

Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA)

1.0 Background:

1.1 The momentum towards a systematic and coordinated approach to violence prevention was catalyzed by the World Health Organization's World Report on Violence Prevention. The Global VPA was launched in January 2004. The VPA in Jamaica was launched in November 2004.

1.2 The Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA) is a network of government, non government, private and community based organisations working together to prevent violence in Jamaica. No country or community is untouched by violence and the VPA, through a partnership approach, is striving to improve the quality of life for every citizen by eradicating violence in Jamaica. The VPA believes that violence is preventable and by working together it is possible to make communities safe for everyone.

1.3 **Mission Statement:** *to create violence - free and safe Jamaica.* All communications activity should underpin this Mission Statement.

1.4 Objectives:

1. To support the promotion of primary prevention of violence, integrated community development and public education.
2. To increase collaboration and exchange of information between organizations on violence prevention.
3. To support the implementation and monitoring of existing programmes and to lobby for national action plans for violence prevention.
4. To lobby for the integration of violence prevention into social and educational policies, thereby enhancing the promotion of gender and social equality.
5. To promote the safe community concept.
6. To facilitate data analysis and application in order to identify and promote best practice.
7. To support the strengthening of systems/services for victims of violence.

1.5 Functions:

1. Promoting public health approaches to participant organizations in order to become more effective and systematic in the violence prevention activities they support and implement.
2. Data collection and analysis, sharing best practices for prevention programmes and victim services among participants' institutions and groups that focus on different sub-types of violence.
3. Providing technical assistance to member organizations, sharing information, experiences and expertise among participants through the development of partnerships and other collaborative projects.
4. Developing the safe community concept paper and a system for its assessment.
5. Monitor the impact of the Alliance's work and tracking developments in the field of violence prevention.
6. Maintain the Alliance through the establishment of secretariat.

7. Coordinating and managing of funds to support the objectives of the Alliance.

1.6 **Vision:** to maximize the impact of violence prevention initiatives on the Jamaican population by promoting the use of best practices through the -

- Collection and analysis of available data.
- Broad dissemination of such data.
- Channelling of resources into initiatives that exhibit best (proven) practices.
- Lobby for systematic change at the policy level.