



**PRESS STATEMENT  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, April 26, 2024



(File Photo)

**MNS & MOEY to strengthen the approach to violence in schools across the island –  
Minister Chang**

I am deeply saddened and outraged by the heinous act of violence that resulted in the tragic murder and injury of two students from the Grange Hill High School in Westmoreland yesterday (April 25). My heart goes out to the families and loved ones of the victims during this incredibly difficult time.

Crime and violence has no place in our schools or communities. It is an utter betrayal of the trust that we place in one another and it undermines the very fabric of our society. The growing level of violence associated with school children is a major cause for concern. We must stand together in condemning such acts and work tirelessly to ensure that our schools remain safe havens for students to learn and grow.

The Ministry of National Security (MNS) remains committed to working in and through schools across the island, specifically those under the Inter-ministerial School Support Strategy (ISSS) to



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foster safer schools and communities island-wide. Through the ISSS, we have been actively working in conjunction with the police to improve school discipline. Vulnerable students and families have been receiving counselling as part of the case management approach implemented by the MNS.

We will continue to work with the Ministry of Education and Youth to further strengthen the approach to violence in schools across the island. We must redouble our efforts to stem the tide of violence among students. This requires a comprehensive approach, including robust security measures, effective conflict resolution strategies, enforced by both teachers and parents and to implement proactive interventions to address underlying issues.

I call upon all members of society to embrace a culture of respect, empathy, and understanding towards one another. Let us reaffirm our commitment to living peacefully and harmoniously, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and respected.

We owe it to our children and future generations to foster a Jamaica where they can thrive without the fear. Together, let us work towards building a safer and more compassionate society for all.

Let us strive to LIV GUD today for a better tomorrow.

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