



Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity

Public Hearing Summary

Friday November 04, 2016 at 10:43 a.m.

Topic:

Inquiry into the Treatment of Child offenders at the Youth Training Centre, St. Jude's Home for Girls and St. Michael's Home for Boys.

Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Dr. Nyan Gadsby-Dolly, MP – Chairman
- Mrs. Glenda Jennings-Smith, MP – Member
- Mrs. Vidia Gayadeen-Gopeesingh, MP – Member
- Ms. Jennifer Raffoul – Member
- Mr. Rodger Samuel - Member

Witnesses who appeared:

Office of the Prime Minister

- Ms. Jacqueline Johnson Permanent Secretary (Ag)
- Ms. Mary De Here Manager (Ag), St. Michael's Interim Rehabilitation Centre for Young Male Offenders
- Mr. Deoraj Sookdeo Deputy Manager (Ag), St. Jude's Interim Rehabilitation Centre for Young Female Offenders
- Ms. Tracey Lucas Policy, Strategy and Monitoring, Coordinator, OPM (GCA)
- Ms. Gaitry Pargass Legal Consultant, OPM (GCA)
- Ms. Saffiya Noel Director, Children's Authority
- Ms. Christalle Gemon Deputy Director, Children's Authority

Ministry of National Security

- Ms Lydia Jacobs Permanent Secretary (Ag)
- Ms. Maria Joseph Deputy Permanent Secretary
- Mr. Mark Lutchman Programme Manager
- Mr. Cecil Duke Commissioner of Prisons (Ag)
- Mr Elvin Scantebury Superintendent of Prisons (Ag)
- Mr Garvin Serrette Legal Officer

Key Issues Discussed with the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of National Security:

1. The urgent need for the development of a Strategic Plan at St. Michael's Interim Rehabilitation Centre for Young Male Offenders and the Youth Training Centre;
2. The need for more data and research on the rate of recidivism at the youth detention institutions;
3. The requirement for the proclamation of the Family and Children Division Act which would ensure that the Children's Authority has the requisite legislative authority to address the needs of the 'children in conflict with the law'.
4. The implementation of a Children's Registry to assist in tracking the process of 'children in conflict with the law' when they leave the institutions;
5. The new legislation would ensure that all child offenders are properly assessed and assigned to the appropriate facility and programmes;
6. Programmes to target the young adults leaving the system to ensure that they meet the level of educational requirement to function outside the institution;
7. The main challenges identified by the institutions were the lack of funding and insufficient human resources.
8. The need for Mental Health professionals at the St. Jude's Interim Rehabilitation Centre for Young Female Offenders and St. Michael's Interim Rehabilitation Centre for Young Male Offenders;
9. The use of technology needed to increase the efficiency and data gathering of the institutions.

View the Hearing:

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/58ko5lVaigY>

Contact Information:

You may contact the Committee's Secretary at jschumanrights@tparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2288/2627.

*Committees Unit
November 04, 2016*