



May 14, 2019

## **We Must Protect Our Women & Children**

Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang has condemned the recent killing of 17-year-old, Stefika Smith in Clarendon. “As a country, each and every one of us must assume personal responsibility for protecting those most vulnerable. Particularly, our women and children who are the backbone and foundation of our society” said Minister Chang.

According to the police report, the decomposed body, believed to be that of Stefika, was discovered in Georges Pen district on Monday, May 13; the teenager was reported missing on Saturday, May 11.

Minister Chang says the government is deeply concerned with the heinous crimes being committed in our society. “This is disheartening news, on the heels of Mother’s Day, as another bright young Jamaican is taken away from us” the Minister said.

This is the fourth family in the last month, who is mourning the death of a love one, the death of a child. Minister Chang, in an appeal to the people of Jamaica stated that, “this is a call to action for us to be our brother’s keeper”.

The Ministry continues to support the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) as it seeks to bolster police capacity to dismantle criminal elements that disrupt the peace and safety of our communities. “The Crime Prevention and Community Safety Unit in the Ministry of National Security will engage the Office of the Children’s Advocate (OCA) to increase social intervention programmes and initiatives that will positively impact behavioural change in our society. The Ministry remains committed to providing greater legislative and policy support, to ensure the safety and security of all Jamaicans, especially vulnerable groups in our society,” said the Minister.

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