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**NATFATIP launches Anti-TIP Clubs in Schools**

The National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (NATFATIP) has launched Anti-Trafficking in Persons Clubs in 15 schools island-wide.

This initiative in schools seeks to promote and maintain public involvement in Jamaica’s Anti-Trafficking in Persons education. To intensify awareness, the clubs will sensitize students and teachers to victim support, signs of trafficking as well as situations that can be potentially dangerous and lead to trafficking.

Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, said these clubs will provide a forum for students and stakeholders within the school community to become more vigilant, by learning how to identify and address instances of vulnerability. Minister Chang said, “through increased awareness, especially among young people, they will learn how to detect and report suspicious activities, particularly when dealing with online predators. With more reports of potential traffickers, the security forces will be better able to infiltrate and dismantle more trafficking rings in Jamaica”.

Minister Chang explained that with increased public awareness and participation, Jamaica should move further away from the Tier 2 classification. In 2018, a report published by the US State Department on Human Trafficking classified Jamaica as Tier 2 – a source and destination country for adults and children subjected to human trafficking and forced labour.

In extending support for the clubs, Manager of the Trafficking in Persons Secretariat, Chenee Russell, said “considering that young people are very vulnerable to human trafficking, the implementation of Anti-Trafficking in Persons Clubs provides exposure and knowledge to students that contribute to a better understanding of human trafficking and the circumstances perpetuating this criminal trade”.

Russell said members and mentors of the clubs will be subjected to basic vetting to prevent criminal infiltration. The clubs are operational at The Wolmer’s Boys School, Port Antonio, Garvey Maceo, Marymount, Christiana, Kingston Technical, Yallahs, Mount Alvernia, Islington, St Hilda’s Diocesan, Vere Technical, Dunoon Park Technical, Kingston, Vauxhall and Calabar High Schools.

Human Trafficking is the movement of people through fraud/deception, threat, abduction, force, abuse, of positions of power or abuse of positions of vulnerability for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation includes subjecting victims to prostitution or involuntary servitude without pay.

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