will allow the youth to achieve their potential while reducing violence.

VPA benefits from a growing team of young people who are dedicated to our mission. Parris Lyew-Ayee Jr. guides our GIS analysis; Tarik Weekes guides our police to map gangs; Nadiya Figueroa champions leadership training; Andre Marriott Blake works in youth advocacy; and Brittany Singh is seeking to transform education. VPA gains inspiration from the energy and persistence of community leaders who, despite all odds, provide services that transform the lives of high-risk youth.

There is much more that VPA plans to do to prevent violence in Jamaica, including:

1. Continued participation in International SGD Goals, especially Goal 16 – Reducing Armed Violence
2. Expanded relationship with the Ministry of National Security, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Local Government/Social Development Commission and the Heart Trust-NTA
3. Expanded best practise approaches to behaviour management programmes in schools
4. Expanded gender focus
5. Expanded child focus – early interventions through the Early Childhood Commission.

We look forward to expanding the impact of the prevention programmes to see a sustained community, parish and national change.

Dr. Elizabeth Ward
VPA Chairperson

Background

The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) is a network of WHO member states, international agencies and civil society organisations working to prevent violence. VPA participants share an evidence-based public health approach that targets the risk factors leading to violence and promotes multi-sectoral cooperation. Participants are committed to implement the recommendations of the World Report on Violence and Health. The global Violence Prevention Alliance was launched at the World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva, Switzerland, in January 2004.

The VPA (Jamaican Chapter) was launched in November 2004 at the UWI Medical Research

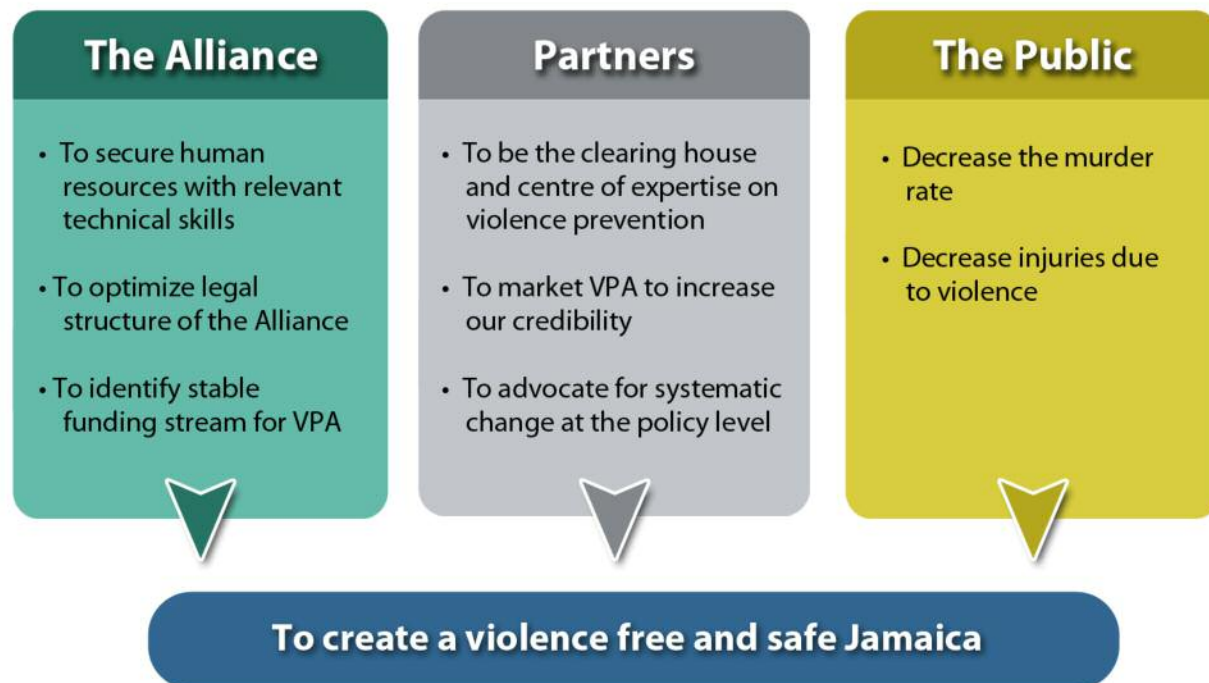
Conference. The VPA is a registered NGO with Charitable Status incorporated under the Companies Act.

The Alliance works within the framework of a public health approach that targets the root causes of violence and recognizes the need for improved services to mitigate the harmful effects of violence and to create a violence-free and safe Jamaica. The sharing of best practices for data collection, prevention programmes and victim services among participant institutions and groups that focus on different sub-types of violence, and supporting a behaviour and cultural change towards violence targeting community-based interventions and poor inner-city youths.

Objectives

- To support the promotion of primary prevention of violence, integrated community development and public education.
- To increase collaboration and exchange of information between organisations on violence prevention.
- To lobby for the integration of violence prevention into social and educational policies, thereby enhancing the promotion of gender and social equality.

Framework



Peace Day Concert, 2013

Management Structure

The VPA's Patron is His Excellency Sir Patrick Allen, the Governor General of Jamaica. The VPA also has a Board of Directors which comprises persons who have demonstrated excellence and successful leadership in their various fields. Members are:

- Dr. Elizabeth Ward
Chair, Violence Prevention Alliance
Jamaica Chapter
(also founding member of World VPA)
- The Most Rev. Charles Dufour
Archbishop of Jamaica
- Mr. Joseph Mahfood
Managing Director,
Wisynco Trading Ltd.
- Mr. Damian Hutchinson
Executive Director
Peace Management Initiative
- Mr. John Mahfood
Group Managing Director
Jamaica Teas
- Rev. Gary Harriott
General Secretary
Jamaica Council of Churches
- Mrs. Donna Duncan-Scott
Investment Broker/Managing Director
Jamaica Money Market Brokers Ltd
- Mrs. Margaret Brissett-Bolt
Principal, Holy Trinity High School
- Mrs. Kathleen Moss
Sierra Associates
Management Consultant and Business
Valuator
- The Hon. R. Danvers "Danny" Williams
Company Director, Founder/Director
Life of Jamaica Ltd.
- Dr. Deanna Ashley
Executive Director, Violence Prevention
Alliance – Jamaica Chapter
- Dr. Sidney McGill
Clinical Psychologist
Founder of CSALT
- Dr. Angela Ramsay
Consultant in Management, Educational
and Occupational Safety and Health
- Mrs Denese McFarlane
Health Specialist, Population & Health
Unit, Social Policy, Planning & Research
Division, Planning Institute of Jamaica

Board meetings are held once a year.

Dr. Elizabeth Ward, Chair of the Board, is a former Consultant with the Institute of Criminal Justice and Security, University of the West Indies. She has produced a wide range of publications and policy reports on violence and injury surveillance.

The Executive Director, Dr. Deanna Ashley, is the former Director of Health Promotion and Protection Division at the Ministry of Health, with years of experience in implementing population-based preventative and treatment services.

The programme is supported by Mrs. Winsome Heslop, Finance Officer. Part-time staff and consultants are employed to assist with the management of surveys.

In the future VPA hopes to expand its staff to include:

- **Technical Officer** – Key responsibility for research and analysis as well as monitoring and evaluation with specific focus on the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.
- **Learning NetWork and Safe Community Programme Coordinator** – To establish programmes and links with agencies and the communities involved to ensure that arrangements are working well. He/she will arrange provision of support such as capacity building, training workshops and research; and will facilitate the ground coordination of agency/community activities in order to provide/arrange technical assistance as required.
- **Communication Consultant** – To develop a communication strategy for violence prevention activities which will be community, nationally and regionally oriented.



#KeepOurChildrenSafe

**CHILDREN'S SAFETY AND SECURITY
OUR PRIORITY**

There are a number of levels on which the church can help the process:

Nationally and at Parish Level:

- Ecumenical services, musical tributes, and remembrances from families. Invite members of the entertainment and media fraternity to give support.

Locally:

The local observances must acknowledge the effect of loss on the family unit, so we need to find ways of engaging the entire community. For example:

- Drumming circles (2 hours of drumming in which anyone can join in).
- Circle time with children in communities affected.
- Circle time within households.
- Use of Play, Art, Music and Drama to reduce impact of grief and trauma.
- Town hall meetings to discuss better protection of our children.
- Safe places in communities where children can come and be safe.






OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCATE
 Email: info@oca.gov.jm || Website: www.oca.gov.jm
 @OCAJamaica1

Collaborating Agencies

Participation in the VPA is open to many kinds of organisations: governmental, non-governmental, inter-governmental, community-based and private. The participants are representatives from the following organisations:

Government Ministry/Agencies/Departments

- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of National Security
- Ministry of Education
- Jamaica Defence Force
- Jamaica Constabulary Force
- Planning Institute of Jamaica
- Social Development Commission
- Office of the Child Advocate
- Child Development Agency

United Nations Agencies

- United Nations Development Programme
- Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization
- United Nations Children's Fund
- UN Women

Tertiary Institutions

- The University of the West Indies
- University of Technology

Others

- Peace Management Initiative
- Children First
- Dispute Resolution Foundation
- Medical Association of Jamaica
- Nurses Association of Jamaica
- WMW (formerly Woman's Media Watch)
- Caribbean Child Development Centre
- Holy NetWorks
- Area Youth Foundation
- Representatives from the Private Sector, Youth Organisations, Sports Fraternity, Community-based Organisations and the Church Fraternity (Faith-based Organisations)



Meeting with stakeholders

The VPA Steering Committee Meetings

VPA holds monthly “Think Tank” meetings, every second Tuesday, on the UWI Mona Campus. The meeting is designed to bring together representatives from several voluntary and civil based organisations, governmental ministries and departments and international development partners, to share ideas, discuss the findings from studies and to guide strategies that will prevent violence in communities across Jamaica.

Each meeting focuses on a particular issue such as youth violence and parenting. Speakers are invited to the meeting to provide insight into the issues and to build collaboration.

Major results from the meetings have been the strengthening of partnerships with organisations nationally and internationally, and ensuring local community needs are addressed.

The Steering Committee meetings serve as a platform for the Alliance to network and also contribute and find out what is happening in communities through the work of our partners.

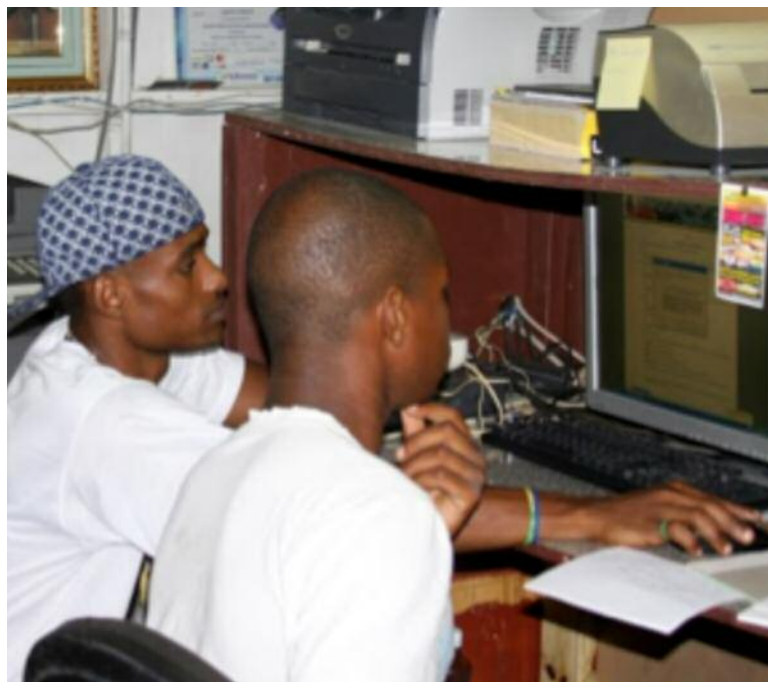
Some special areas of work of the VPA include:

- Development of the safe community concept with criteria for monitoring and evaluation of the safe communities.
- The testing and possible implementation in communities of the Safe Community 10 Point Plan.

- The development, philosophical underpinning, direction and execution of the yearly Peace for Prosperity Campaign.
- The monitoring and evaluation of activities emanating from activities in the Peace for Prosperity Campaign.

The VPA provides the participants with an infrastructure through which they can work together to:

- (a) build partnerships and increase the capacity for information-gathering and sharing on violence;
- (b) improve knowledge about what works in violence prevention and programming; and
- (c) encourage widespread implementation of policies and programmes known to be effective.



Community members receiving training in video editing

Funding

The Violence Prevention Alliance is funded by grants from national, regional and international agencies and private sector organisations.

During the period under review, the VPA secured ongoing programmatic funding from national organisations/foundations including:

- The University of the West Indies
- The Cecil Boswell Facey Foundation
- Lime Foundation
- JN Foundation
- Jamaica Money Market Brokers
- Jamaica Teas Ltd.
- Wysinco
- The University Hospital of the West Indies

International organisations including:

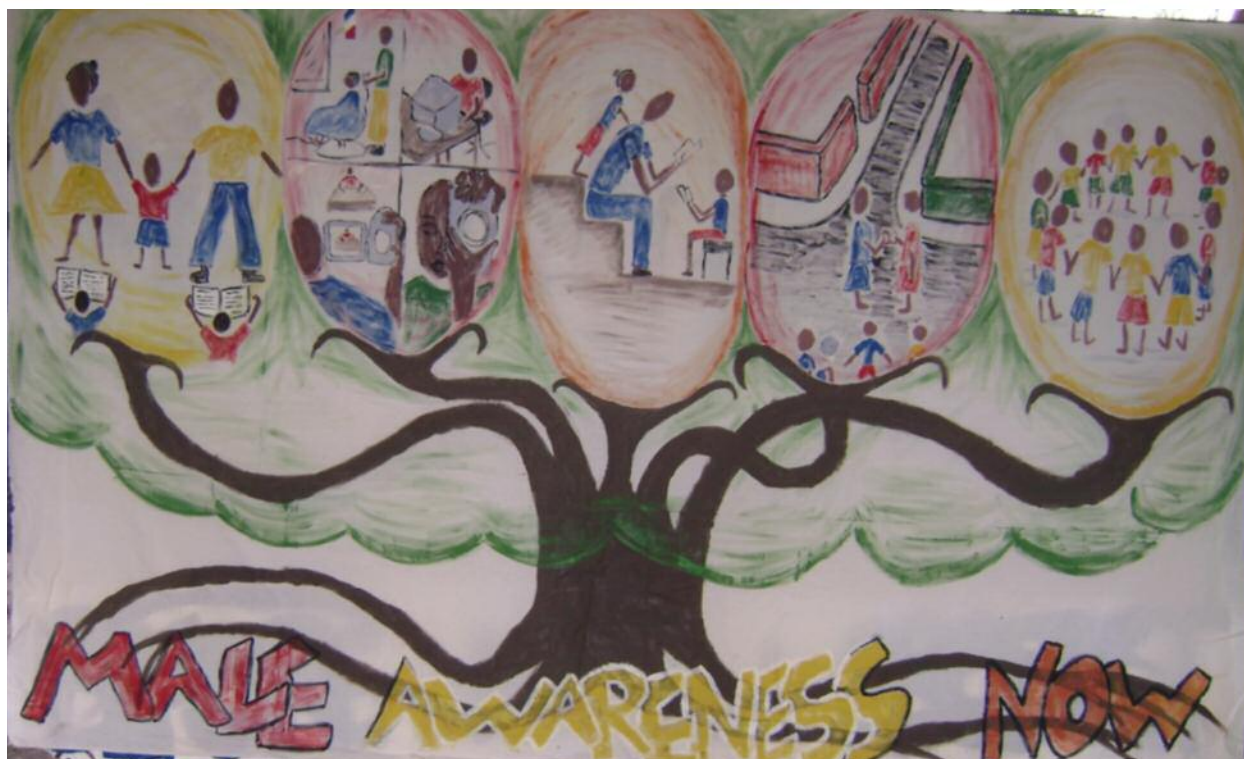
- Inter-American Development Bank (IADB)
- US Agency for International Development (USAID)
- World Bank/JAVA
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- Small Arms Survey (Geneva)
- UK Department for International Development (DIFID)
- Pan American Development Foundation (PADF)
- Paddington Recreation Grounds Tennis Enthusiasts (UK)
- Comic Relief (UK)
- Action on Armed Violence (AOVA)
- St. Andrews University and the Scotland Government
- WHO Violence and Injury Division
- Czech Republic Development Corporation.

Beneficiary communities also contributed to the cost of their projects in the form of cash or kind. The accounts of the VPA are audited annually by KPMG (Chartered Accountants) and are presented at the Board of Directors meeting.

On March 16, 2015, the VPA was registered as a Charitable Organization under Section 2 and Section 17 of the Charities Act, 2013, and as such is eligible for tax exemption or relief under the Income Tax, G.C., Property Tax, Stamp Duty, Transfer Tax, Customs Acts and the Provisional Collection of Tax (Minimum Business Tax) Order, 2014 (copy of VPA's Certificate of Registration as a Registered Charitable Organization is attached as Annex 2).



Little girl from Cecil Boswell Facey Basic School enjoying Peace Festival. The CB Facey Foundation is a sponsor of the Learning NetWorks Project



Children First Male Awareness Mural

Major Activities Undertaken/Supported By The Violence Prevention Alliance

PROJECTS

Local and International Outreach

International collaboration with WHO, US-based institutes and universities, and country violence prevention programmes in Mexico, Columbia, and South Africa.

Local forums with international input have been held on various topics: gang violence, youth violence, prevention of workplace violence, and best practises for violence prevention.

Safe Community Ladder

The safe community ladder is the VPA's framework that communities can use to interrupt

Community Violence. The approach to dealing with high-risk youth has been incorporated into the PIOJ Community Renewal Plan and other National Peace Initiatives. The Safe Community Ladder looks at community governance, health, education, police relations, development, spirituality and the environment.

Crime Observatory Project

The Crime and Violence Integrated System arising from the Crime Observatory Project, integrates data about crime and violence from several organisations including the Jamaica Constabulary Force, the University of the West Indies Institute for Criminal Justice and Security and is being used to develop community safety action plans.

The Learning NetWorks

The Learning NetWorks, which was started in 2006, strengthens existing programmes by providing online software to improve literacy and mathematical skills, while simultaneously teaching computer skills. The programme also improves self esteem, job skills of youths and creates positive attitudes in innercity youths. Interactive components such as a football project, a photography project with the tag line "Click – To shoot or not to shoot, Click is the answer". Aquaculture ornamental fish farming are offered to youths to build life and job skills.

The Learning NetWorks of Jamaica is a computer-based Literacy and Mathematics programme that enhances life skills* for unattached corner youth residing in violence prone communities. Since 2006 this programme has provided an opportunity to obtain skills training through the HEART Trust/NTA as it prepares participants to pass the entrance examination. The most successful Learning NetWorks (HOLY Network on Barry Street) is located on the grounds of a small micro-enterprise docucentre. While participating in the online learning programmes, the young people are trained in business and they are taught how to manage work for the company in a social enterprise setting. This enables them to earn a small stipend as they generate income for the micro-enterprise with the help and support of a trained centre manager. Workshops are held on life skills, parenting and job skills. Youths who were evaluated after consistently using the centre for 3-4 months showed marked improvement in literacy (by passing the HEART Trust/NTA entrance test) and reported reduced involvement in gang participation, street

activities and gender-based violence. In 2010, 60 young people graduated from this centre and were admitted to the HEART Trust/NTA programme.

VPA would like to partner with the PSOJ and USAID to establish a franchise model that would allow businesses, NGOs, CBOs, FBOs to join the Learning NetWorks programme and to expand the geographic reach of the programme.

The Learning NetWork uses computer software (AutoSkill®) to provide individualized and highly effective literacy and numeracy intervention. It is designed to help at-risk students of all ages. Its goal is to master the fundamental skills of reading and mathematics. Once the course is completed the participants are able to pass the Grade 9 HEART Trust/NTA entrance examination. The ten Learning NetWork Centres that are currently involved in the project are listed below:

1. Holy Network, 66-68 Barry Street, Kingston
2. Kingston Young Men Christian Association (YMCA), 21 Hope Road, Kingston
3. Child Resiliency Programme
221 Old Hope Road, Kingston
4. Admiral Town Police Station, Kingston
5. Children's First, 8-10 Alelaide Street, Spanish Town, St. Catherine
6. Boys Town, 6 Collie Smith Drive, Kingston
7. Women Outreach Centre (WROC),
47 Beechwood Ave, Kingston
8. Rose Town Community Centre, 13 Tobias Street, Kingston
9. Rose Town Library, 11 Duff Street, Kingston
10. Yallahs Baptist Church, St Thomas

* Life Skills Handling Conflicts, Handling Differences, Setting Goals, Building Self Esteem

The Cecil Boswell Facey Foundation (Jamaica) makes an annual contribution to the Learning NetWorks.

Working with the National Works Agency (NWA), a high speed fibre linkage will be established between the server and two major LNW centres in Trench and Whitfield Towns. This linkage will be part of the “Smart Communities” project looking at how learning could be linked to job creation for at-risk youths at the centres who would be otherwise engaged in violent activities.

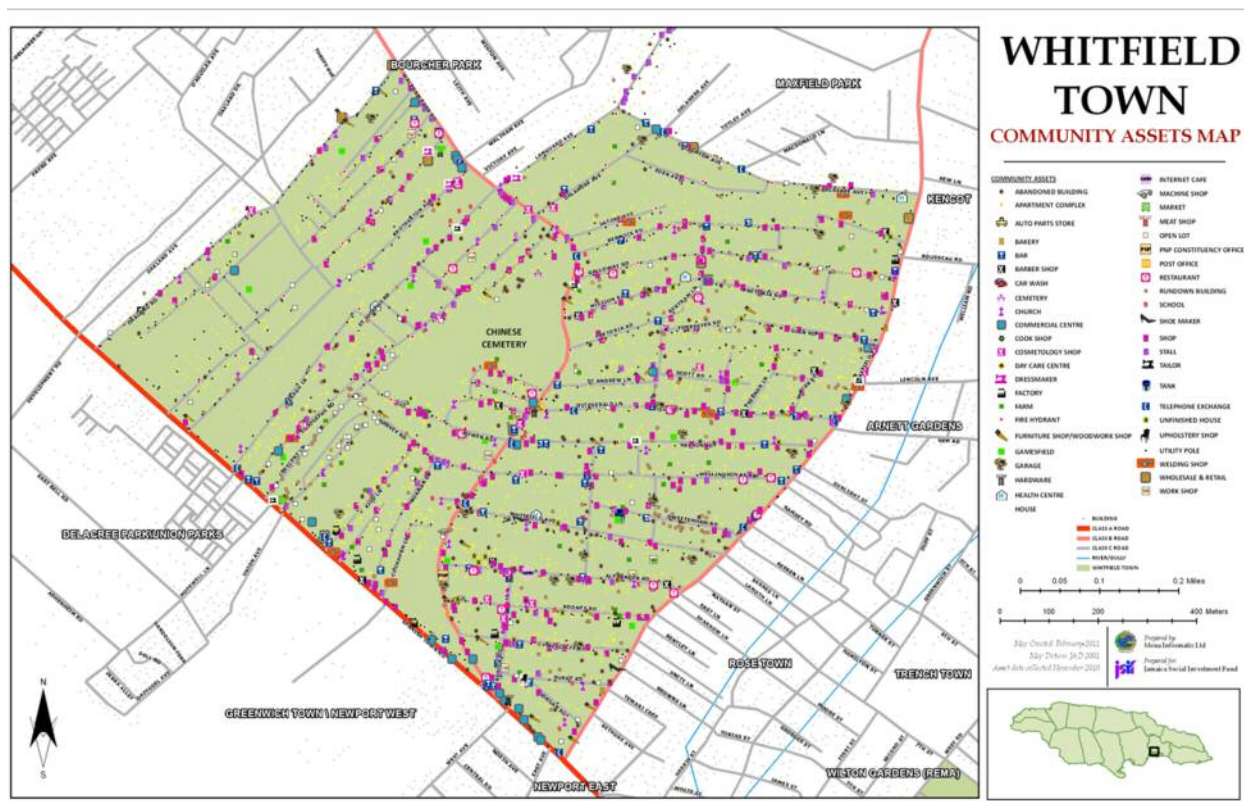
Training Programme on Loss and Grief

The Violence Prevention Alliance liaisons with the Ministries of Health and Education, a coalition led by the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Lewis, President of the United Theological College of the West Indies (UTC), and including

faculty from the University of the West, UTC, Grief Educators, NGO's including Survivors Unlimited, Choose Life International and outside experts will develop a multi-phase, competency-based training programme to offer training in bereavement counselling.

Cost of Care Data Mapping Project

This project will look at the cases of Violence Related Injuries (VRI) and Road Traffic Crashes (RTC) seen at 7 major hospitals across the island during 2014. The project was spurred by the J\$6 million dollar cost incurred while saving the life of a 6 year-old boy from Spanish Town who was shot through his kidney. The study seeks to determine the annual cost and the impact of violence and road traffic crashes on the hospital services knowing that these costs can be reduced by targeted community interventions.



Map depicting community assets of Whitfield Town

The project looks in detail at the cases of VRI and RTC seen at The University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), Kingston Public Hospital (KPH), Bustamante Hospital for Children (BHC), Spanish Town Hospital (STH), May Pen Hospital (MPH), St. Ann's Bay Hospital (STABH) and the Cornwall Regional Hospital (CRH) during the period April–June 2014. The project will outline the impact of injuries on the operation of the hospitals in terms of cancellations of surgeries, the demand on the blood supply, Intensive Care Units (ICU) admissions and the psychological impact on the hospital staff.

Many thanks to the JN Foundation who provided J\$8.3 million to the project and the National Health Fund (NHF) support of J\$3.2 million to complete the study.

Upcoming

Forum presenting study finding and cost burden information to policy makers.

Community Asset Mapping Used to Assist Crime and Violence Control

Knowing what assets exist in a community help guide violence and crime control interventions.

By the end of 2015, working with MGI, CSJP and SDC, we will have mapped the assets in 60 volatile communities in 7 parishes across the island with 19 communities in Kingston and St. Andrew (Fletchers Land, Tivoli Gardens/Mid Town, Mountain View, Waterhouse, Hannah Town, Rockfort, Rema, Whitfield Town, Federal Gardens, Jones Town, Greater Brown's Town, August Town, Highlight View, Red Hills Gardens, Homestead, Hompark, Half Way Tree, Tower Hill and Kencot); 15 in St. James (Flankers, Rose Height, Farm Heights, Canterbury, North Gully,

Granville, Green Pond, Retirement, Tucker, Railway Gardens, Anchovy, Mount Creary, Salt Spring and Mt. Salem); 15 in St Catherine (Lauriston, Knollis, Shelter Rock, March Pen, Central Village, Tawes Meadows, Greendale Proper, Inc Lauriston, Tredegar Park, Gravel Heights, Shelter Rock/Jones Ave., New Nursery, Tryall Heights, Twickenham, Thompson Pen and Ellerslie Pen); 6 in Westmoreland (Russia, Negril including Whitehall, Red Ground, Good Hope, West End, Nompriel Road/Heights, Norman Manley Boulevard); 3 in Clarendon (Bucknor, York Town, Farmville/Effortville); 1 in St Ann (Steer Town) and 1 in St Mary (Gayle).

The availability of this data on the location of churches saw the VPA working with the Office of the Children Advocate (OCA) and Mona Geo Informatics (MGI) to map the recent cases of homicides and shooting in children and relate them to the communities affected and churches located in those communities. This data is being used by the Umbrella Group of Churches to target interventions for children in these communities.

VPA is a signatory to the Ministry of National Security (MNS) Crime Observatory Memorandum of Understanding re data sharing.

Upcoming

Thanks to the Office of the Children Advocate (OCA) who paid for this exercise. This is the start of more extensive work with the agency mapping the trends and analysing the impact of violence on children over the years. We are in discussion with the Ministry of National Security about a contract to provide services to strengthen "the Public Health Approach to Crime and Violence", i.e., the use of data in the decision making process.

Sexual Offence and Child Abuse Study

The VPA, in collaboration with CISOCA/ St. Andrew's University and PAHO, conducted a study based on a questionnaire designed by women's groups and stakeholders. The data captured was analyzed and presented to the stakeholders. Recommendations included an expanded study in a police division and centralization of data captured in the Crime Observatory database incorporated into CSJP/SDC ongoing activities.

Churches Violence Prevention Network (CVPN)

This Network consists of the various umbrella groups of churches. The objective of the Network is to give support in violence prevention activities targeting at-risk youths in the communities.

The VPA/Churches Prevention Network Directory is being developed as an online database offering both electronic and hard copies. The purpose of the Church Directory is to promote services offered to the community and serve as a source of reference for community programmes offered by faith-based organisations. The VPA and the Baptist Union were committed to map three ministers' fraternal structured in a way to determine what each church was doing. The Directory is in the final stages of compilation.

Mountain View Project

The Mountain View Harmony Park Project is the brainchild of a series of consultations with the

Mountain View Community Development Council (MVCDC) in collaboration with the VPA, Area Youth Foundation and Marvin Goodman & Associates.

With the support of the other participants* the VPA promoted healthy lifestyle by coordinating The Mountain View Harmony Park Project – a project which will provide quality recreational and training space and services to the residents of Mountain View. The project is located at 56 Mountain View Avenue on property leased by the VPA and the Catholic Church. Harmony Park will serve the districts of Top Range, Back Bush, Nannyville, Jacques Road, McGregor Gully, Burger Gully and Jarrett/Saunders Lane that have been involved in intermittent gun battles for the last 10 years. The interventions of the PMI, VPA, HLP and other partners have resulted in the decision of community members to put aside their grievances and work together to build the community, thereby promoting Mountain View as a safe place to live, work, play, do business and worship. Communities such as Vineyard Town and other adjoining districts will also benefit.

This new facility will offer a wide variety of activities and services. There will be well rounded programmes in the areas of sports, recreation, arts and culture, education, health and wellness, for the entire community – from the youngest to the most senior. The entire development is set in landscaped gardens with places for quiet and meditation. There are places to walk and jog, use fitness machines or a vita course and generally relieve stress and improve a sense of general well being and community. There will be places to meet and to purchase

* Participants are the Peace Management Initiative (PMI), JNBS Foundation, the Catholic Church, Ministry of Health, Kingston & St. Andrew Corporation (KSAC), Social Development Commission (SDC), Food for the Poor and the Jamaica Social & Investment Fund (JSIF).



Students playing the drums as part of the life skills training in the Child Resiliency Programme

food and crafts and a natural place for weddings and other activities to take place.

Child Resiliency Programme (CRP)

The Child Resiliency Programme aims to prevent high-risk behaviour in adolescence including violence and abuse by targeting parents and their pre-adolescents. The programme seeks to build on the strengths of pre-adolescents and those things that are known to protect. There are five arms to the programme:

- 1) Life Skills training
- 2) Academic support (primarily literacy)
- 3) Nutrition and Sports to reinforce Life Skills
- 4) Creative Expression to reinforce Life Skills and
- 5) Positive Parenting and Family support;

The Child Resiliency Programme has succeeded in changing behaviour by building on the physical, social, cognitive and moral competencies of

children at risk. The objectives are:

- 1) To identify and support children age 8-12 years who are at risk of behavioural or emotional problems, or are displaying the following high-risk behaviours: reading below grade level; cigarette, drug or alcohol use; delinquency, excessive fighting, violence; inappropriate sexual behaviour; have suffered sexual, physical, emotional abuse or neglect.
- 2) To mobilize a system of support for these children by making linkages between school, family, churches, peers, creative activities and sports.

CRP is now under the umbrella of the VPA as another arm of our response. CRP is an after school programme for 4th/5th grade students identified by the teachers/guidance counsellors that provides: academic support; life skills; sports and nutrition; creative expression and parenting and family support.

Upcoming

Following participation by VPA in a Ministry of Education (MOE) cabinet presentation, the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF) has decided to fund the CRP Centre in Falmouth for the next 3 years and Comic Relief continues funding for the other 2 centres for the next 2 years. Work is ongoing lobbying the MOE and other partners to sustain the programme and to establish other centres across the island.

Therapeutic Summer Camp

Untreated mental and learning disorders, poor parenting practices, poor psycho-social support and trauma can lead to children becoming unproductive or antisocial. This in turn increases the likelihood of social issues such as crime and violence that threatens our future and lead to societal dysfunction. Significant proportions of these children with these problems will not perform well in schools and interfere with the learning of others by disturbing the class.

These problems often result in youths being placed in state care for management, potential

loss of productivity, increased medical costs secondary to incidence of injuries, communicable and non-communicable disease and drug abuse. These issues can contribute to economic strain on the country in managing the issues presented by these children.

As such, a culturally adapted, Comprehensive School and Community and Family based intervention was developed and will be implemented to mitigate this challenge which could negatively impact the healthy child and adolescent development. In an effort to address the issues faced by these children, individual intervention with mental health providers in a clinic is not the most effective method to reach all the children. Intervention in school, community and family is the preferred system of care that incorporates an inter-agency integration of service based on a client centred and family empowering orientation. Children who exhibit aggressive and antisocial behaviours, often have history of abuse, neglect and have been exposed to violence. The VPA partnered with the Child and Adolescent Health Services of the Ministry of Health to implement this Programme.



Parents and Children at Therapeutic Camp Graduation Exercise, July 2015

The Therapeutic Summer Camp is the first component of the proposed Comprehensive Family, School and Community-based Intervention for Children with Severe Emotional and Behavioural Problems – “Each One Reach One” that will run from July 2015 to May 2016. The first Therapeutic Summer Camp was organized in July 2015. A total of 40 children from the Holy Trinity High and Central Branch All Age Schools and their parents participated. The children who exhibited developmentally inappropriate levels of inattention, hyperactivity/impulsivity (ADHD-Symptoms), oppositional defiant behaviours, conduct problems and severe emotional difficulties like PTSD with/without other co-morbid problems were included for the intervention.

The Therapeutic Goals for this Summer Camp for:

1. Children – Increase the Awareness with regards to the roots of their problems, teach

the Strategies they could use to mitigate those challenges and improve their Self-Esteem.

2. Parents – Increase their Awareness with regards to the roots of the problems faced by their children, teach Parenting Strategies they could use to help their children with these challenges, and to improve their Parenting capacity and Self-esteem.

We believe the Camp was well received and has made significant impact on these participants.

Preventing Violence Through Sports

Gibson Relays 2014 was branded by our Peace Ambassadors from violence prone communities who distributed the Peace Declarations at the relays. Reading of the Declaration at the opening ceremony and inclusion of message in the programme of the games saw the message reaching out to attendees and the viewing audience.



Peace Ambassadors at Gibson Relay, 2014

This was followed by **All in One Rhythm** where VPA partnered with Ballaz and Whole Life Sports by using football, worked with churches and football coaches to reach unattached youths in Kingston and St. Catherine.

The Football season saw ISSA and Premier League football matches with our presence at 45 televised ISSA and over 10 Premier League games. The outreach was spearheaded by Clive “Busy” Campbell of Masters and Celebrities Fame. All the games saw the banner “**One Day One Goal Peace**” shared at the major matches both in rural and urban locations. The reading of the Captain’s Declaration at matches ended after one of the captains was unable to read the Declaration.

Thanks to our main sponsor Wisynco whose sponsorship was valued at J\$286,000. The level of corporation from Mr George Forbes, his team from ISSA, Mr. Andrew Price, his team from Premiere League, and the other major sponsors

who allowed space and time to be allocated to the peace message, was tremendous.

The success of the Christmas football intervention **Time for Peace Now** carried out in 2013 saw the repeat of the intervention PMI/MNS/CSJP/Unite for Change/VPA in 25 volatile communities in partnership with the Umbrella Group of Churches.

Upcoming

Through a South African connection, Red Cross International approached VPA to prepare a proposal using football to reduce community violence. This has been submitted by Dr. Deanna Ashley, VPA Executive Director, to Red Cross and International Committee of the Red Cross, applying to the International Olympic Committee for funding that is available for 4 countries. The focus of the activities will be in Central Village in Spanish Town and Canaan Heights in Clarendon.

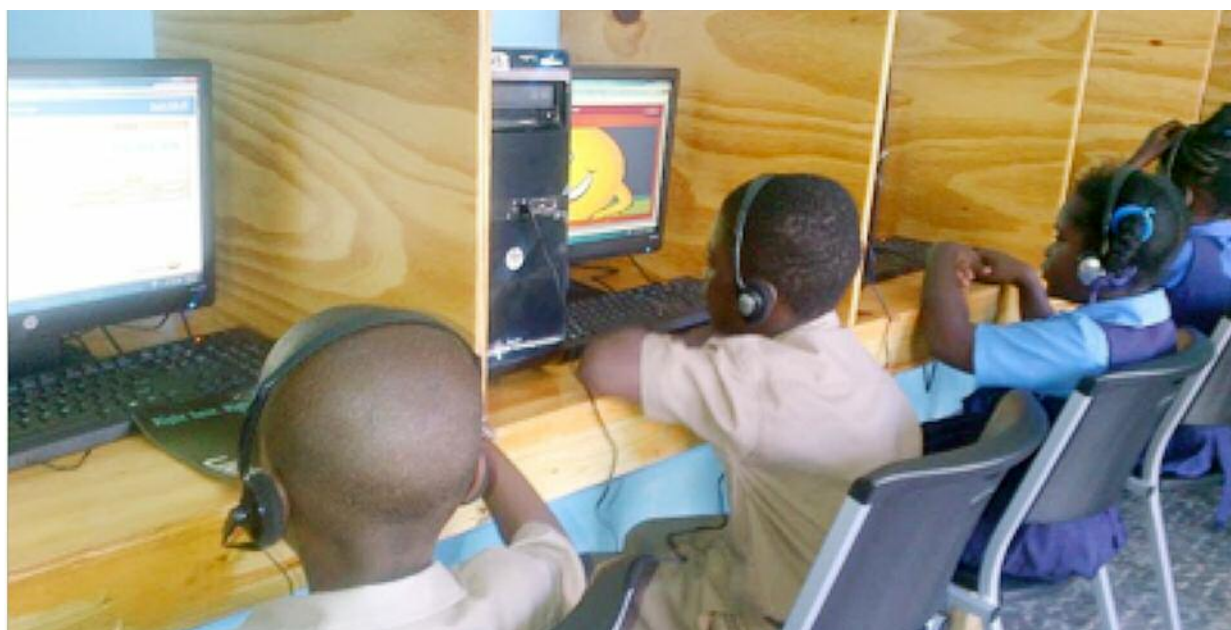


“One Day One Goal Peace” Banner on display at a football match

POLICY RELATED ACTIVITIES

VPA provides ongoing input into many technical committees and gives guidance to numerous community projects. These include Unite for Change, interventions at Metcalfe Street and South Camp Remand/Juvenile Centres. VPA also supports the Smiles Mobile Unit of the CDA/MOH/UNICEF (this is a bus that provides psychological and psychiatric services to children homes across the island), Life Yard, Paint Jamaica, Multicare Foundation Learning Trailer, St. Patrick's Foundation, Alpha Boys School, UN Women, CISOCA, JSIF and others.

- Worked with the Ministry of National Security, Jamaica (MNS) on strategic planning for its National Community and Security Plan.
- Worked with the PIOJ on the Community Renewal Programme (CRP) "Youth Development in the context of Safe Communities." Part of MNS committee to select the 100 communities for the CRP.
- Provided policy recommendations on the impact of armed violence on the attainment of the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The policy was presented in Geneva at the medium-term review of the MDGs/SDG (Geneva Declaration). Provided policy recommendations on the impact of armed violence on the attainment of the UN's millennium development goals as part of the Oslo Commitment in collaboration with MNS, UNDP and Action on Armed Violence (AOVA), a UK NGO.
- The VPA collected and analysed serious crimes and Violence Related Injuries (VRI) data. This also included sharing the analysis with many stakeholders to support policy formulation and funding priorities. The stakeholders included Child Development Agency (with mapping of abducted and missing children); the Planning Institute of Jamaica (with analysis of crime and violence data for the ministerial review of the MDGs); for the Crime Observatory meetings; report for the United Nations and other funding agencies.



Children at Yallahs Baptist Church

- Worked with PMI to support intervention strategy for high-risk youth which is now part of the interruptus package being rolled out by the Ministry of National Security in St. Catherine and St. James. Violence Interruption and Prevention of further spread of Peace Management Initiative (PMI) model – the VPA participated in several meetings to promote and discuss the strengthening of the PMI-Kingston model. Also worked with PIOJ/CDA/OAS review of the National Plan of Action for Children and Violence.
- Worked with the Uniformed Groups to identify common projects and activities for enhancing the outreach of the Groups to at-risk groups of young people.
- Participated on the parenting sub-committee of the government's Early Childhood Commission. Launching of Parenting Places islandwide was a major achievement guided by the Commission's work.
- Anti-gang Legislation – A Brief was submitted to the Parliamentary Committee hearings on this legislation which included cost benefit analysis of violence prevention programmes and alternative community sentencing. VPA input was cited in the justification of the revised legislation.
- Public Health approach to Violence Prevention – The Public Health Approach to violence prevention (evidenced based examining of at risk and resiliency factors) has been receiving much implementation traction. It has been shared with the Ministry of Justice and National Security policy makers resulting in adoption by both the Minister of National Security (MNS) and the Minister of Education (MOE).
- At the Ministry of National Security the VPA has been appointed as a member of the Joint Technical Working group on Citizen Security and the Unite for Change project.
- Collaborated with MOE Safe Schools and Behaviour Modification Programme for Schools. The MOE has now appointed a Behaviour Modification Monitoring and Supervision Committee in response to ongoing violence in schools. The Child Resiliency Project has been targeting at-risk 8-11 year olds, the Change from Within and CSALT projects were assessed by VPA as good practise and have been included in the proposed plan by the MOE to rehabilitate at-risk youths.
- **Crime Observatory MOU:** An Inter-sectoral working group established a signed MOU that enables the sharing of data and examination of approaches to build community assets and the utilization of government and non-government resources to solve crime. A proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of National Security (MNS) to fund VPA work to support data analysis, research and training for MNS and the JCF.
- **Police and Sexual Assault:** Centre to Investigate Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) initiated a programme of technical exchange and collaboration between Jamaica and Scotland to share experience on building enhanced collaboration between the health and criminal justice sectors for violence prevention. This is being coordinated by the WHO Violence and Injury Prevention team and supported by the Scottish Government. Supported by the initiative of the VPA, JCF Force orders have been issued ensuring that information on the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator is now being collected by police.



Members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force take part in Peace Day activities

Mapping and identification of risk profile and geography including school location of these incidents has seen geographic targeting of prevention programmes. Support for the research was received by St. Andrews University in Scotland. Work is to be done in Phase 2 of the VPA/St. Andrews University project with the collection of data on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) from one police division.

The VPA approached PAHO for assistance with completing this project. PAHO's support facilitated the analysis and reporting of the findings to the multi-sector group as follows:

- (a) a preliminary analysis of sexual abused data for presentation to the Centre to Investigate Sexual Offences and Child Abuse (CISOCA) staff and Police high command;
- (b) a determination of risk factors for sexual abuse towards the design of a police first responder training programme to include data collection and grief and trauma management;
- (c) GPS mapping of high-risk areas;
- (d) a schema to link data collected from the Jamaica Constabulary Force stations with CISOCA and the Jamaica Injury Surveillance System; and
- (e) simple reports to determine the rate of sexual assault by gender, age and geography severity.

Major Studies and Publications

Projects fully or partially funded by the Violence Prevention Alliance:

1. "Youth Violence in Kingston, Jamaica", by Dr. Elizabeth Ward, Violence Prevention Alliance - Jamaica, Institute of Criminal Justice and Security, University of the West Indies, sponsored by Institute of Medicine (IOM), April 2011.
2. Ward, E., Hutchison, D., Levy, H. and Ashley D. The Epidemic of Violence: Impact of community based interventions on reducing the burden on the Jamaican Health Care System. Youth Violence in Kingston, Jamaica, sponsored by Institute of Medicine (IOM), 2010.
3. Leslie, Glaister. "Confronting the Don: The Political Economy of Gang Violence in Jamaica". Small Arms Survey, Occasional Paper No. 26, 2010. www.smallarmsurvey.org/about/highlights-confronting-the-don.ht.
4. "Social and Economic Costs of Violence: The Value of Prevention". Forum on Global Violence Prevention Board on Global Health, Washington DC. The National Academies Press, 2012.
5. Ward, E., Lyew-Ayee, P. and Ashley, D. The impact of Urban Violence on Jamaican Children: Challenges and Responses, Early Childhood Matters, November 2012.
6. Ward, E. and Ashley, D. The New Imperative: Reducing Adolescent Related Violence by Building Resilient Adolescents. "Emerging Issues in Adolescent Health", *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 52 (2013), pp. S43-S45.
7. Brief prepared by Astley Henry, et al and presented at 2nd Ministerial Review of the Geneva Declaration. National Report on Armed Violence written for Action on Armed Violence AOVA by N. Parkins and E. Ward. www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/Issue-Brief/PMIVPA_IssueBriefoct2011.pdf.
8. Ward, E., McCartney, T., Arscott Mills, S. and Grant, A. The Jamaica Injury Surveillance System (JISS), *West Indian Med Journal*, Vol. 59, No.1, 2010.
9. Ward, Elizabeth and McCartney, Trevor, et al. Results of an exercise to estimate the Costs of Interpersonal Violence in Jamaica. *West Indian Med Journal*, 58(5):44, 2009.

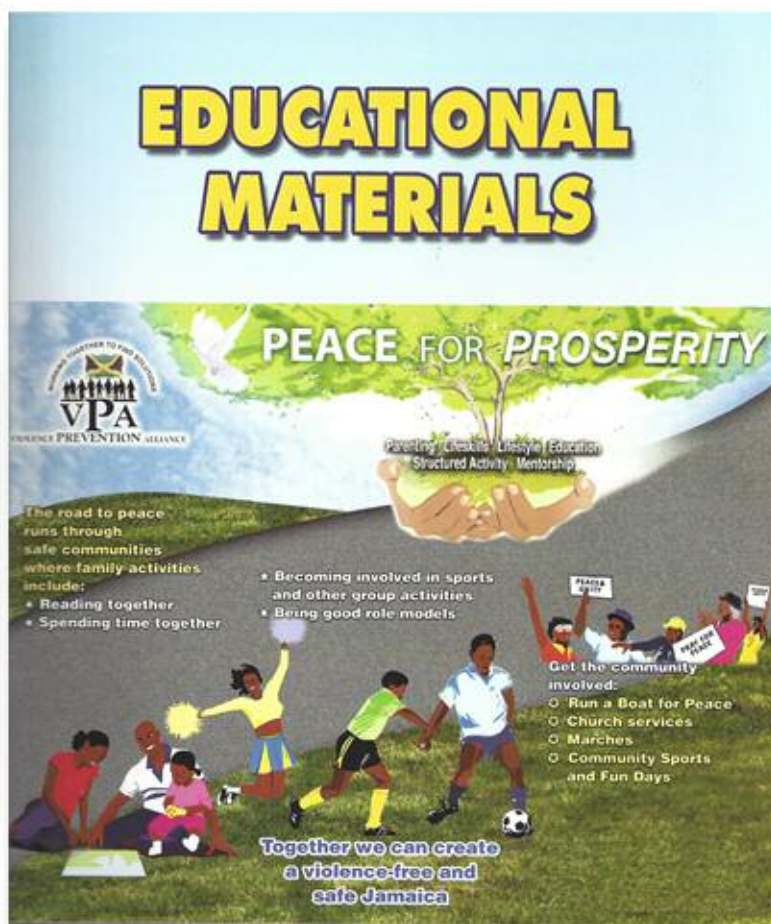
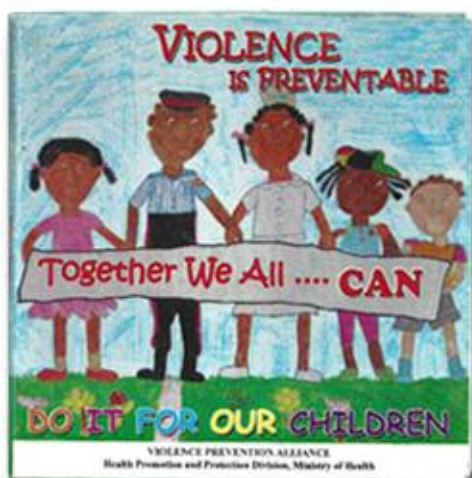


Issue Brief presented at 2nd Ministerial Review of the Geneva Declaration

10. "Community Peace Making in Jamaica" by Horace Levy, Elizabeth Ward, Rosmund Brown and Mervin Garman. Commonwealth of Learning 2009. *Community Peace Building through ODL*, 2009.
11. Jamaica-Community Policing Assessment by John Mclean, Anthony Harriott, Elizabeth Ward, John Buchanan and Roopa Karia. This report was produced for the Jamaica Constabulary Force and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), March 2008.
12. Ward, E., Harriott, A., Gordon Strachan, G., Gordon, N. and Ashley, D. Possible Role of Injury Surveillance in Influencing Crime Prevention Strategies in Jamaica. *Caribbean Journal of Criminal and Social Psychology*, May 2006.
13. Ward, E., Gordon Strachan, G., Carr, P. and Ashley, D. Prioritising Violence Prevention in Public Health Programmes: Experiences from Jamaica. *African Safety Promotion. Journal of Injury and Violence Prevention*, Vol. 4, No.1, 2011.

DVDs

- Violence is Preventable – Together We All Can. Do it for our Children. Produced by Violence Prevention Alliance in collaboration with the Health Promotion and Prevention Division, Ministry of Health, Jamaica.
- The Impact of Violence Prevention Strategies by Elizabeth Ward. Produced by the Violence Prevention Alliance.



Participation in Meetings, Conferences and Training Workshops

LOCAL

- Co-hosted a UNDP Small Arms Control Workshop, UNICEF/UNDP/VPA, Jamaica, March 2008.
- Attended a Gang Prevention Workshop, USAID/MNS, Jamaica, 2008.
- Held a Forum on Violence in the Media, Jamaica, 2008.
- Conducted Business Incubator training for community members; in collaboration with Organization of American States/Young Business Development Trust, Jamaica, 2008.
- In collaboration with PAHO/WHO,ILO/NIOSH, Ministry of Health, the University of the West Indies, University of Technology, VPA provided training workshop on Prevention of Violence in Health Care Workplace Settings, Jamaica, 2009.
- Women's Resource and Outreach Centre (WROC)/VPA Workshop on "Grief Bereavement Retreat", March 2009, St. Ann, Jamaica.
- Roundtable Exchange Seminar on "Violence and Gang Reduction: The Scottish Experience", Jamaica, 2010.
- Christian Community Development Conference. "Restoring at Risk Communities", Gordon Town, Jamaica, 2011.
- Participated in the launch of the Safe Communities Ladder in collaboration with August Town Township Programme in August Town, Kingston, Jamaica, 2011.



Ladies honoured during Peace Month, 2011

- CDA/OAS Forum on “Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking in Children”, Kingston, Jamaica, 2011 (several meetings)
- UNICEF/UWI Forum on “Promoting Child Rights with Equity”, Kingston, Jamaica, 2011.
- Youth-focused NGO Association Forum, Private Sector Organization of Jamaica (PSOJ)/OBRA, Kingston, Jamaica, 2011.
- International Ecumenical Peace Convocation (IEPC), Kingston, Jamaica, May 2011.

INTERNATIONAL

- International Violence Prevention Alliance Meeting, Washington, D.C., 2008.
- Hosted roundtable discussion on Gangs, “Confronting the Don” with inputs from the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey, Caribbean IMPACT and UWI, Trinidad, 2010.
- Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) International Strategic Planning Session, Rome, Italy, 2010.
- Institute of Medicine (IOM) Forums on Violence Prevention in Middle and Lower income countries: “Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children”, “Social and Economic Costs of Violence: The Value of Prevention” and “Prevent Violence: Communications and Technology for Violence Prevention”, 2011.
- Johns Hopkins University workshop on “Violence as an Emerging Issues in Adolescent Health Implications for Low and Middle Income Countries”, 2011.
- The 5th Milestones of a Global Campaign for Violence Prevention and the SAVI workshop, “Promoting Safety, Reducing Violence, Rising Awareness”, South Africa, 2011.
- International Relations, UWI, “Small Arms Gangs Youth and Human Security in the Americas”, hosted by Dalhousie (Canada), in St. Augustine, Trinidad, February 2011.
- International Conference on Global Health, Heidelberg, Germany, June 2011.
- Second Ministerial Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, Geneva, 2011.
- Caribbean Public Health Agency Research Conference. Theme: “Violence and Injuries Prevention: Urgent Public Health and Development Issues”, Grenada, 2015.



Annex 1

Abbreviations

CDA	–	Child Development Agency
CISOCA	–	Centre for Investigation of Sexual Offences and Child Abuse
CSJP	–	Community Security and Justice Programme
ECC	–	Early Childhood Commission
HEART	–	Human Employment and Resource Training Trust
IDRC	–	International Development Research Council
JCF	–	Jamaica Constabulary Force
JNBS	–	Jamaica National Building Society
JSIF	–	Jamaica Social Investment Fund
KSA	–	Kingston and St. Andrew
MGI	–	Mona Geo Informatics
MOE	–	Ministry of Education
MOH	–	Ministry of Health
MNS	–	Ministry of National Security
OCA	–	Office of the Children’s Advocate
PAHO	–	Pan American Health Organization
PIOJ	–	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PMI	–	Peace Management Initiative
SDC	–	Social Development Commission
VPA	–	Violence Prevention Alliance
WHO	–	World Health Organization
UNICEF	–	United Nations Children’s Fund
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme
UTC	–	United Theological College
UTECH	–	University of Technology
UWI	–	University of the West Indies

Annex 2

VPA's Certificate of Registration as a Registered Charitable Organisation



Government of Jamaica

CHARITIES AUTHORITIES (DCFS)

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF A REGISTERED CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION

Name of Organization: ***VIOLENCE PREVENTION ALLIANCE***

Registration Number: **CA100-509C**

Address: **13 GIBRALTAR CAMP WAY, UWI, MONA, KINGSTON 7**

TRN: 001 - 814 - 095

This is to certify that the above named organization is a Registered Charitable Organization as under Section 2 and Section 17 of the Charities Act, 2013 and as such is eligible for tax exemption or relief under the Income Tax, G. C. T, Property Tax, Stamp Duty, Transfer Tax, Customs Acts and the Provisional Collection of Tax (Minimum Business Tax) Order, 2014.

This certificate is valid for the period indicated below:

Effective: March 16, 2015

Expiry : March 15, 2017

Charities Authority
Department of Co-operatives &
Friendly Societies (DCFS)

March 16, 2015

Date

Note: This approval is subject to any change in the laws of Jamaica

Annex 3

How to become a member of the VPA

Membership of the Violence Prevention Alliance is open to any organisation actively involved, directly and indirectly, in violence prevention in Jamaica. Individuals of known personal track record in violence prevention may be eligible for membership. Members must demonstrate a clear interest, understanding or expertise in preventing violence and must adopt the mission, vision and guiding principles of the VPA and use them to inform public policy, institutional policy and violence prevention programming. VPA participation is free, open and on a voluntary basis. Members join the Alliance with an understanding that its strength, utility and impact is dependent upon the active participation and commitment of its members.

Requirements

Members of the Violence Prevention are expected to:

- Ratify the charter and fill out (1) a statement of intent; (2) a preliminary membership information form.
- Participate consistently in VPA meetings and other activities.
Organisations will designate a representative to serve as primary correspondent and champion of the VPA within their organisation for a two-year term, at minimum; a secondary will also be identified within the organisation to serve as an alternate to the primary in the attendance of meetings and correspondence.
- Participate in the data collection function of the VPA by granting access to the VPA Secretariat to information on violence prevention activities and initiatives.

- Actively share information on ongoing campaigns, projects and other initiatives with the membership of the VPA towards the development of best practices.
- Adopt appropriate monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, particularly where funding has been channelled to initiatives through the VPA.

How can you help?

You can provide support from your organisation to help us with:

- Website – technical support to harness the power of cyberspace
- Office support – photocopying of resource materials for workshops, etc.
- Production of hard copies of our newsletters for circulation
- Communication – cover cost of cellular phones and calls
- Staffing – fund a member of staff
- Fundraising – give cash donations, sponsor a child in our Learning for Life Programme or sponsor our educational materials as part of your promotional budget. We will brand them for you and our distribution system has deep market penetration
- Incorporate violence prevention into staff training and your company's community outreach activities
- Plan to come out with your friends and workers on Peace Day. Be part of the movement for Peace
- Make donations: While we like big sums, small regular donations are very helpful.

Annex 4

Become a VPA volunteer!!

Before completing the form applicants should note that:

- Completing this form is not a guarantee that VPA will be able to accept you as a volunteer immediately. VPA reviews the applications of prospective volunteers periodically and accepts volunteers on a rotating schedule. Prospective applicants may be contacted outside of that schedule on a need basis.
- In the event that the VPA cannot accept you at a given time to volunteer, we may, but we are not obliged to share your area of interest with our partners who may need volunteers. At that point, if your area of interest matches the demand of our partnering organisation, you will be contacted.
- VPA is not an employment agency.
- VPA does not offer stipends, honorariums or grants to persons who volunteer.
- VPA does not provide insurance coverage for volunteers. VPA will not be held liable for any losses or damages suffered to/by volunteers at its activities or that of partnering organisations.

Mail the completed form to:

Violence Prevention Alliance,
c/o Institute of Sustainable Development,
13 Gibraltar Way, University of the West Indies,
Mona, Kingston 7
or email to: vpajamaica@gmail.com



VPA Volunteer Application Form

Section A: Please fill out the information below

Surname: _____

First Name: _____ Middle Name(s): _____

Country of Residence: _____ Nationality: _____

Sex: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Age: ☐ 15-18 ☐ 19-22 ☐ 22-25 ☐ 26-30 ☐ Over 30

Address: _____

Parish (for applicants living in Jamaica): _____

Preferred Contact Number(s) _____

Email address: _____

Section B: Kindly indicate the areas of violence prevention you are interested in working as a volunteer:

Please place a tick [☐] in the box that best suits your preference

	Yes	No
1. I have experience with the planning of events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. I have experience working in a research environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. I can work with minimum supervision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. I have skills/experience in fundraising	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. I have experience in proposal writing for grant/project funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. I would like to receive VPA Newsletter informing me of current and upcoming events and initiatives	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Tell us about your availability to volunteer with the VPA. Include, times, days, month(s), duration, etc.





Violence Prevention Alliance
c/o Institute of Sustainable Development
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The University of the West Indies
Mona, Kingston 7, Jamaica
Tel./Fax: 876-702-2079
Email: vpajamaica@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/vpajamaica/info