



## **Kingston Declaration**

### **Follow-up Meeting on the Recommendations of the UN Study on Violence against Children for Countries in the Caribbean**

We, the governmental and state authorities, representatives of the civil society and national human rights institutions, children and adolescents and international organizations from Anguilla, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos; as well as representatives of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, met in Kingston, Jamaica on 14 and 15 May 2012 for the Follow-up Meeting to the United Nations Study on Violence against Children for countries in the Caribbean, organized by the Global Movement for Children in Latin America and the Caribbean (GMC-LAC), in close collaboration with the Office of the Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais, and the Government of Jamaica as host country.

Six years after the presentation of the UN Study on Violence against Children and its recommendations before the United Nations General Assembly, the organizers of the Caribbean Follow-up Meeting decided to drive a process to assess and evaluate the status of implementation of the Study's recommendations, including through the development of a mapping of the advances promoted by States, this Sub-regional Meeting in Kingston, as well as to support the establishment of national and regional monitoring mechanisms to assess progress in the implementation of these recommendations.

The meeting provided an opportunity to disseminate the Study on Violence against Children and promote follow-up to its recommendations, as well as to track progress in the implementation of the prioritized Recommendations 1, 2 and 11 at regional and national levels. Based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by all countries in the region, participating States reiterated their political commitment to the prevention and elimination of violence against children and promoted an exchange of experiences and the reinforcement of sub-regional cooperation areas.

During the presentations, panels and group work participants identified progress, challenges, opportunities and future actions to develop strategies, policies, legislation and national programs that prioritize the prevention and



prohibition of all forms of violence against children and adolescents and the creation and strengthening of national data systems and research

The involvement of children and adolescents provided important inputs to the meeting and to promoting that children's life without violence can be a reality.

This Declaration will be complemented by the guidelines of a Regional roadmap for Caribbean countries in light of the priorities identified by participating countries committed in support of the regional process and the formulation of national roadmaps. These roadmaps will take into account the contexts and structures of the Caribbean institutions and the specific situation in each State, and will be prepared with the active participation of all stakeholders.

We call on CARICOM Community to play an important role in monitoring the implementation of the Regional roadmap and urging CARICOM States to submit regular reports on the status of the implementation of the UN Study's recommendations, and ensuring the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence against children is considered a priority theme at CARICOM's deliberations on children, particularly the CARICOM/COHSOD Special Meeting on Children.

We recognize that the elimination of violence against children is a major challenge, which requires a sustained and coordinated effort from governmental institutions, legislature, the judiciary, academia, civil society, international agencies, and independent human rights institutions as well as from individual children and adolescents in order to be achieved.

We recognize the importance of facilitating and supporting opportunities for dialogue and coordination at national and regional levels that can help meet the goals established in the United Nations Study on Violence against Children.

Kingston, 15 May, 2012