



WOMEN'S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY GUYANA

Champions of Change for Women of the Future

For Immediate Release

A fundamental violation of women and young girls' human rights

Sunday, May 2, 2021 (WCCIG Secretariat): Violence against women and girls covers a range of unacceptable and deeply distressing crimes, including domestic violence and abuse, murder, sexual violence and child sexual abuse, stalking, so called 'honour-based' gang related violence, and human trafficking. We accept that men and boys can also be victims of violence and abuse. We call on leaders, authorities, the NIS, Police, the international community and other local stakeholders to help in securing a future for services such as Rape Crisis Centres, national helplines and refuges. We also call on men to have mercy on our women and to emphasize that violation of women and girls is a human right's violation which is illegal.

Violence can affect women and girls at any age, race or religion, their socioeconomic background, sexual orientation or marital status. We note that violence takes place throughout Guyana within relationships, in families, and in communities and the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated this situation. We offer the Ministry of Human services our support in developing local infrastructure that raises awareness of this surge among local agencies and people, towns and communities.

WCCIG encourages earlier disclosures and reporting by victims and survivors. We recommend the use of multi-agency approaches to effectively understand and meet the support needs of victims, survivors and family members, through recovery and sustainable positive life outcomes. We call for a national multi-sectorial and public private sector statement against this type of criminal activity. We need Governmental agency collaboration, strong, and effective processes to swiftly assist victims and survivors.

The WCCIG would like to see:

1. Measurable reductions in the prevalence of all forms of VAWG;
2. Increased police training in the above-named violations, police referrals, prosecution and convictions for what can still be hidden crimes;
3. Plans for effective interventions, sensitization, awareness, enforcement, joint working, and a drive to challenge the attitudes that excuse and seek to circumvent the implementation of existing laws against these crimes.

We name some of the recent victims who are women and girls and send our deepest condolences to their families:

Shonette Dover
Nicola Wilson
Darmattie Persaud
Tovanie Simmons
Shaneeza Ramdat
Sattie Jagmohan

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