VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION REGIONAL ASSESSMENT

UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

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Barbados

Atlantic Ocean

Grenada

Trinidad and Tobago

Pacific Ocean

Guyana

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Photo credits cover: ©UNICEF/Jamaica/ shehzadnoorani. A young parent and child at the launch of the XChange anti-violence movement in Kingston, Jamaica. XChange is supported by UNICEF and empowers young leaders in schools and communities with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively address violence.

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Two young children in Belize. UNICEF works to create a protective environment for all children from all forms of violence.

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Young girls participating in "My Neighbours and Me", a youth-led project in South Side, Belize City. The project is inspired by the XChange movement and stimulates adolescents' participation through dance, drama, music, arts and sports.

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Two young girls in Belize. UNICEF advocates for the change of attitudes and behaviours including discrimination against women and girls.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

School girls in the city of Gonaïves, Haiti. The education of girls and female adolescents is a priority of UNICEF's global work.

I. INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, there has been increasing concern regarding levels of violence generally and in particular the effects of violence on children, our most vulnerable citizens. Violence not only leads to the obvious signs of physical harm when children are victims, but often to long term psychological consequences, whether the children are direct victims, observers of violence or its aftermath, or have family or friends who are victims. Younger children may show regression to more immature behaviour. Long term effects may include the children themselves demonstrating antisocial behaviour and aggression, and poor school achievement with the resultant reduced employability or earning potential. There have been a number of efforts to understand and address the problem of violence related to children: including studies to determine causes and effects, interventions to reduce different aspects of the problem, and legislation, policy and advocacy towards the protection of children from various forms of violence. In the Caribbean, however, these actions have often been uncoordinated and there has been a lack of interdisciplinary feedback on the usefulness and effectiveness of different approaches. This report is an attempt to look at the issue of violence and children in the Caribbean region in a holistic way across many disciplines, and to try to establish the status of this problem and efforts towards its solution.

Peasant young girls in Pilate, in the Northern part of Haiti. UNICEF supports local governments to ensure that children living in rural areas have access to quality education and basic social services.

II. UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL'S STUDY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

In 2000 and 2001, the Committee on the Rights of the Child recommended that the Secretary-General be requested, through the General Assembly, to conduct an in-depth international study on violence against children. This study should lead to the development of strategies to prevent and combat all forms of violence against children. The aims of the study would be to 'provide an in-depth global picture of violence against children and propose clear recommendations for the improvement of legislation, policy and programmes relating to the prevention of and responses to violence against children.'

The study is expected to elicit comprehensive national reviews of the situation of violence against children including prevalence, legal frameworks, child protection systems, statistics, violence in institutions, and evaluation of reports and recording of data from successful child protection initiatives.

The study will adopt the definition of the child given in Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child a child: "every human being below the age of eighteen years unless, under the law applicable to the child, the majority is attained earlier." During 2005, regional reports have been conducted in each region. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the World Health Organisation and UNICEF were the three agencies designated to support the study process.

Criolle child in the urban ghetto "The Jungle" in Belize City, Belize. UNICEF advocates with governments to develop national policies and programmes to reach all children.

III. CARIBBEAN DESK REVIEW ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

1. Aims and objectives

This Desk Review represents an effort to compile the national reviews available from the targeted sixteen nations in the Caribbean, and to summarize the status for the region, in order to better understand the level and impact of violence against children, and the factors that contribute to this in the Caribbean.

The study sought to identify and collect existing materials and information reporting on the topic, to present these and to identify gaps in the knowledge of the situation. Recommendations were also made for further assessments of the situation and of potentially effective interventions, in order to enhance efforts to improve the situation.

2. Methodology and limitations of the Study

The review was carried out in several stages. In the first, a search of the published information was carried out using libraries and the internet, and through contact with several researchers in the area working in the Caribbean. The UNICEF Jamaica office and TACRO sourced many additional reports.

Data was also sought from the 16 countries targeted for this review through a questionnaire which was sent by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on human Rights to all the governments in the region. These questionnaires should

have provided information on (I) the legal framework, (II) the institutional framework and resources to address violence against children, (III) the role of civil society in addressing violence against children, (IV) children as actors in addressing violence, (V) policies and programmes to address violence against children, (VI) data collection, analysis and research, and (VII) awareness, advocacy and training. Governments were also asked to provide examples of good practices and innovative approaches to addressing all forms of violence against children. However the review team had access to only 7 completed questionnaires up to the final report, and this limited the available information from the remaining countries. Only a few gaps in the information were filled through published reports or interviews with knowledgeable persons from these countries. The findings are therefore uneven, with much more information available for the seven countries for which country reports were available.

The third major source of information was the Caribbean Consultation on Violence against Children, which was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad, on March 9-11, 2005. At this consultation, stakeholders including members of governments and civil society, and young people, discussed many of the issues and made recommendations coming out of their own experiences. These recommendations are incorporated in this report. The specific recommendations of the young people are included in the Appendix.

Two young girls in Suriname, during a visit to a community, within the UNICEF's Child Survival and Immunization Plus Programme, in 2006.

IV. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

1. Background

The nations of the Caribbean are an eclectic set: including small islands as well as quite substantial continent-bound countries; countries independent for over 40 years, some still dependents of the colonial states; middle-high level incomes to the poorest state in the Western hemisphere; some with rates of violence among the highest in the world, and others fairly idyllic with crime almost non-existent. For this review, we have concentrated on the following countries: Jamaica, Haiti, Belize, Suriname, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos. These countries include all of the member states of the regional Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) except the Bahamas, and two CARICOM associate members (British Virgin Islands and Montserrat). CARICOM resulted from efforts to fulfil a hope of regional integration that was first manifested through the formation of the British West Indies Federation which lasted from 1958 until 1962. After the collapse of the Federation, various efforts at inter-state collaboration followed, and CARICOM was established by the Treaty of Chaguaramas on August 1, 1973. A sub-regional body, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States comprises 9 countries. The community has a number of regional bodies that support Caribbean integration including a Court of Justice which currently deals with trade matters internal to the countries, and which is slated to become the final court of appeal within the Caribbean.

The countries in focus are primarily independent island states, though some remain protectorates of Britain (British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos), while Belize, Suriname and Guyana are located on the continental mainland close to the Caribbean Sea, but have close cultural and historic ties to the islands of the Caribbean. All are English-speaking except for Haiti (French and Creole) and Suriname which is a former Dutch colony where many residents are multilingual. Haiti gained independence in 1804, the first country in the hemisphere to do so after the United States of America.

Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago gained independence in 1962, Barbados and Guyana in 1966, Suriname in 1975, and the others more recently. Haiti is currently under a temporary administration since the removal of power of the first democratically elected leader in February 2004, however this administration is not recognized by Caricom.

1.1 Underlying causes and contributing factors

The problem of violence in the Caribbean has been widely discussed and condemned. Rates of interpersonal violence are extremely high in some countries[1] and equally alarmingly, appear to be on the increase even in those countries with traditionally low levels of violence. The subject has been the concern of many disciplines: criminology, sociology, public health, psychology and psychiatry, law and justice, child development, among others. Frequently discussions take place within one group, and especially, within one country, with little interaction between and among the various concerned parties, who may well benefit from sharing the experiences of other groups.

The countries share a similar cultural and historical background, including the decimation of indigenous peoples after the arrival of Europeans in the late fifteenth century, the slavery of imported Africans primarily to work the sugarcane plantations, and the later arrival of East Indian and other ethnic groups as indentured labourers. The links to slavery and the brutal plantation life have been implicated in the continued violence experienced in the Caribbean.

There are several areas of focus of violence in the Caribbean. Within the last few decades there has been a surge of narco-trafficking throughout the region which is often used as a trans-shipment area from the points of production in South and Central America to the large consumer markets of North America and Western Europe. It is claimed that this trafficking utilized the already-established conduits for transmitting ganja (marijuana) from Jamaica and other islands where it had been grown and exported to North America and England. With the crackdown of ganja-growing in the nineteen-

seventies and nineteen-eighties by the United States Drug Enforcement Agency and others, traffickers switched to transhipment of cocaine, and later crack-cocaine from areas of production, notably Colombia. This often called for the use of drug 'mules' particularly women who would carry the drugs in their bodies while they travelled by airplane, and recovered on arrival at their destination. Other established trans-shipment points include the islands of the Bahamas, with their extensive coastline that is difficult to patrol, and the US Virgin islands with the relative ease to enter US ports for residents there.

The drug trade is said to be conducted through both cash transactions and through exchanges for weapons. From the cash dealers have extensive disposal income which is used not only for personal aggrandizement but also for community benefits which serve to cement community loyalty to the dealers. The exchange of weapons for drugs allows the dealers to become well armed, and this they use to defend their 'turf' or respective areas of control, and to commit acts of intimidation and murder which further cement their control. Secondary trade in weapons further contributes to the resulting violence.

Although there is a perception of the countries of the Caribbean as 'laid-back', 'no problem' islands, the reality is that there has been a long-standing history of violence related to political rivalry. The extent to which this has occurred has varied considerably among the different countries. A few examples follow.

In Grenada in 1970, the then Prime Minister Eric Gairy formed a private army known as the Mongoose Gang. In November 1973, a young lawyer Maurice Bishop and two other members of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) political party were badly beaten by this gang. Bishop was hospitalized for several weeks with a broken jaw and other injuries. In 1974 the NJM called a national strike fearing that the Prime Minister was planning to install himself as a dictator after independence was granted from Britain. During a protest march, several people were attacked by the police and Rupert Bishop, Maurice's father, was killed. In March 1979, following rumours that several members of

the NJM were to be assassinated on Gairy's orders by the Mongoose Gang, Bishop and the NJM took over the national radio station and subsequently took over the government in a bloodless coup.

Between 1979 and 1983, during the 'Revolution' Bishop was strongly influenced by and received aid from Cuba and the Soviet Union. Infighting between himself and other members for the ruling NJM, notably Bernard Coard, let to friction which culminated in the arrest of Bishop and shortly after, the execution of Bishop and most of his cabinet. US President Ronald Reagan who had been highly critical of Bishop's government took this opportunity to send in the U.S. Marines. After several days of intensive engagement, the Grenadian defenders surrendered and Coard and thirteen others were sentenced to death (Later commuted to life-imprisonment).

The prominent Guyanese historian and political figure, Walter Rodney, was a powerful advocate for the poor while he was a lecturer at the University of the West Indies, Mona in Jamaica. In 1968 he was banned by the then government from returning to Jamaica and this led to extensive rioting which cost the lives of several people and the loss of millions of dollars in damage. Rodney returned to Guyana in 1974 where he was actively working for the Working People's Alliance against the People's National Congress government. He was eventually assassinated by a remote-controlled bomb.

In Jamaica, for decades, the two major political parties have experienced uneasy relations at best and have been warring at the worst of times. The relationship between many of the politically powerful and supporters and party workers has been described as one of 'patron-client'. For many years the 'client' partners were obedient to their 'patron' partners who in turn provided scarce resources, jobs, cash or kind. However, more recently there has been a breakdown of these relationships with the patrons unable to provide largesse, and with the competition of the drug dealers who in some cases have overtaken the political patrons with their own patronage. This has resulted in relatively autonomous gangs who carve out urban spaces with semi-sovereign rule.

In Suriname internal armed conflict in the 1980s, and a military coup in 1990-1991 have had profound effects there. Haiti is exceptional in undergoing a 'human rights crisis'[2] since the ouster of the elected president in 2004. The interim president was installed shortly afterwards, but the present government has not been recognized by CARICOM. There are reports of escalating violence including government-sponsored killing in poor neighbourhoods, arbitrary arrests and detention of government critics and supported of the ousted constitutional government, and a lack of food and medicine.

There have been long-standing links between ethnic tensions, politics and violence, primarily among the descendants of Africans and Indians in the countries where these groups are dominant i.e. Trinidad and Guyana. In other Caribbean countries, descendants of Africans tend to be the overwhelming majority with only small fractions of the populations represented by East Indians, Chinese, Lebanese or Syrian, white or mixed groups. However the problem is more complex than a simple struggle for dominance between African and Indian groups, issues of access to wealth and power are also implicated by shade and ethnic origin.

It is generally agreed that the historically imposed divisions of the East Indian and Africans were established by the planter classes to more effectively control the labour force. Although Trinidad and Guyana have important historical, demographic and political similarities, these have resulted in significantly different ethnic violence. Intense competition between post-independence political parties led to violence and arson between Afro-and Indo-Guyanese communities during the early 1960s. In Trinidad this threat did not materialize. Since the 1990s, both countries shifted from governments ruled by primarily Afro- to Indo-based political parties, and this resulted in ethnic violence in Guyana but not in Trinidad. A number of other social factors contribute to the violence of the region. Emigration of workers has traditionally allowed for expanded opportunities among Caribbean peoples ever since the abolition of slavery. Historically, for example, there was emigration from the English-speaking islands to work in cane fields in Central America or Cuba, or to assist with the construction of the Panama Canal. Post World-War II there was extensive emigration to Great Britain, and more recently to the US and Canada. Particularly unfavourable social situations in individual countries have also instigated migration, such as the extremely high violence and fear of socialism in Jamaica in the late 1970s, the major ongoing volcanic eruption in Montserrat during the 1990s, and inter-regional migration to oil-rich Trinidad between the 1970s and the present time. Migration results in a complex situation for the children left behind. On the one hand, remittances and gifts (often clothing, shoes and other items sent periodically in 'barrels') may result in some material benefits, but the loss of the primary caregiver is an undoubtedly traumatic event that can lead to a variety of negative outcomes. Children that are left behind become more vulnerable to neglect, and to physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

Across the region, the quality of education available to children varies immensely. Excellent facilities and teachers are available in some countries especially within certain private schools. The facilities for some children are quite inadequate however, and there are often too few teachers many of whom do not have adequate training. This is especially the case for the youngest children in the poorer countries. The entire education system is often implicated in the discourse of children and violence, poor quality education leading to reduced employment potential or opportunities for further education. Instead, youngsters who drop out or leave school without an adequate education may be more likely to be drawn into a life of crime and violence.

The struggling state of the economies of many of the Caribbean countries is also implicated in the levels of violence. For example, in Jamaica the period since the late 1970s has been described as one of 'economic pressure driving the violence'. Others have argued that poverty levels are not the only contributing factor to violence since there are many poor countries without this problem. Instead it is suggested that the obvious inequality and close proximity of

both high-income earners and the very poor that fuels the problem.

Another social phenomenon which may be influencing levels of violence regionally is the so-called 'marginalization' of males and the rise of women in academia and business. It has been suggested that these shifting gender roles have affected the traditional patterns of authority within the homes with the result of increased domestic violence attributed to men's 're-asserting authority'.

Violence disproportionately affects children, either directly or indirectly. Violence by young people is extremely visible, and most of the perpetrators, as well as most of the victims, of violent crimes are male adolescents or youths.[3] Youth violence affects not only the victims, but also their families, friends and communities, and the effects are not only death or injury, but also negative psychological outcomes, poorer quality of life, reduced productivity and generally disrupted societies.

2. Overview on national legal frameworks and enforcement

On November 20, 1989, The General Assembly of the United Nations approved the Convention on the Rights of The Child. As a means of ensuring total representation of the different religious beliefs, history and customs worldwide, the process of completion of this universal document lasted more than ten years. The Convention on the Rights of the Child is the first legally binding universal code on the rights of children. The rights detailed in the Convention correspond to all children below the age of eighteen disregarding race, gender, place of birth, sex, ethnicity or religion. The Convention became and is still the most broadly accepted human rights treaty in history.

One hundred and ninety two governments, including all those in the Caribbean region, have accepted an obligation to take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of violence which is set out in Article 19 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. See table below for the dates of the ratifications.

Ratifications of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Antigua and Barbuda	05 October 1993
Bahamas	20 February 1991
Barbados	09 October 1990
Belize	02 May 1990
Dominica	13 March 1991
Grenada	05 November 1990
Guyana	14 January 1991
Haiti	08 June 1995
Jamaica	14 May 1991
Saint Kitts and Nevis	24 July 1990
Saint Lucia	16 June 1993
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	26 October 1993
Suriname	01 May 1993
Trinidad and Tobago	05 December 1991

(Taken from: (2005) The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: Fifteen years later pg. 9)

No Caribbean state has entered any reservation to reduce their obligation to protect children from all forms of violence. Here in the region other treaty bodies have recommended prohibition of violence against children. Some such treaties include The Human Rights Committee to Guyana, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights with reference to corporal punishment in the home and various settings in Jamaica (2001) and in Trinidad and Tobago (2002). Also some states in the region (Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago) have ratified the Inter American Convention on Human Rights.[4]

No Caribbean territory has adopted a comprehensive code on children similar to those enacted by many Latin American countries. The prevailing trend throughout the Caribbean has been a gradual, piecemeal approach to law reform designed to give effect to the CRC.[5] Some Caribbean governments have however enacted consolidation laws which have sought to deal with a wide range of issues, one such law and the first of its kind was the Families and Children Act 1998 of Belize, it is the only law to date that incorporates into national law a list of the rights of children. Since the enactment of this law other Caribbean nation states have followed suit.

[Referring to laws about children and violence:] *"There is some level of protection but there is tremendous potential for young persons to 'fall through the cracks.' "*

"A legal framework definitely exists though it is not fully enforced."

"Voices of youth regional message board on violence Against Children", UNICEF 2005

The Caribbean presents a unique case with respect to research on child rights and child rights issues. It has been found that the legacy of slavery may help to explain the social and cultural traditions that have hindered acceptance of the child rights revolution. The widespread use and subsequent acceptance of physical punishment as a suitable form of disciplining and punishing children, and even to some extent adults, is undoubtedly a legacy of slavery. It has also been suggested that the emphasis on criminal sanctions as a means of solving social problems rather than more passive alternatives such as conflict resolution or mediation evident in much of the new legislation concerning the protection of children, may also reflect the continued influence of values associated with the period when the institution of slavery was central to Caribbean societies.[6]

The legacy of the colonial period has proven to be a barrier to the child rights revolution. The heavy reliance on private, usually religious, organizations to provide a wide range of services to disadvantaged children is a response to social problems that is characteristic of colonialism when the missionaries were seen as the savior of the down-trodden slaves. It is also true that an acceptance of corporal punishment in families and institutions, such as schools can be traced to the British cultural influences. Such remnants and retentions act as a significant obstacle to the development of comprehensive approaches to the legal and social reforms needed to ensure greater respect for the rights of children.[7] Against this background, the importance of the Convention on the Right of the Child is highlighted and emphasized. The adoption of this Convention is therefore an important step in the right direction.

During the last fifteen years, the countries in the Caribbean have been recognized as having made significant advancement in the preservation and promotion of the human rights of children as well as in the effective improvement of their life conditions. Despite this steady advance however, some children in Caribbean countries still frequently suffer violence, abandonment, abuse, mistreatment and exploitation, and several are deprived of the right to education and proper health care and even a greater number are forced to go to bed hungry. As a region we hope to attain sustainable development, we cannot do so without our most valuable assets, our children.

2.1 Achievements to date

1) Ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by all countries.
2) There have been many policy adjustments to improve the quality of life of the child
3) Jamaica and Belize have a National Plan of Action for Children
4) Recent establishment of the Child Development Agency in Jamaica has brought new attention to the rights of children.
5) Most of the countries have signed or ratified supporting conventions to improve the quality of life of the child, including Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Inter American Convention on Human Rights.
6) According to the response to the questionnaires by various countries Civil Society in most countries including Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago have increased advocacy for the adherence to the rights of the children.
7) Jamaica passed the Early Childhood Act in 2005, to provide a comprehensive framework for all aspects of early childhood development, including regulations, policies and standards to govern early childhood institutions.

2.2 Current gaps in legislation, implementation and enforcement (impunity) in some countries

• There exists no uniformity in laws which are formulated to protect children as

some refer to a child as a person under sixteen years old while others refer to a child as a person under eighteen, for example Jamaica and Suriname, respectively . This is not in accordance with the CRC. National legislation should be adjusted to address this. However, thus far, only Belize has incorporated the CRC into national law.

- There are no specific provisions in the Criminal Code dealing with sale or trafficking of children in some countries, including Suriname and St. Lucia
- There exists no legislation or any other measures to prohibit the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography
- There is no legislation for compulsory reporting of child abuse or acts of violence against children
- Minimum Age for Admission to Employment is 14 in some countries while a "child" is defined as person less than 18 years
- In some countries the male abused child is without adequate protection from the state, for example in St. Lucia and Guyana.
- The weak institutional capacity to enforce the laws
- The continued use of corporal punishment in schools in some countries
- There is weak enforcement of the law in some cases
- Inadequate funding for research and public education on the rights of the children

3. Violence against children in homes and families

In homes and families, children suffer as witnesses of domestic violence and as victims of child abuse and neglect.

3.1 Child abuse and neglect

Caribbean definitions of child abuse and neglect have been formulated and these are provided below:

Physical abuse: any act which results in non-accidental physical injury
Sexual abuse: sexual exploitation of a child through violent and non-violent molestation
Emotional abuse: the overt or covert direction of hostility to a child by repeatedly threatening, withholding affection, and belittling the child's capabilities, qualities and desires
Neglect: gross or repeated failure to provide for the child's physical or emotional needs resulting in harm or threatened harm to the child's health or welfare.[8]

Available data on the extent of child abuse and neglect indicates that the problem is endemic in the Caribbean region and large numbers of children are believed to be affected. The figures provided differ in their magnitude but are in all cases alarmingly high. Surveys of adults and children's experiences of child abuse and neglect generally reveal a higher prevalence of violence against children than official figures suggesting that there is significant underreporting and this is likely to be the case across all countries of the Caribbean. Some of the suggested reasons for this underreporting in Caribbean countries are the fear of reprisal, shame amongst family members and the view that abuse is a private matter, the family's economic dependence on the perpetrator, the child's fear of the perpetrator, a lack of awareness of what constitutes abuse and neglect by parents and by other adults and professionals (e.g. police, teachers, health professionals) and of a lack of awareness of the consequences of abuse and neglect, the social and cultural sanctioning of child abuse and a lack of or inefficient reporting procedures.

'Violence within the home is hidden since culturally it may be seen as normal. Also because of allegiance to the home, children are compelled to remain silent about instances of abuse. Abused children are torn emotionally…loving and hating the abuser in the home…'

'…men were regarded as the main perpetrators of violence. This violence is deemed as a natural offshoot of male aggression…as culturally normal…'

Report on the Adolescent Forum-Caribbean Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children. March 2005

Reports from Jamaica[9] and Guyana[10] show that child abuse and neglect occurs across all

socio-economic groups and family structures. However, children from homes of low socio-economic status, children from inner-city areas and children who have a parent with mental health problems or drug/ alcohol problems are most vulnerable.[11] In addition, certain groups of children are reported to be at heightened risk for child abuse and neglect. For example, children from minority groups (Carib children from St Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica[12], Amerindian children in Guyana and Maroon children in Suriname[13]) have been reported to experience higher levels of physical and sexual abuse than children from the general population. Children with disabilities are reported to be at heightened risk for all types of abuse (physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and neglect)[14] and orphaned children and children with absentee parents are more at risk of physical abuse.[15] There are also some reports of younger children (aged birth to 4 years and 5-12 years) being most at risk of child abuse and neglect.

The type of abuse with the highest reported incidence differs by country. In Jamaica and Dominica, sexual abuse has the highest incidence whereas in Grenada abandonment and neglect and in Belize and Barbados, neglect had the highest reported incidence according to the country reports.

Physical abuse

The use of corporal punishment as a form of discipline is common in the Caribbean region and is used to discipline children from very young ages. Only Haiti (of the six countries who submitted completed government questionnaires) (St Lucia, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Belize, and Dominica) had laws prohibiting the use of corporal punishment at home. However, the law in Haiti is not enforced and perpetrators are not prosecuted. There is widespread support for the use of corporal punishment by parents in the Caribbean[16] although severe forms of punishment leading to injury are generally not condoned.[17] Similarly, surveys of children's views report that the majority of children themselves believe that physical punishment is a valid and necessary form of discipline.[18]
The widespread support and use of corporal

punishment is purported to be a result of a complex interplay of cultural and social norms including the belief that children are born 'bad' or 'wicked' and need correcting, the view of children as 'property' of their parents, the widespread belief that physical punishment is a necessary part of character development, the lack of knowledge of non-violent discipline approaches, the importance placed on children being obedient and showing respect to adults, the religious admonishment of 'spare the rod and spoil the child' and the widespread belief of adults that they were not harmed by the physical punishment they received as children.

Children are physically punished for many reasons including disobedience, disrespect, stealing, lying, answering back, fighting and for poor homework. The majority of physical abuse occurs in the context of disciplining the child and hence the widespread support of corporal punishment is a concern.

"Many children still get 'licks' "

"Most everyone has been beaten by a family member"

"Often 'licks' is not seen as violence unless it is excessive and unprovoked"

"Parents should look for other alternatives because children will sooner or later get immune."

"Voices of Youth Regional Message Board on violence Against Children" UNICEF. 2005

There are no significant differences in rates of physical abuse by gender as reported by children themselves[19] and parents generally support the use of corporal punishment for their sons and daughters. However, there is some anecdotal evidence that boys are more likely to be victims of more severe forms of abuse and this is supported by data on hospital cases in Jamaica which reported treating more boys than girls for physical abuse.[20]

Reports from Guyana, Jamaica and Barbados show that the main perpetrators of physical abuse in the home are parents / caregivers,[21] particularly mothers.[22] A significant minority of the physical abuse is perpetrated by

children e.g. older siblings.[23]

Sexual abuse

In the Caribbean region, there are discrepancies in the terminologies used to describe sexual abuse among children. For children younger than 16 years of age, the term 'carnal abuse' is used whereas for children 16 to 18, the term 'rape' is used. This has serious implications particularly as 'carnal abuse' is often treated as a lesser crime than 'rape'. The younger children are thus offered less protection under the law than older children and adults.

In the vast majority of reported cases of sexual abuse, the victims are girls. Although there is a general belief in the Caribbean community that girls in single parent households are most at risk and that the perpetrator is most often the stepfather or mother's boyfriend, the statistics do not always support this view. LeFranc[24] reports on a study by Wyatt which found that sexual abuse was most common in two parent households suggesting that presence of the father does not necessarily offer protection to the girl child. The available data is conflicting with some reports of non-relatives being the main perpetrators of sexual abuse, while others report that the most common perpetrators are the child's father or a relative of the father. The reports rarely differentiate the setting in which the abuse took place and it may be that the father or relative of the father is the most common perpetrator in the home and a non-relative outside the home. It is generally agreed that the perpetrators of sexual abuse are usually male and are usually known to the victim.

From a study done in Jamaica it was reported that some men believe that they have a right to a sexual liaison with a girl who is under their care and protection.[25] The acceptance of violence to gain sexual favors is also a reportedly common position of male adolescents of the Maroon people in Suriname.[26] These beliefs serve to culturally sanction sexual abuse of females. The cultural and social roots of sexual abuse of females is also illuminated by the fact that many girls believed that sexual harassment is 'normal' and is usually instigated by a women's choice of clothing and behavior. For example, a large proportion of the children interviewed in Guyana believed that girls were often the instigators of sexual abuse as they wore revealing clothing.[27]

Although there are few reported cases of boys being the victims of sexual abuse, this may be due to the fact that sexual abuse of boys is less likely to be reported than sexual abuse of girls. In the PAHO/WHO study[28] of school-going youth (10-18 years) there was only a marginal difference in the percentage of boys and girls reporting sexual abuse (9.1% versus 10.5%) while in another study sexual abuse of boys was most common at younger ages (age 5-9) than that of girls.[29] A serious concern relating to sexual abuse against boys is that in some countries (for example, Belize, Grenada and Guyana), sexual abuse is not recognized under the law if the victim is male.

The underreporting of sexual abuse is reported to be partially due to the condoning of the abusive sexual relationship by other household members due to financial dependence on the perpetrator. Even in cases where the perpetrator is reported, the legal procedures can prevent prosecution. For example, in Guyana, children need to be able to give credible evidence and the defense lawyers are often so intimidating that the child becomes upset and confused and the evidence is declared not credible. Anecdotal reports suggest that the consequences of sexual abuse are often that the child (and sometimes the mother) is forced to leave their home or community and experience extensive dislocation in their lives. However, the perpetrator often remains unpunished and does not receive any rehabilitative services. It is therefore likely that the perpetrator will sexually abuse another young victim in the future.

Emotional abuse

There is much less information on the prevalence of emotional abuse in the Caribbean than on physical and sexual abuse. However, verbal aggression and threatening children with physical punishment / abuse are commonly described in the literature. In Belize[30], as many as 80% of the school aged children involved in the

study reported being unloved by their mother while they were growing up and in Jamaica[31], 97% of the 11-12 year olds interviewed reported verbal aggression from an adult at home. Parents are reported to be the most common perpetrators of emotional abuse in the home,[32] especially mothers[33] and there are some reports of boys being more vulnerable to emotional abuse than girls.

Neglect

Very little attention is given to child neglect in the literature from the Caribbean region despite this having the highest prevalence rate in some countries according to the country questionnaires (e.g. Belize, Barbados, and Grenada). The most common perpetrators of neglect are parents, especially mothers[34] and as with emotional abuse, there are some reports of boys being more vulnerable to neglect than girls.

Risk factors for child abuse and neglect One study, in Dominica[35] examined the risk factors for child abuse and neglect. The risk factors identified included not living with both parents, the loss of one or both parents (for example, through family separation or migration), not sharing social activities with parents, parental mental health problems and parental drug and alcohol abuse.

Consequences of child abuse and neglect There is some evidence from the Caribbean that child abuse and neglect is associated with not attending / dropping out of school, being put into institutional care, living on the street and child labour[36] and involvement in violence in adolescence.[37] We found no longitudinal studies or retrospective studies which examined the association between child abuse and neglect and adult functioning.

3.2 Domestic violence

Domestic violence is highly prevalent in the Caribbean region. In Jamaica, nearly one quarter of all murders in the past 3 years were a result of domestic violence and studies[38] reported that 50% of men reported having hit their partner and 30% of adolescents worry about the fighting and violence they see in the home. In the British Virgin Islands and Barbados, 30% of women

reported having been physically abused.[39]

There is significant underreporting so that official figures are unlikely to represent the true magnitude of the problem. For example, in Dominica[40], only 14% of women who admitted being victims of domestic violence had reported it to the police. There are some reports of police being unwilling to intervene in domestic disputes as they view what happens in the home as a private affair.

The perpetrators of domestic violence are usually men although there are reports of men also being the victims of violence in the home.

Children are often witnesses of domestic violence and this may affect them in several ways. Some children identify with the victim and become depressed or fearful. Other children wish to protect the victim and this leads to them staying by their mother's side and being reluctant to play, go to school or sleep or they may try and intervene to prevent the violence and get injured themselves. Some children identify with the aggressor and start to criticize or abuse their mother themselves or verbally and physically abuse a young sibling.

3.3 Promising and proven practices

There are very few reports of evaluations of projects or programmes which aim to prevent child abuse and neglect, protect children from violence or rehabilitate children who are victims of violence and their families. This lack of an evaluation component of most projects in the region is a matter of concern as it not only prevents organizations from focusing on validated and effective approaches but also leads to lack of material that can be used in advocacy and lobbying governments for changes in policy and practice. In addition, the scope and coverage of the programmes available is inadequate with few of those in need having access to the services. A description of some of the services available is given below.

Parenting education

There are reports of many innovative parenting education initiatives in the Caribbean although we found no reports on

the impact of these programmes on child abuse and neglect. For example, Jamaica has several organizations that provide home visiting, early stimulation programmes to families who are at risk including families living in poverty, families with children with nutritional deficits and families with a child with a disability. These programmes assist parents in child stimulation and teach parenting skills including non-violent discipline strategies. Some of these programmes have been evaluated but the evaluation component has not included the incidence of child abuse and neglect. However, the interventions have generally resulted in increasing the mother's knowledge of appropriate parenting and child development and increasing the levels of stimulation in the home. Jamaica also has a wide network of parenting education initiatives coordinated through 'The Coalition for Better Parenting' which include components on preventing child abuse and neglect and a 'Parenting Hotline' which provides support and information to parents. Jamaica also has parenting education initiatives which are targeted specifically at fathers. These include 'Fathers Incorporated' and 'Dads of Distinction'. In Barbados, Paredos works in partnership with a number of government and non-governmental organizations to provide a variety of parenting initiatives including an outreach programme to provide support for pregnant women and mothers of young children, a day care centre, a parenting education newsletter, parent support groups, parent month, a radio programme and weekly newspaper articles. In Trinidad, SERVOL trains early childhood teachers to provide parenting assistance and education to mothers of 0-3 year old children in their own community and to encourage parents to form support groups. The programme also promotes community development, and enables parents to gain new skills and further their education. These programs are promising but their coverage is generally inadequate and only a small percentage of those in need access the services provided.

The media is also used in some countries for parenting education and for information on the rights of children. This includes TV coverage, newspaper articles and radio talk shows and documentaries.

However, parenting education has yet to be institutionalised in a sustainable way into existing services for young children and their families.

Awareness raising/advocacy

Five of the six countries submitting country questionnaires reported advocacy and awareness raising initiatives run by civil society and/or government organizations aimed at preventing and protecting children from child abuse and neglect. Some of these were local initiatives while others were national efforts at raising awareness such as using the media to disseminate messages and having a Child Abuse Prevention Month as an annual event. However, no evaluations of the impact and effectiveness of these programmes had been conducted. Haiti reported no such initiatives.

Response to victims of violence

Five of the six countries completing country questionnaires (Belize, Guyana, Dominica, Grenada and St. Lucia) reported rehabilitative services for child abuse and neglect victims although limited details are given. Three of the countries mentioned foster homes and institutionalized care offered to child victims although the home in St Lucia catered only for children under 12 years of age. Some countries offer a refuge for women and children exposed to domestic violence in the home. In Jamaica, the services offered by the refuge centre are at times disrupted through lack of resources and death threats resulting in intermittent closure.

A matter of concern in the Caribbean is the limited provision of services relating to family rehabilitation. A focus only on the victim leads to the child's life being disrupted and the perpetrator often being left to victimize other children.

4. Violence against children in the community and on the streets

Homicide rates in the Caribbean are nearly twice as high as the world average (22.9 per 100,000 compared to 10.7 per 100,000).[41] Jamaica has a homicide rate of 35 per 100,000 and Kingston has one of the highest murder rates in the world.[42] Other Caribbean

islands with higher than world average rates include Trinidad and Tobago. These high homicide rates reflect the high prevalence of crime and violence at the community level.

Violence against children in the community affects children as witnesses of violence and as victims. In addition, young people are often reported to be the perpetrators of violence and the involvement of young people in crime and violence is a significant problem in the Caribbean region.[43]

'Violence in communities was identified…as widespread in many Caribbean societies and affecting low-income communities more than others. In this respect participants made an inextricable link between poverty, crime and violence…The drug trade in particular was cited as the most serious criminal activity affecting communities as it precipitates gang-warfare.'

'The police were identified as contributing to spiraling crime in the communities through their federal apathetic approach to crime fighting and by being involved in the drug trade themselves. There is thus a prevalent mistrust of law enforcement agencies in many communities.'

Report on the Adolescent Forum-Caribbean Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children. UNICEF, March 2005

4.1 Children's exposure to violence

The reports indicate that children are exposed to very high levels of violence in their community. 47% of children in Guyana knew someone who had been killed,[44] 60% of 9-17 year old children in Jamaica reported that a family member had been a victim of violence and 37% had a family member who had been killed.[45] One third of school-going adolescents in the PAHO/WHO 12 country study[46] were concerned about violence in their community and wished to move elsewhere. In studies from Jamaica, only 28% of children thought their home neighborhood was very safe and 33% were afraid of someone in their community or yard,[47] while in Belize, 40% of children felt unsafe on the streets.[48] Violence and the fear of violence is thus a prominent issue in the lives of

Caribbean children. There is some evidence that boys and children of low socio-economic backgrounds are most likely to be exposed to high levels of neighborhood violence.[49]

Children are also exposed to violence in the media and a study in Jamaica[50] found a very high level of exposure to violence in print, TV and on the radio and the authors expressed the belief that the violence is portrayed as 'normal' and 'acceptable'. Some of the violence was perpetrated by celebrities and this is likely to increase the involvement of youth in crime. The perpetrators were portrayed as being rewarded for violence almost twice as often as they were punished and there were few instances in which an alternative to violence was portrayed. Three of the six countries submitting country questionnaires expressed concern that at times the media sensationalized violence against children and there were instances of insensitivity and irresponsibility in the manner of media reporting.

4.2 Children as victims

Studies of children's experiences as victims of violence also report a high prevalence of physical, sexual and emotional abuse and as children get older this abuse is more likely to happen in the community and at school rather than at home. Certain groups of children are at heightened risk of being victims of violence in the community and these include children who have dropped out of school or who do not attend school regularly, street children and working children. However, school-going children are also victims of crime in community settings. For example, in Jamaica school children have been reported to experience physical, sexual and emotional abuse when using public transportation. Children are sometimes victims of severe violence, for example, in Jamaica[51] with one million children, murder and shooting of children increased in 2004, with 119 children being killed, representing 8% of all murders. Of these murders, 86% involved boys. In the same year, 430 children were shot and injured according to police reports. Girls are reported to be at higher risk of sexual abuse and boys are more often victims of physical abuse. However, as mentioned in the section on homes and families, sexual abuse against boys is

often hidden and in some countries is not recognized under the law.

'The… delegates highlighted an increase in sexual crimes against children and domestic violence in many Caribbean communities…. Street children…were very vulnerable to being victims of crime, being recruited by criminal elements, being sexually exploited…'

Report on the Adolescent Forum-Caribbean Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children. UNICEF, March 2005

In countries such as Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, there are a growing number of children who are involved in commercial sexual activities, especially in tourist areas. In these settings, the children are not only sexual exploited but are often exposed to other forms of verbal and physical abuse, as well as Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs).

4.3 Children as perpetrators

A cause for great concern in the Caribbean region is the increasing incidence of youth crime. In Jamaica, adolescents aged 13-19 years are responsible for a quarter of major crimes including armed robbery, assault, rape and murder.[52] It is reported that adolescents view violence as a useful tool for survival and social mobility and there is little faith evidenced by youth in the efficacy of justice, law and order. A common concern expressed is the recruitment of disaffected youths into crime by others in the community. Boys who drop out of school are easy prey to the criminal element in their community and involvement in crime can provide these youths with the recognition and power that they have been deprived of in their homes and at school. Albuquerque and Elroy (1999)[53] describe "the emergence of a violent subculture of marginalized, unemployed youth" as one of the primary reasons for the serious crime wave affecting the Caribbean region. The social exclusion of youth is reported by several authors and is characterized by limited educational and employment opportunities, an inability to influence decisions made both at the community and national levels and a feeling of powerlessness.

Although the official statistics show that the majority of crime by young people is perpetrated by young men, girls also report involvement in violence. For example in the PAHO/WHO 9 Caribbean country study[54] of school going 10-18 year olds, 20% of boys and 12.5% of girls had at some time belonged to a gang. 40% of the teenagers in this study also reported feelings of rage (i.e. answered some of the time or almost always to the question: "Do you ever think about hurting / killing someone?" Rage was a powerful predictor of risk behaviours including involvement in violence, sexual activity, alcohol use and smoking. Self-directed violence is also of concern with 12.5% of school-going adolescents in the PAHO/WHO study admitting to attempting suicide.

"Because of gang associations many young people are forced to perpetrate crimes."

"Voices of Youth Regional Message Board on violence Against Children" UNICEF. 2005

A major concern in terms of policy and practice in the Caribbean is that the response to youth crime is often punitive rather than rehabilitative. Holding youth trials in adult criminal courts, detaining children in adult correctional services and the long time period between arrest and sentencing are some of the reported problems in the current systems. The detainment of children in adult jails often leads to children witnessing more violence and becoming the victims of violence in terms of physical, emotional and sexual abuse.

'Participants suggested that the prevailing legislation is not altogether clear as to its definition of "juvenile" versus "adult" offenders…'

'Juvenile offenders…are normally remanded in detention centers, which not only house those who have had conflict with the law, but possibly orphaned, abused or abandoned children.'

'[There is also] a pervasive erosion of confidence in the judicial and law enforcement systems. Police, in particular, were cited as – abusive of the powers vested in their office, committing brutalities

Several studies in the Caribbean have examined the risk factors associated with childhood aggression and juvenile delinquency. In one study utilizing the data from the PAHO/WHO nine Caribbean country study, the major risk factors for youth involvement in violence were found to be physical and sexual abuse, skipping school and rage.[55] The strongest protective factor was school connectedness (liking school and getting along with teachers) and other protective factors were family connectedness (parents and other family members care for you, pay attention to you, understand you) and religion (attending church and religiosity). In a Jamaican study, independent predictors of childhood aggression were reported to be high levels of exposure to violence at home and at school, greater amounts of physical punishment at home and at school, increased crowding in the home, poor school achievement and low socio-economic status.[56] Another Jamaican study found conduct disorder in adolescence to be associated with mothers being absent, presence of a negative parental role model (usually the father) and to have a number of changes in parenting arrangements.[57] These studies, taken in their entirety emphasise the importance of children's experiences in the home and school setting and will assist in planning interventions appropriate for the Caribbean context.

4.4 Promising and proven practices

Although there are a number of organisations across the region that have undertaken programs, there are few reports and almost no careful assessments of their effectiveness. We therefore have insufficient information to draw any conclusion about the reach and coverage of these programs and their impact. However, there are a wide variety of programmes that respond to the needs of youth in the Caribbean and many of these programmes will also assist in

preventing violence against and by young people. However, monitoring and evaluation of these programmes is severely limited and their impact is unknown. In Jamaica, UNICEF has recently funded an inventory of programmes which have violence reduction as an aim.[58] Of the 36 programs identified, there was process data (such as numbers trained, workshops held, number of children treated) from a few (e.g. PALS, Youth for Christ, CAMP Bustamante) but careful outcome data (such as change in children's behaviour, parenting and teacher practices) from only one (parent and teacher intervention pilot study).

UNICEF has also undertaken its own program across the region to campaign for violence reduction, the XCHANGE campaign. This campaign was first conceived by Machel Montano, soca star of Trinidad and Tobago and Derrick Lewis, Creative Director of Island People, Trinidad and Tobago, who together with UNICEF developed the concept of Xchange. Xchange aims to create a movement of young leaders throughout the Caribbean, committed to a positive lifestyle. Xchange also has the objective of creating safe and protective environments for children at home, school, community and in institutions. Importantly the program is not simply prescriptive but allows young people to identify key actions they would like to implement UNICEF assistance. Activities include the creation of green spaces, talks to young people by sports and entertainment personalities who would be positive role models, strengthening Home and Family Life Education programs, among others. There is also awareness that cultural penetration from the North American media, may be influencing violence and other negative behaviours among children and youth in the Caribbean. This program seeks to address this issue. XCHANGE programs are either in place or planned for Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Haiti, Guyana, Belize and Grenada.

Several other agencies are also involved including PAHO/WHO, UNESCO, faith-based and community organizations, and NGOs.

The majority of Caribbean countries either has or is in the process of developing a youth-specific policy with only 3 countries

(Barbados, Montserrat and Antigua and Barbuda) have made no move to do so. Services and programs are mostly provided by governmental and non-governmental organizations Some of these services are targeted at particular 'high risk' groups such as street children, children living in inner-city communities, children with a disability, teenage mothers, young fathers and drug addicts.

Efforts have also been made in many Caribbean countries to strengthen the education system as a whole to meet the needs of young people and to prevent school drop out. For example, reform of the secondary education system in Trinidad and Tobago has been implemented in order to achieve universal access, extend the time spent in the classroom and ensure all schools operate a single shift only. In Jamaica, the government reformed the curriculum in grades 7-9 to make it more meaningful for students, is in the process of increasing the numbers of secondary school places available and intends to increase the number of co-curricular activities available to secondary school students. There are also initiatives within the education system to help tackle violence against children including guidance and counseling, Peace and Love in Schools (PALS) which teaches children conflict resolution, Health and Family Life Education programmes and initiatives that use music, the cultural arts and sports to assist students.

Other initiatives to assist youth include training and skills development, social safety net programs (e.g. assistance with school fees, school feeding programs and welfare programmes), provision of care and protection for victims and violence and youth offenders (e.g. children's homes, foster care, places of safety, adoption), mentoring programmes and sports and leisure initiatives.

5. Violence against children in schools

Similar to the high levels of violence in homes and in the communities, some territories report high levels of violence in schools. A disquieting number of students in Caribbean schools have witnessed a physically violent act at some point in their lives. One study revealed that "…78.5% of the students had witnessed violence in their communities, 60.8% in their schools, and 44.7% in their homes. Twenty-nine per cent of the students had caused injury to persons."[59] As a result, many students no longer feel safe in their schools and some drop out, or attend irregularly, though absenteeism may have other etiologies.

Children can suffer emotional and psychological abuse at the hands of authority figures. Parents, teachers and school administrators are sometimes harsh in their choice of words when scolding a child. This can in turn lead to the child developing low self-esteem and other behavioral problems. Behavioral problems can also stem from a myriad of factors such as witnessing violence in the home, loss of a parent and neglect.

Eliminating violence in Caribbean schools becomes particularly problematic when the issue of corporal punishment arises. Not only is its use written into law in many Caribbean states, but it is also engrained into Caribbean culture. In Trinidad & Tobago there have been calls from parents, teachers and even students for the Parliament to reinstate the recently-abolished corporal punishment in schools.

'Violence between teachers and students includes violence directed at students through institutionalised punishment (corporal punishment) and through verbal and psychological abuse…and the use of humiliation and intimidation by teachers.'

Report on the Adolescent Forum-Caribbean Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children. UNICEF, March 2005

The issue of violence in Caribbean schools has give rise to levels of discourse that range from the straightforward to the complex. The incidence of homicides, wounding, sexual and physical assault in schools has risen sharply over the last decade, commanding the attention of most Caribbean governments and their citizens. With a murder rate of 55 per 100,000 in 2004 in Jamaica, 25% of those arrested for major crimes were youths, and disproportionately male, of school age.[60] Major crimes committed in other CARICOM nations bear a similar bias to males, though

the rates are less alarming.

One country, Dominica has taken a pre-emptive approach to this malady. Although the incidence of violence is not high in Dominican schools, the Ministry of Education and Youth has established a 'violence and injury surveillance system' to tackle the problem. In Grenada, the Ministry of Education has put systems in place that require parental involvement in quelling the upsurge of crime in the institutions. Other Caribbean states, through governments and private sectors, have implemented programmes that directly address the chronic problem of violence in schools, including the following:

- Health and Family Life Education (2002) – St. Vincent & the Grenadines;
- Zero tolerance policy by the Ministry of Education, Human Resource Development, Youth and Sports (1998) – St. Lucia;
- Project Peace (2002) – Ministry of Education, Trinidad & Tobago;
- Pathways to Peace (1999) funded by UNESCO, Inter-Agency Task Force (2003),
- Programme for Alternative Student Support (2001) – Ministry of Education, Jamaica;
- Peace and Love in Schools (PALS) (1993) - Jamaica;
- Change From Within (1992) – University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica.

Some schools have their own initiatives in dealing with delinquent children, for instance, having consultations with parents, leaving suspension and expulsion as a last resort.[61]

'the phenomenon of violence within the student population…is on the increase… linked to the increased incidence of gangs. …trafficking of illicit drugs within schools by gangs results in inter-gang rivalry and its concomitant animosities which tend to be more violent as compared to regular school

fights. Stabbings, shootings, and severe beatings have been named as significant elements in the corollary of gang conflict. Separate to gang-related violence… hostilities between students…is evidenced by bullying, physical exchanges and verbal abuse. Special learners, younger students and students with disabilities were singled out as particularly vulnerable groups in this respect.'

'Male aggression…is seen as normative behaviour for boys and central to their concept and subsequent construction of maleness and masculinity…[while] an increase in violence among girls is apparent.'

'…single parent families, inadequate school staff, inappropriately trained school staff and an irresponsible media were identified as contributing factors to an increase in school violence.'

'…violent and insolent children were portrayed as "cute" by the media.'

Report on the Adolescent Forum-Caribbean Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children. UNICEF March 2005

The emotional and psychological damage to children and adolescents resulting from violence can seriously impair their ability to make wise choices about their lives, often putting themselves in harms way. Neglect and verbal or other abuse can result in feelings of worthlessness, pushing children to seek alternative sources for the love, attention and security that they are being deprived of in the home. Many youths, both male and female, may then, end up in vicious gangs and are often exploited. The schools, therefore need to create a child-friendly environment, one in which the students can thrive.

"Children who fall victim to acts of violence should feel confident to voice their complaints to the relevant authority."

"Voices of Youth Regional Message Board on violence Against Children" UNICEF. 2005

6. Violence against children in institutions

This section refers to violence against children who have been taken into custody, and those housed in institutions. While all of the countries have children's homes, which may be run by the government, churches or private groups, there are only a few reports on the status of children in these homes. A comprehensive review of children's homes and places of safety in Jamaica was recently conducted,[62] and the status of the children was described as dangerous and likely to stymie desired development. Recommendations included a review of the standards of places of safety, implementation of a care plan for each child, staff reviewing including job analysis and evaluations and the establishment of social worker posts in each institution. Indications are that these recommendations are slowly being implemented.[63] However, it was also reported that 'To the degree that abuses occur in these facilities, they appear to be occasional rather than systemic', in contrast with children in police custody.[64]

'Institutions were regarded as particularly necessary to fill the gap left by the progressive erosion of family-life… however…children or young persons placed in the care of institutions must be treated first and foremost with human dignity and above all with sensitivity and understanding for their special needs as displaced and/or abused persons. Of paramount concern in this regard, is the tendency to use orphanages as detention centers, and so displaced children are not only accorded similar treatment to offenders of the law, but are also exposed to the criminal elements who are detained there.'

'…violence permeates institutions in the Caribbean as evidenced by widespread physical abuse, verbal abuse, psychological trauma and sexual abuse…[P]erpetrators were largely the staff and caregivers of the institutions…[and] younger inmates may suffer at the hands of older inmates as well.'

Report on the Adolescent Forum-Caribbean Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children.UNICEF, March 2005

A few studies have been carried out with children in remand, without focusing on the circumstances of the detention centre. One study on the effects of physical abuse indicates that abuse in institutions was associated with an increase in aggressive behaviour.[65] Another study inquired into the reaction of inmate juvenile delinquents to incarceration.[66] In a damning report, Human Rights Watch[67] described the situation of children being held in police 'lockups' often for extended periods, either because they are suspected of having committed a crime, or because they are thought to be 'in need of care and protection' because they are neglected, abused or 'uncontrollable' by parents and guardians and are awaiting permanent placement in appropriate institutions. Interviews and observations indicated that serious abuses occurred while the children were in police custody, by other inmates and by the police themselves in some cases and that the holding facilities were extremely unsanitary and overcrowded. Attempts to overcome these problems are addressed in the draft National Plan of Action for Juvenile Justice. The status of remanded children in Haiti has also been condemned.

"If you are black and male and from a ghetto the assumption is you are a criminal."

"Boys are brutally raped in prison."

"Voices of Youth Regional Message Board on violence Against Children" UNICEF. 2005

It is clear that further studies are required to inform on the status of children and violence in institutions across the Caribbean region. Such studies may be best incorporated into broader studies of children in institutional care.

7. Violence against children in work situations

In this review, Violence in Work Situations refers to acts of violence, maltreatment, abuse and neglect against children in various work settings. This definition not only takes into account children involved in the worst forms of child labour (WFCL) outlined by ILO Convention No. 182, but also includes children whose general work conditions put them at risk for abuse and exploitation.

Unfortunately, there is limited data on the number of children involved in child labour in the Caribbean.[68] This is partly due to the fact that there is a general lack of awareness on the existence and developmental consequences of child labour in the region. Many countries feel that the problem is small or that it does not exist.[69] In addition, many of the activities that children are involved in for economic gain are difficult to research, because of their hidden and sometimes illegal nature. One of the main goals of the region is to begin to adequately document and monitor the number of working children in each country. A part of this work must also include an investigation of working conditions and the different forms of violence children are exposed to in their work situations.

It is culturally acceptable for children to help their families in domestic, agriculture and family-owned businesses. In many cases, these activities are beneficial to children and do not in any way interfere with their development. However, more and more children are forfeiting school attendance and entering the formal and informal labour market due to the economic situation in some of these countries (e.g. Jamaica, Haiti and Guyana). As a result, children are being exposed to exploitation and violence in these work settings. UNICEF has spearheaded a series of rapid assessments on the Child Labour situation in the Caribbean. This work, along with research done by governments, advocacy groups and academics, has begun the task of uncovering the situation of working and street children in the region. There are some fairly comprehensive reports from Belize[70] and Suriname[71], but in general a lot more work needs to be done in the region.

"Some young people voluntarily work, they prefer to earn money than to go to school."

"Work builds character and many valuable lessons about life in the real world can be learnt by young people who work at an early age."

"One's educational opportunities are limited when they are compelled to work at an early age."

"Voices of Youth Regional Message Board on violence Against Children" UNICEF. 2005

In many Caribbean nations children are involved in activities related to domestic work, agriculture, tourism/service sectors, vending/trade, manufacturing, fishing, and hustling. Some are also involved in the drug trade, commercial sex work (considered a crime and not a form of child labour) and other illegal activities. According to country reports and assessments, the areas that put children most at risk are those related to the WFCL specifically domestic work, commercial sex work and the drug trade. In Haiti, it is estimated that over 67,000 girls are in domestic servitude where they are subject to rape, harsh treatment, malnutrition and neglect.[72] There is also a growing population of 'street children' who live and work on the streets in countries like Haiti and Jamaica. These children are the most vulnerable and are exposed to violence on a daily basis. They often get involved in illegal activities for money, including packaging and selling drugs or acting as 'lookouts' for police and criminals.

'Reasons identified that forced children into child labour included to assist the family's economic situation and to support a parent's drug habit.'

'…children's participation in the drug trade on a regional basis is the subject of further research.'

'Many adults regard work that a child does to help maintain the household not as child labour but as a part of life. The rampant situation of children being trained in the father's occupation to aid the family's income is regarded as culturally normal in this region. As a consequence while "apprenticing" the child is deprived of a formal education and so the child's development is stymied.'

Report on the Adolescent Forum-Caribbean Regional Consultation for the UN Study on Violence Against Children. UNICEF, March 2005

Although there is some information on the violence experienced by our children in work situations, there is a great need for more research and data. Most countries need to undertake national studies to assess the range and nature of economic exploitation in all sectors and settings. The

region also has to address legislative issues related to the minimum age of admission into employment. In addition, appropriate monitoring and protection systems must be implemented to ensure the safety of working children. These measures will aid us in assessing the situation of child labour and children's encounters with violence in work situations in the Caribbean.

7.1 Promising and proven practices

Child Labour has not yet become a major part of the national discourse on children's issues in many Caribbean countries. As a result, it was hard to identify programmes, policies and practices specifically targeting violence in work situations. There are, however, some positive steps being taken in many of these countries that both directly and indirectly affect children who work and their work environments. For example:

- In collaboration with organisations such as the Statistical Information Monitoring Programme on Child Labour (SIMPOC) many Caribbean countries (e.g. Belize, Suriname and Jamaica) have begun the process of assessing the extent of the child labour problem in the region. These studies are necessary as a starting point in the drafting and implementing of appropriate policies and programmes which can help eradicate the WFCL and violence in children's work situations.

- Also, some countries have governmental programmes dedicated to child labour issues. For example, the Belizean Government[73] has implemented a child labour project called the Butterfly Project to eradicate and prevent the WFCL. Additionally, Jamaica now has a

draft National Plan of Action on Child Labour.[74] The Plan was compiled based on feedback from two stakeholder sessions held under the auspices of the ILO/IPEC Jamaica Programme for the Prevention and Elimination of Child Labour in Jamaica. The draft Plan focuses on several important areas such as developing a comprehensive and integrated policy framework to combat child labour, providing income generating opportunities for at risk children and families, improving the health status of children engaged in child labour, enhancing the capacity of social partners to combat child labour and increasing public awareness of child labour issues. The Plan also highlights the need to improve monitoring and

evaluation of the child labour situation in the country, as well as, increase educational opportunities and access to

children engaged in child labour.

- Many Caribbean countries currently offer unattached youth alternatives to the traditional education system. In Belize City, a Vocational Technical Training Unit (VTTU) was established to provide skills training for the out-of-school population. Similarly in Jamaica the HEART Trust/National Training Agency offers a variety of training opportunities to youths with at least a grade 9 level of competence. Other vocational and remedial programmes in Jamaica include JAMAL, LEAP and The People's Action for Community Transformation (PACT). Although these programmes are promising they will have to expand if they are to adequately provide educational and vocational services to the many children who find it difficult to continue in the traditional education system.
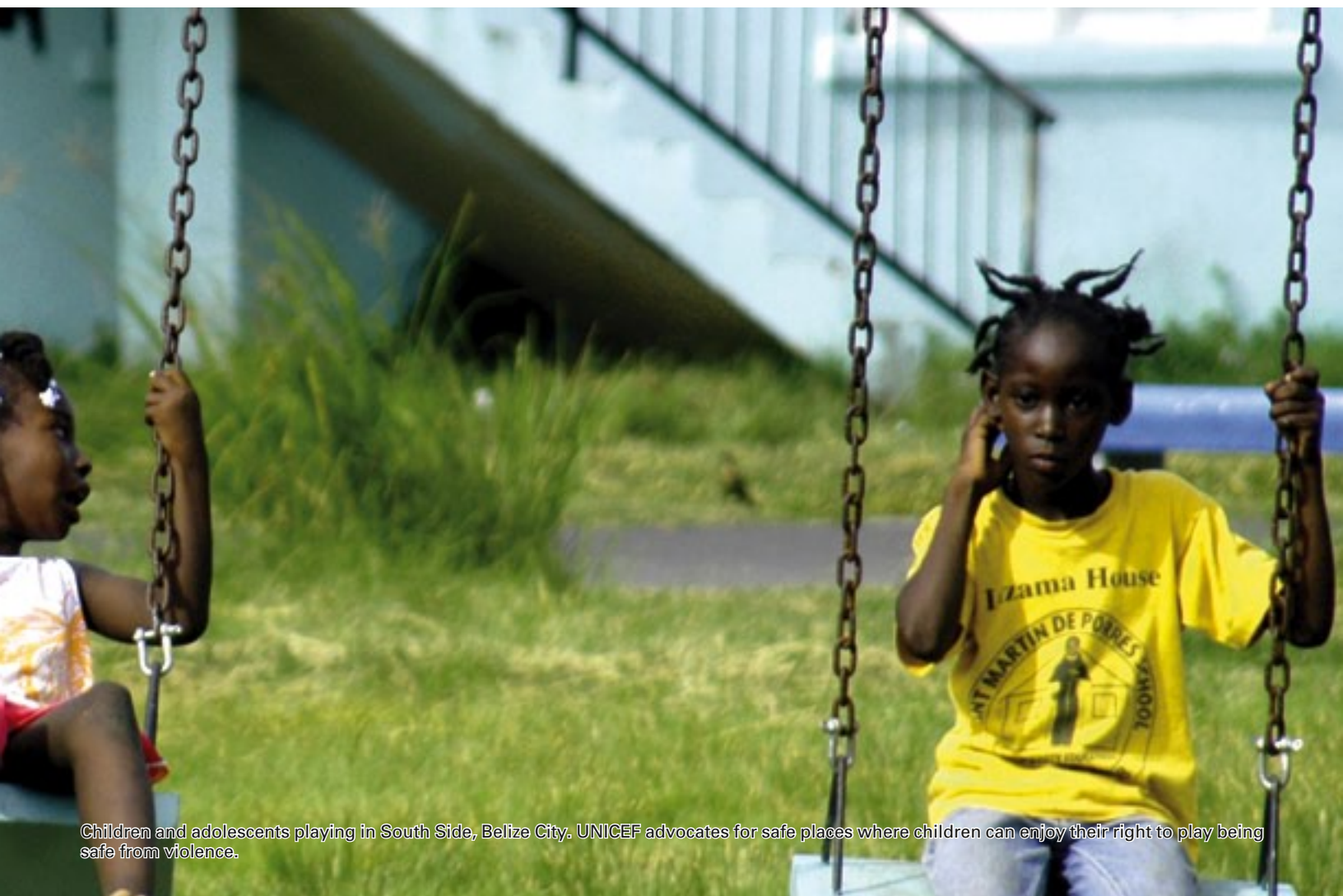
Children and adolescents playing in South Side, Belize City. UNICEF advocates for safe places where children can enjoy their right to play being safe from violence.

Women from the community based group "POWA" during the project "Aids Friendly Towns", supported by UNICEF in Belize.

V. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Conclusions

The review started with the observation of the heterogeneity of the Caribbean countries. This heterogeneity is apparent in the range of violence experienced in the countries covered, and the uneven research and publications across the issues and the countries. It is therefore difficult to draw broad conclusions about the Caribbean. It is clear that violence against children is a serious problem, and the trends suggest that even where it is less so, as the smaller countries become more developed they are also likely to experience the types of problems currently facing the larger countries such as Jamaica and Trinidad.

One mechanism which should be further utilized as an important monitoring tool is the required reporting under the Committee of the Rights of the Child (CRC). It is possible to draw information from the country reports on some aspects of the status of children and violence.

All of the countries have legislature in place to address some aspects of violence against children. However, these need to be more specific and must incorporate wider issues. They also need to be gender sensitive as boys are not represented in the sexual abuse legislatures.

Efforts to address violence against children require better coordination, reporting procedures and management. This includes a specific and documented budget focused on the plight of the children. Greater participation of children in addressing the issues must be observed. In addition, further studies must be commissioned to unearth and understand the extent of the problem before policies can be formulated to adequately and efficiently address the issues.

A comprehensive list of recommendations based on the CRC reporting is incorporated below, along with recommendations based on the information presented here and at the Caribbean Consultation.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Recommendations relating to national legal frameworks and enforcement

a) Legal frameworks, policies and procedure

• Ensure that adequate legal reform takes place that would enable adherence to our international commitments

• Support Parliaments and all other relevant bodies in securing consistency in legislation and compliance with all applicable international standards for the prevention of and the response to violence against children. This should include the explicit prohibition in the law of all forms of violence against children, including corporal punishment.

• Support judiciary and all other law enforcement bodies, at national, regional and international levels, in making existing legislation for the protection of children against violence effectively applied country-wide for all children alike, without any form of discrimination. To that end, compilation and sharing of existing landmark judicial decisions and jurisprudence should be encouraged and legal aid made available for all child victims, free of charge and without any condition.

• Implement laws relating to gangs

b) Reform and strengthening of the legal, judicial and policing systems

• A comprehensive policy on violence against children needs to be developed by Caribbean countries. None of the seven countries submitting questionnaires have such a policy in place. Laws need to be implemented and sufficient resources allocated to ensure they are enforced to assist in tackling youth crime. Speedier trials and sentencing for children under the age of 18 years are also required while maintaining basic human rights principles including privacy rights. The practice of detaining children in adult correctional facilities needs to be stopped. Community policing is believed to be a promising intervention for reducing

levels of youth involvement in violence and police need training in appropriate response mechanisms for juvenile offenders. In addition, independent legal aid and complaint systems are required in the community to deal with police brutality and harassment.

c) Public education

• Educate the public on the laws governing the treatment of children.

• Making the rights of the child widely known and understood amongst the population at large, including the children themselves. The children should be part of every strategy to effectively address violence against them. Everybody should be made aware of the concluding observations of the CRC Committee and all efforts should be made to guarantee that immediate and effective action is taken to address them.

d) Research and documentation

• Have a National research and documentation centre

• Universities need to set up database of research work done on the topic

e) Programmes

• There needs to be well funded educational programmes

f) Training for professionals

• Policemen and women should be trained continually at the both entry and service levels to be more child sensitive. This training should take place at police academies, police stations etc.

2.2 Recommendations relating to violence against children in homes and families

a) Parenting education

Parents are responsible for a large proportion of the child abuse and neglect that occurs inside the home. Hence, parent education has a critical role to play in the prevention of child abuse and protection of children. This education should focus on raising awareness on types and consequences of child abuse and neglect, children's rights, and information on non-violent methods of disciplining children (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**). It should also include the effects of family functioning and violence on children and should address socialization patterns and norms that place young boys and girls in unequal situations. As child abuse and neglect occurs across all strata of society, parenting education should be made available to all parents through existing channels such as ante-natal care, child health clinics, schools and the media.

• Parents who are at high risk of perpetrating child abuse and neglect will require additional support which could take the form of home visiting services during late pregnancy and in the first few years of their child's life and/or extended parenting education workshops when the child begins pre-school. These services would be family focused and would take a holistic approach to family functioning rather than concentrating on parenting alone. Such programmes have been highly effective in reducing violence against children in the home in the US.[75]

b) Responses to violence against children in the home

• Parents should be encouraged and supported to engage with their children and to build strong bonds and connections especially since "connectedness" has proven to be a core protective factor for the reduction of risk behaviours including violence.
Family-support institutions need to be revisited, revamped and restructured, ensuring that these institutions' core objectives meet the goals of more adequately equipping parents to be better guardians and role models (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**).

• The responses to child abuse and neglect should be clear and operational and should involve medical and mental health care, family interventions by, for example, social workers, police investigations and legal

services. Support for child victims should include: specialized agencies/units/staff within police, social services, health and legal facilities. Children and their families need swift and easy access to appropriate treatment programmes. Increased childhood mental health services are required in the Caribbean region and the accessibility and acceptability of these programs needs to be improved. The perpetrators of violence need to be prosecuted and Crawford-Brown[76] has called for mandatory treatment for offenders.

c) Child education

• Children also need to be educated in a comprehensive way about their rights as children and what constitutes abuse and neglect and how to protect themselves from it. They also need clear information on how to report incidents of abuse and neglect. This could be included as part of Family Life Education in the school curriculum. Child abuse hotlines should be established and made easily accessible to allow children to report abuse confidentially.

d) Legal frameworks, policies and procedure

• At the present time, only Jamaica has laws relating to the mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect. Instituting such laws needs to be carefully considered by other countries in the region and the necessary resources need to be made available to ensure children can be provided with appropriate and effective services to prevent further abuse and to mitigate the serious consequences of child abuse. Clear procedures for the reporting of child abuse and wide dissemination of these procedures should also be instituted. NGOs and civil society entities should be allowed to file charges against perpetrators of violence.

e) Training for professionals

• Training in the detection, assessment and management of child abuse should be provided for all professionals dealing with children including medical practitioners and health professionals, social workers, teachers, child care professionals and paraprofessionals and members of the police force.

• There needs to be well trained counselors to deal with children who have been taken away from their homes.

f) Data collection and research

• There is an urgent need for more information on the incidence, characteristics, causes and consequences of child abuse and neglect in the Caribbean. Such information will provide knowledge that will assist in the development of programmes relevant to the Caribbean context. Knowledge of the risk factors associated with child abuse and neglect and the factors which serve a protective role will enable interventions to be designed to minimize risk and maximize the number or extent of the protective factors in children's lives. Governments also need to consolidate data collection systems at local and regional levels. These data collection systems will provide information on the status and characteristics of abused children and their perpetrators and will be a useful tool in planning and policy development. Rigorous research studies are also required that evaluate the effects of interventions and in addition, organizations conducting programmes targeting violence against children should be encouraged to include an evaluation component.

g) Changing community attitudes and behaviour

• The cultural and social norms and beliefs that perpetuate violence against children need to be challenged. There needs to be a coordinated effort of government organizations, non-governmental organizations, community organizations and the media, which acts as a sounding board for the voices of children themselves. Public health practitioners will have a key role to play in advocating for a change in injurious practices towards children. Widespread educational campaigns to increase awareness and understanding of child abuse and neglect will be a necessary element of changing attitudes and behaviour. In addition, child friendly environments need to be created and awareness raising needs to be conducted in schools to highlight the importance of building systems of protection and connection between teachers and students.

h) Preventing and reducing antisocial behaviour in children

• Antisocial behaviour in early childhood is a contributing factor in later juvenile delinquency poor academic performance and school drop out. It is also associated with higher levels of domestic violence and increased susceptibility to child abuse and neglect. Interventions to prevent and/or reduce child externalizing behavioral disorders need to be implemented especially for children who are at high risk (for example, children who live in poor and violent communities). Preventing and remediating antisocial behaviour in children can be most effectively achieved through a multi-dimensional approach targeting parents, teachers and children. Parents and teachers need to be provided with skills in non-violent approaches to discipline and children need training in social skills, recognition and regulation of emotions and problem-solving.

2.3 Recommendations relating to violence against children in communities and on the streets

The prevention and reduction of youth involvement in crime is a priority for countries in the Caribbean region and the most effective approach will involve a focus on increasing the protective factors in the lives of young people through youth development. The World Bank[77] made a variety of specific recommendations for Caribbean youth development and these are summarized below and integrated with recommendations from the Caribbean consultation on violence against children.

a) Educational reform and increasing school connectedness of youth

• As schools can exert a powerful protective effect on youth, improving access and the quality of education for adolescents should be a focal point for policymakers. The actions required include increasing the number of spaces available and reducing class size, ensuring financial assistance for adolescents whose families are unable to support them in school, improving the quality of schooling through strengthening pre-service and in-service training, a greater emphasis on life

skills and basic job skills in the secondary curriculum, banning corporal punishment and replacing it with non-violent methods of discipline, educating adolescents on their rights and responsibilities and promoting attitude change and teaching conflict resolution.

• The education systems and particularly individual schools should forge links with NGOs and community based organisations to provide extracurricular activities for youth and to furnish youth with recreational and safe spaces in the community. The private sector should be approached to assist with the provision of vocational education.

b) Upgrading the Public Health Care System

• Public health care professionals require training in the design, implementation and evaluation of health promotion programs for young people who are at risk. The public health care system has a pivotal role to play in raising awareness and challenging unhealthy cultural norms.

c) Provide outlet programmes for and with children and youth

• As many children live in communities with high levels of violence there is a need for programs that allow them to focus their minds and energies towards more positive and productive actives (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**). These programmes can help them express their feelings and share their experiences of violence through such methods as creative arts and play therapy. The programmes could be included into formal education curricula and could also be available through community centers and drop in centers for street children. Partnerships with young people, especially those who have experienced or participated in violence are a critical component of these programmes.

Young people must accept their responsibility to contribute to transforming the role of youth from that of victims to stewards of our peers (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**).

d) Mentoring

• Given the protective effect of 'connectedness' to an adult against youth involvement in violence, national mentoring programs should be instituted which pair adolescents who are at risk with responsible adults in the community. Governments could encourage NGOs and the private sector to implement these programs.

e) Use of the media

• The media has an important role to play in raising awareness relating to child rights and violence against children and in challenging cultural and social norms and beliefs which are harmful to children. Key areas identified in the World Bank report are: sexual abuse and exploitation, early sexual initiation, corporal punishment and physical abuse and alcohol and drug use. Other potential areas for the media to cover are parenting education, promoting the involvement of fathers in child-rearing and providing positive role models for young people. The information provided through the media should include youth-friendly and youth-accessible information. Media personnel need training and guidelines need to be instituted to promote more appropriate reporting of violence and to stop the sensationalizing violence and glorifying the perpetrators. The influence of cultural icons and other celebrities should be utilized to promote positive messages through multi-media channels.

f) Focus on the family and fathers

• Parenting education programmes through the education system, health system and the media provide important channels for strengthening families and promoting appropriate parenting skills. Public policies need to promote parental, including an explicit reference to paternal, accountability for their children. These programs need to include the recognition of parent's own need for support and training for improved 'self-care' as well as understanding the importance of early child development and the importance of building protection and connectedness within the family. The private sector needs to promote policies which recognize these parental responsibilities by such as allocating paid leave to both mothers and fathers to allow them to fulfill their child care role.

g) Strengthen community supports for youth

• The Caribbean Governments need to provide support to NGOs and community organizations to encourage programmes which provide services for young people and their families and to encourage effective monitoring and evaluation of these programmes. Donor agencies also need to ensure their practices support community-based 'self-help' organizations through increased flexibility. Church groups can provide useful and effective services to youth and should be encouraged to broaden their horizons and develop programmes that cater to the multi-dimensional, as well as spiritual, needs of children. Community leaders could also be encouraged to assist with positive interventions with children and youth.

• The Caribbean governments should also support the expansion of networks of young leaders such as Xchange, the movement of young leaders committed to a positive lifestyle.

h) Support for victims

• Children need access to quality social work services, counseling, and support to enable conflict resolution. There needs to be standardized training with accreditation and licensing for both professional and para-professional social workers and counselors. More preventative counseling services need to be provided to children as at present the majority of available counseling involves remediation. It is essential that members of the public are encouraged to report sexual abuse in the community, and public awareness and education regarding violence against children should be promoted.

i) Empowerment and participation of young people in the Caribbean

• Active participation of young people in their own, their community's and their nation's development should be promoted. Providing services for youth is a necessary but insufficient element of youth policy and

planning. Young people need to be allowed to voice their opinion on issues which affect them. This is a reality in St Lucia which operates a National Youth Council with 162 youth organizations in operation around the island.

2.4 Recommendations relating to violence against children in schools

a) Public education

• Have public education and dialogues at all levels regarding discipline of children – examining corporal punishment and its consequences for children and introducing effective alternative measures (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**). This needs to include full participation of relevant parties including parents and other caregivers, teachers, children and community leaders in order to promote mutual understanding and ownership.

• Raise awareness regarding self harm and empower peers, teachers, parents and care givers to provide support and help for young people before s/he commits suicide.

b) Empowerment and participation of young people in the Caribbean

• Inform and educate children and young people on rights and responsibilities, versus power and powerlessness (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**). This should be integrated into schools (all levels) and into community based programs with child friendly definitions and materials.

• Tap into the strength of young people to help reduce violence in schools. Allow young people to contribute to developing solutions.

c) Legal frameworks, policies and procedure

• Harmonize national laws regarding violence in schools with international standards and development of implementation plans with support and resources. Implementation plans need to include monitoring and control mechanisms that protect the rights and promote the responsibilities of children, teachers and parents.

d) Programmes

• Mentoring and teacher training programmes should include studies in psychology and communication skills (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**).

• Develop and pilot culturally and developmentally appropriate models regarding discipline and classroom management that support the development of children towards creating a loving and supportive society in the Caribbean.

• Design and implement programs to build self esteem and better understanding of the psychosocial development of children from early childhood.

• NGOs looking to work with young people and families should be properly supported by governmental and international organizations

• Establish programmes that have been successful in addressing the problem of violence in schools in the other Caribbean countries. Some suggestions include establishing character clubs, counseling centers, mentorship programs and a Health and Family Life Education programs in school that are already present in some countries.

e) Research

• Conduct participatory research, both quantitative and qualitative, of different systems of school discipline including cost and benefit analysis to determine the most suitable and effective strategies and to provide evidence for policy and planning.

• Countries should conduct assessments of the vulnerability of youths to first world cultural penetration and seek to devise multi-sectoral approaches to address the possible negative outcomes.

f) Spirituality

• Explore the possibility of strengthening spiritual bases as a means of preventing

violent behaviour and building resilience in our youth.

2.5 Recommendation relating to violence against children in institutions

a) Support

• Prevent institutionalization and deprivation of liberty by strengthening social and other forms of support to families and by articulating clear policies on changes in the care and justice systems.

• Provide support for parents in all forms: financial and otherwise.

b) Legal frameworks, policies and procedure

• Reform the judicial system so that children do not feel threatened and intimidated when reporting instances of abuse (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**).

• Create and enforce legislation to protect children from adults who expose them to sexual or other forms of exploitation (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**).

• Articulate de-institutionalization policies and systems reforms that will ensure the provision of alternative options for children needing care or coming into conflict with the law.

• Adopt a child protection act that includes clear standards for services and professionals working with children, provides for essential training and screening, and ensures separation of children from adults. Also,by cause of placement ensure individual child care and regular medical inspection, periodic inspection and monitoring, establishment of independent complaint and redress mechanisms, and residential care used only for therapeutic purposes and for limited periods of time.

• Adopt legislation and procedures for accreditation and licensing of all non-state service providers to ensure compliance with the established child care standards.

• Adopt specific laws that ensure the physical integrity of the child and prohibit any kind of degrading treatment of children especially corporal punishment and which establish these as minimum standards for professional behaviour.

c) Responses to children in institutional care

• To reduce societal stigmatization of children leaving institutions it is important to promote 'affirmative action' and opportunities where they can excel and become role models e.g. sports, arts, dance etc. and forge partnerships with the media.

• Promote alternatives to institutional care, for example, restorative justice, family placement, foster care, and adoption.

• Develop and fund restorative justice programmes targeting teenagers especially those in gangs.

• Establish independent human rights institutions for children for each country.

• Develop comprehensive training programmes for the judiciary on child sensitive approaches to handling children's complaints and testimonies

• Integrate rehabilitation and recovery into community services moving away from the institutionalized setting for recovery.

d) Research and documentation

• More research and documentation is essential as well as research into the status of children in the justice system. There also needs to be research into and monitoring of public spending directed towards violence prevention and rehabilitation programmes. This process should be ongoing and linked to national outcomes.

2.6 Recommendations relating to violence against children in work situations

a) Legal frameworks, policies and procedure

• Inter-governmental organizations with

responsibilities for children and human rights should establish and enforce clearly defined international laws with the aim of eliminating child labour, and should pressure national governments to enact these laws within their own countries (highlighted in **Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean**).

• Caribbean nations need to revise laws relating to child labour so that they reflect the ideas expressed in the ILO Convention 182. This involves examining laws and policies in the areas of Education, Health, Poverty, Employment and Family Life.

• It is essential to treat poverty and exclusion as human rights violations, prioritize poverty reduction programmes in budget allocations, identify time-bound goals and include prevention and elimination of child labour as indicators to measure progress.

• CARICOM should be called upon to establish a "barometer" on the Caribbean States' performance regarding progressive elimination of all forms for exploitation and violence against children. Also Concluding Observations for the CRC Committee should be utilized as benchmarks for performance and published once a year the "barometer" report.

b) Public education

• Countries should establish comprehensive multi-sectorial strategies to tackle the problem of child labour and increase public awareness of the issue.

• Public awareness on children's rights and the impact of violence against children should be heightened.

c) Programmes

• Support should be channeled for the development of community programmes including parent education workshops where the role of the adult/community in taking responsibility for the care and protection of children is reinforced and encouraged. These programmes need to build on faith-based organizations and other NGOs and on the active participation of children (peer-to-peer)

d) Data collection and research

• More research needs to be done on child labour and children's work situations in the Caribbean so that we can have a comprehensive picture of the issue, as well as, a better understanding of the critical sectors that need attention (highlighted in

Declaration of Children and Youth of the Caribbean). Most countries need to develop and implement monitoring programmes that will help assess child labour and violence in work situations. There is also a need to establish reliable mechanisms for reporting and following up incidents of child labour, especially in cases where children are being maltreated.

• Research methodology needs to be improved and should and involve children to reveal all hidden forms of violence against children in the work place, especially in domestic work, on family farms and enterprises and in the tourist industry.

• There should be documentation and evaluation of all government and non-government programmes that are aiming at preventing, reducing and eliminating economic exploitation and violence against children for their effectiveness. The findings should be publicised and clear set of criteria for 'good practice' established.

e) Responses to violence against children in work situations

• Integrate rehabilitation and recovery into community services moving away from the institutionalized setting for recovery.

• Traditional "apprenticeship" practices and complacency with child labour should be presented as factors that perpetuate poverty. Engage in participatory research that is empowering for respondents, and forge partnerships with media to organize public debates and broad education and awareness-raising campaigns.

f) Educational opportunities

• Caribbean nations need to create more educational alternatives for working/street children.

g) Parenting education

• Parenting programmes that focus on teaching parents about the Rights of the Child, the value of education and the dangers of certain work situations/practices to a child's healthy development should be established. In addition, at-risk families should be provided with income-generating opportunities and alternatives.

Indigenous Maya child participating in the Programme for Children and Adolescents in Toledo district, Belize. A Child Friendly School initiative supported by UNICEF and developed in 16 targeted communities.

A mother and child participating in a health education session for mothers in the southern area of Suriname. The support of child and maternal health care programmes is one of UNICEF's main priorities.

VI. COUNTRY SPECIFIC INFORMATION

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REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	<u>**Violence in the home and or family:**</u> **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* <u>**Violence in schools:**</u> **Blum, R. W. & Ireland, M. (2004). Reducing risk, increasing protective factors: findings from the Caribbean Youth Health Survey.** *J Adolescent Health, 35(6):493-500.* This study identifies the prevalence of health-compromising behaviors, and the risk and protective factors associated with them among youth in the Caribbean, and predicts the likelihood of these outcomes given the presence or absence of the risk and protective factors using the results of a 1997-98 survey of over 15,500 young people in nine Caribbean countries. The four health-compromising behaviors studied included violence involvement, sexual intercourse, tobacco use, and alcohol use. **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* <u>**Violence in communities and the streets:**</u> **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* <u>**General information on violence against children:**</u> **Revised NGO Alternative Report on Antigua/Barbuda**, *NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child – Antigua & Barbuda* Available: http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.37/Antigua_ngo_report.pdf **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005)**, *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation- the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005* **O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later** Available: UNICEF <u>http://www.uniceflac.org</u> **Barrow, C. (2001). Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Twelve Caribbean Countries** Available: UNICEF **Castillo, D. N. (2004). Children's Well-being in Small Island Developing States: The Caribbean Experience** Available: UNICEF **Legislation on Corporal Punishment in the English-Speaking Eastern**

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	Caribbean and Suriname Available: UNICEF **Jackson, L. M. (?year). Report on Law Reform Initiatives Relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the OECS** Available: UNICEF **UNICEF. (2005). The State of the World's Children Report** **UNICEF & OHCHR.(2004). Compilación de observaciones finales del Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre países de América Latina y el Caribe (1993-2004)** **UNICEF. (2000). An Assessment of the Status of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in the Caribbean,** *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office* **UNICEF. (2002).The OECS Family Law and Domestic violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project.** *Children in Focus, Vol. 15 No. 2* Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org **Thompson-Ahye, H. (1999). Youth and crime,** *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4:169-191* This article examines international and regional conventions and commitments and child rights. Also investigates current policies and practices in the treatment of children as victims and offenders in selected Caribbean countries. Countries looked at include Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago **Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health.** *World Health Organization, Geneva.* NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD – ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NGOCRC, C/o Professional Organization for Women in Antigua & Barbuda,** (POWA), P.O. Box 2800, St. John's, Antigua Tel: 268 480 2742, Fax: 268 480 2746 Email: iana@candw.ag **CHILD & FAMILY GUIDANCE** Tel: 268-462-2082; Fax: 268-562-3228 Main Contact: Roma Cheque-Hodge **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, CULTURE & TECHNOLOGY** New Government Office Complex, Queen Elizabeth Highway, St. John's, Antigua Tel: 268-462-4959; Fax: 268-462-4970 Contact person: Maureen Lewis Email: lenorelew@hotmail.com

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REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**Violence in the home and or family:** **Rock, L. F. (1997). Factors Related to the Severity of Familial Physical Child Abuse in Barbados.** *Dissertation* **Violence in schools:** **Blum, R. W. & Ireland, M. (2004). Reducing risk, increasing protective factors: findings from the Caribbean Youth Health Survey.** *J Adolescent Health, 35(6):493-500.* This study identifies the prevalence of health-compromising behaviors, and the risk and protective factors associated with them among youth in the Caribbean, and predicts the likelihood of these outcomes given the presence or absence of the risk and protective factors using the results of a 1997-98 survey of over 15,500 young people in nine Caribbean countries. The four health-compromising behaviors studied included violence involvement, sexual intercourse, tobacco use, and alcohol use. **Violence in work situations:** Although a serious child labour problem does not seem to exist in Barbados, there is still evidence to suggest that children are working in situations that may expose them to violence, maltreatment, abuse and exploitation. In a Rapid Assessment Study conducted by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) 101 economic activities were identified which involved children.[78] Of these activities, 60% involved children between the ages of 5-17 years. Unlike many other countries in the region, involvement in work activities does not interfere with most of the children's school attendance. The majority of Barbadian children are working in areas related to services, vending, trades and family-related businesses. They are also involved in the WFCL such as commercial sexual activity, hazardous activities, slavery/bondage and illicit activities. Children are exposed to violence particularly in the informal tourism sector. Most of the children involved in commercial sexual activities were young schoolgirls and some boys earned money by either acting as look-outs for drug traffickers or by selling drugs themselves at school. These situations clearly have potential for exposing children to violence and maltreatment. Unfortunately, the very nature of these activities makes it difficult for the collection of specific data on the working conditions of these children. In the more formal sectors the typical working conditions of child labourers identified by the Rapid Assessment Study entailed long hours, irregular payments and low remuneration. **Barbados The Situation of Children in the Worst Form of Child Labour in a Tourism Economy: A Rapid Assessment (2003)**, *ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean* Available: http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/infsources/child_labour/rapid_assessment/rabar.pdf **General information on violence against children:** **Barbados' NGO Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the**

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Rights of the Child, *NGO committee on the Rights of the Child - Barbados*
Available: http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.21/Barbados_
PAREDOS_ngo_report.pdf

**Supplementary report to Barbados' country report on the
implementation of the UNCRC,** *NGO Group for the Convention on the
Rights of the Child.*
Available:
Focal Point on Sexual Exploitation of Children
http:// www.crin.org/NGOGroupforCRC

**De Albuquerque, K. & McElroy, J.L. (1999), A longitudinal study of
serious crime in the Caribbean.** *Caribbean Journal of Criminology &
Social Psychology, 4:32-70.*
Examines violent and property crime trends for eight Caribbean countries
and presents a case study of Barbados. While murder rates remained
relatively stable for Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and
Tobago, they increased markedly in Jamaica and the US Virgin Islands
(USVI). Since 1980, robbery rates have risen sharply in St. Kitts, Barbados,
and Dominica-islands increasingly penetrated by drugs. Rape rates also
show significant increases reflecting a uniform rise in violence against
women.

**Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean
Special Report (2005),** *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation-
the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad
March 10-11, 2005*

**World Bank.(2003). Caribbean Youth Development: Issues and Policy
Directions.** *The World Bank.*
Available: http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/
This report focuses on the Caribbean youth development. With
information from nine Caribbean countries the report looks at youth are
at risk of deviating or who have already deviated from healthy behaviour
and identify key interventions for these youngsters development

**O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law
Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later.**
Available: UNICEF
http://www.uniceflac.org

**Barrow, C. (2001). Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Twelve
Caribbean Countries.**
Available: UNICEF

**Castillo, D. N. (2004). Children's Well-being in Small Island Developing
States: The Caribbean Experience.**
Available: UNICEF

**Violence Related Recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of
the Child in the English and French Speaking Caribbean.**
Available: UNICEF

Legislation on Corporal Punishment in the English-Speaking Eastern Caribbean and Surname.
Available: UNICEF

Robinson, T. Legislative Reform Initiative. Phase II – National Study of Barbados.
Available: UNICEF

UNICEF. (2005). The State of the World's Children Report.

UNICEF & OHCHR. (2004). Compilación de observaciones finales del Comite de los Derechos del Niño sobre países de América Latina y el Caribe (1993-2004).

UNICEF. (2000). An Assessment of the Status of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in the Caribbean *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.*

UNICEF. (2003). Children in Focus 2. *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.*
Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org
This issue of Children in Focus looks at child abuse and corporal punishment in the Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados, Suriname and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, and Belize are mentioned.

Thompson-Ahye, H. (1999). Youth and crime. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4:169-191.*
This article examines international and regional conventions and commitments and child rights. Also investigates current policies and practices in the treatment of children as victims and offenders in selected Caribbean countries. Countries looked at include Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago

Pratt, C. (2000). Violence against women: A cross-cultural study of policy in Barbados and New York. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 5:1-39.*
A cross-national qualitative policy research study, exploring administrative procedures and frameworks for analysis practice. Research involves magistrates dealing with cases of domestic violence. Through interviews, surveys, observations and textual research in Barbados and New York, examines theoretical influences of feminism versus familism in judicial decision making. Findings suggest social norms regarding violence against women are evenly split across three phases of influence: the past; the future and the uncertain.

Barrow, C. (2003). Children and Social Policy in Barbados: The Unfinished Agenda of Child Abuse. *Caribbean Journal of Social Work, 2:37-53.*
Abstract: After reviewing the Barbados record of achievements in child centred social policy, the article turns attention to the unfinished business of child abuse, focusing specific attention on physical punishment in child socialization and the sexual abuse of adolescent girls. Noting that both practices are historically and culturally embedded and accepted, it is recommended that the agenda for children moves beyond conventional

social policy and needs-based interventions; to contest and rethink ideological principles and cultural practices of childhood and adolescence; to re-enter family life and re-visit relationships across generation and gender; and to adjust the balance between children's rights and the rights of caregivers.

Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. *World Health Organization, Geneva.*

PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD – BARBADOS** NGOCRC, C/o PAREDOS, 4th Avenue, Welches Terrace, St. Michael, Barbados Tel: (809) 427 0212, Fax: (809) 427 0212

BELIZE

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**Violence in the home and or family:** **Roseberg, M. (2005). Belize Study: Impact of Crime and Violence on children and adolescents.** *Community Rehabilitation Department, Ministry of Human Development.* Available: UNICEF **Violence in schools:** **Human Rights Commisssion of Belize (HRCB) & UNICEF. (2003). Leave No Child Out:** The report of a survey on why children don't go to school and on how schools can be child-friendly. **Violence in care and residential institutions:** **Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances, in The Belizean Child Situation Analysis of Children and Adolescents in Belize (2004).** Available:UNICEF **Violence in work situations:** A national survey on child labour in Belize indicated that 77.3% of 5-17 year old children are working, of whom 14% are economically active (economic activity for at least one hour a week) and 97.4% are non-economically active (unpaid domestic labour).[79] Many of these children are forfeiting school attendance and leisure activities to go to work. Child labour sectors include commercial and subsistence agriculture, tourism, and out-of-home domestic work. There are also children engaged in the WFCL such as hazardous commercial agriculture, sexual exploitation, work in the streets and child trafficking. There is evidence that suggests that children are exposed to violence in these work situations, although statistics on actual abuse and maltreatment are lacking. For example, children who sell food items and other goods on the streets are often at risk for sexual molestation and harassment and verbal and physical abuse. These children also reported harsh punishments (including physical abuse) from parents and guardians if all goods were not sold.[80] In addition, there are issues related to sexual exploitation as some children become sexually involved with adults who in exchange will buy the majority of their goods.[81] Parents may also permit the sexual abuse of their children in exchange for payment of rent, food etc.[82] Sometimes children are 'given' to friends and relatives to perform domestic work, often in lieu of school attendance. This constitutes slavery and forced labour. Moreover, there are reports of informal and private adoptions. The covert and illegal nature of many of these adoptions may also expose children to violent situations. In Belize, there are some ethnic and geographical factors that may put certain groups at a greater risk for experiencing violence in work settings. For example, Mestizo children living in rural areas are less likely to attend school while working and without access to a quality education these children are more likely to be exposed to exploitation and dangerous working conditions.[83] **The Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour**

and the Central Statistical Office, Government of Belize. (2003). Child labour in Belize: A statistical report. *ILO/IPEC-SIMPOC.*
Available: http://www:ilocarib.org.tt/infsources/child_labour/NationalReportCSO.pdf

The Statistical Information and Monitoring Programme on Child Labour, Belize. (2003). Child Labour in Belize: A Qualitative Study. *ILO/IPEC-SIMPOC.*
Available:
http://www:ilocarib.org.tt/infsources/child_labour/rapid_assessment/RABelize.pdf

General information on violence against children:

The Reality of Life for Children and Adolescents with the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Belize, *NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child - Belize.*
Available:
http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.38/Belize_ngo_report.pdf
Sections on abuse and neglect, exploitation, corporal punishment, juvenile justice

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005), *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation-the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005.*

World Bank.(2003). Caribbean Youth Development: Issues and Policy Directions. *The World Bank.*
Available: http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/
This report focuses on the Caribbean youth development. With information from nine Caribbean countries the report looks at youth are at risk of deviating or who have already deviated from healthy behaviour and identify key interventions for these youngsters development

O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later.
Available: UNICEF
http://www.uniceflac.org

Castillo, D. N. (2004). Children's Well-being in Small Island Developing States: The Caribbean Experience.
Available: UNICEF

UNICEF. (2005). The State of the World's Children Report

UNICEF & OHCHR.(2004). Compilación de observaciones finales del Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre países de América Latina y el Caribe (1993-2004).

Children in Focus 2, 2003, UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.
Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org

BELIZE

	This issue of Children in Focus looks at child abuse and corporal punishment in the Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados, Suriname and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, and Belize are mentioned. **Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health.** *World Health Organization, Geneva.*
PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS – BELIZE** NGOCRC, C/o National Organization for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NOPCAN), P.O. Box 1441, Belize City Email: <u>nopcanbelize@yahoo.com</u> **LEGAL AID CENTER** Sir Albert Stane Building, 1 Treasury Lane, Belize City **NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR FAMILY & CHILDREN** #62 Cleghorn Street, Belize City

Adolescent boy in Belize. UNICEF advocates and supports the creation of laws, policies, services, and programmes that protect children from all forms of violence.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	<u>Violence in schools:</u> **Blum, R. W. & Ireland, M. (2004). Reducing risk, increasing protective factors: findings from the Caribbean Youth Health Survey.** *J Adolesc Health, 35(6):493-500.* This study identifies the prevalence of health-compromising behaviors, and the risk and protective factors associated with them among youth in the Caribbean, and predicts the likelihood of these outcomes given the presence or absence of the risk and protective factors using the results of a 1997-98 survey of over 15,500 young people in nine Caribbean countries. The four health-compromising behaviors studied included violence involvement, sexual intercourse, tobacco use, and alcohol use. <u>General information on violence against children:</u> **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005),** *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation- the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005* **O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later.** Available: UNICEF <u>http://www.uniceflac.org</u> **Barrow, C. (2001). Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Twelve Caribbean Countries.** Available: UNICEF **UNICEF. (2005). The State of the World's Children Report** **UNICEF & OHCHR.(2004). Compilación de observaciones finales del Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre países de América Latina y el Caribe (1993-2004).** **UNICEF. (2000). An Assessment of the Status of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in the Caribbean,** *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office* **UNICEF. (2002).The OECS Family Law and Domestic violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project.** *Children in Focus, Vol. 15 No. 2.* Available: <u>http://www.unicef-cao.org</u> **Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health.** *World Health Organization, Geneva.*

DOMINICA

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	Dominica has now established Child Abuse Reporting Procedures. The aim is to provide protection to abused children and also to enhance collaboration among child protection agencies. The reporting procedures also reinforce accountability on the part of personnel working in Child Protection Agencies.

Dominica has sought to protect its children from abuse by the formulation and implementation of three main laws or acts, The Children and Young Persons Act, Chap. 37: 50 – Prevention of Cruelty to and Protection of Juveniles, Sexual Offenses Act, No. 1 of 1990 – Protection against Sexual Offenses and The Protection against Domestic Violence Act No. 22 of 2001.

Laws and penalties

In short the CHILDREN AND YOUG PERSONS ACT, CHAP. 37:50 states that any person 18 years old and over and having the custody, charge or care of any juvenile, willfully assaults, ill treats, neglects, abandons or exposes the juvenile or causes or procures him to be assaulted, ill treated, neglected, abandoned or exposed, in a manner likely to health (including injury to or loss of sight or hearing or limb or organ of the body, and any mental derangement) is liable-

Penalties

(i)   On conviction or indictment, to a fine of three thousand dollars and to imprisonment for two years;
(ii) On summary conviction, to a fine of seven hundred and fifty dollars and to imprisonment for three months. The law also makes provision for the removal of abuse, assaulted or ill treated juveniles to Places of Safety.

•   N.B the Law defines children or juveniles as persons under the age of eighteen years old.

The Sexual Offences Act, No. I of 1998 in short states that any person who has sexual intercourse with someone other than their legal spouse who is:

-     Under the age of fourteen years old is guilty of an offence and liable to on conviction to imprisonment for twenty five years.
-     Fourteen years or more but under sixteen years old is guilty of an offence and is liable to conviction to imprisonment for fourteen years
-     The perpetrator's adopted child, stepchild, foster child, ward or dependent is guilty of a crime and liable to conviction to imprisonment for twenty five years if the minor is under fourteen and if the minor is older than fourteen but not older than sixteen for a period of ten years.
-      A child employed by an adult or receives wages or a salary directly from the adult is guilty of an offence and is liable to conviction to imprisonment for twenty five years.

DOMINICA

Reported cases of child abuse

CHILD ABUSE TYPE	YEAR			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
Sexual Abuse	96	85	60	105
Sexual/Physical	-	4	3	-
Sexual/Emotional	-	4	3	-
Sexual/Neglect	-	3	2	-
Physical Abuse	36	18	31	60
Physical/Emotional	-	11	9	-
Emotional	37	15	16	35
Neglect	15	11	10	24
Neglect/Physical	-	1	1	-
Unidentified	-	3	4	-
Total	184	155	139	224

Gaps in legislation, implementation and enforcement

- Legislation does not at present address the question of sale or trafficking in children
- No legislative or other measures are in place to prohibit the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography.
- There are no controls on pornography produced and or disseminated via the Internet
- Legislation at the moment does not address injurious information via the Internet and electronic games
- There exists no parliamentary structures to address violence against children
- The government does not have a comprehensive policy concerning violence against children.

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**Violence in the home and or family:** **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* **Risk factors for child abuse in Dominica (2000),** *Griffin Carty Benjamin, University of the West Indies, Thesis/Dissertation* This study investigated the biological, psychological and social factors associated with abused children, their parents, and alleged abusers that correlated with the occurrence of child abuse in Dominica. It consisted of a case control study with individually matched pairs designed to describe the typical bio-psychosocial profile of a Dominican child who suffered abuse. The results showed significant differences between children who were reportedly abused and their control counterparts. Inadequate living

arrangements, loss of parents, particularly mother, poor engagement in social activities with their parents, and limited attendance at church services were predictive of abuse. Also children with behavioural problems and mental disabilities were prone to being abused. Parents who lost their mothers before age 16 years and who used alcohol and other drugs were at risk of parenting abused children. Alleged abusers were likely to be persons who were parents themselves, but had none of their children living with them, who grew up in other homes, apart from their biological parents, and who were likely to have been arrested by the police. The families at risk of abusive experiences were characterised by parents losing their parents during childhood, with greater use of alcohol and other drugs, children losing their parents and having behavioural problems and mental disability and poor social interaction with their parents.

Violence in schools:

Chevannes, P. (2004). Preliminary Study on Violence in Caribbean Schools
A preliminary investigation on the situation of school violence in 6 CARICOM countries (Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago)

Blum, R. W. & Ireland, M. (2004). Reducing risk, increasing protective factors: findings from the Caribbean Youth Health Survey. *J Adolesc Health, 35(6):493-500.*
This study identifies the prevalence of health-compromising behaviors, and the risk and protective factors associated with them among youth in the Caribbean, and predicts the likelihood of these outcomes given the presence or absence of the risk and protective factors using the results of a 1997-98 survey of over 15,500 young people in nine Caribbean countries. The four health-compromising behaviors studied included violence involvement, sexual intercourse, tobacco use, and alcohol use.

PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica. *PAHO.*

Violence in communities and the streets:

PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica. *PAHO.*

General information on violence against children:

Dominica NGO Report on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in Dominica, *NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child – Dominica.*
Available: http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.36/Dominica_CCF_ngo_report.pdf

De Albuquerque, K. & McElroy, J.L. (1999). A longitudinal study of serious crime in the Caribbean. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4, 32-70.*

DOMINICA

Examines violent and property crime trends for eight Caribbean countries and presents a case study of Barbados. While murder rates remained relatively stable for Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, they increased markedly in Jamaica and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Since 1980, robbery rates have risen sharply in St. Kitts, Barbados, and Dominica-islands increasingly penetrated by drugs. Rape rates also show significant increases reflecting a uniform rise in violence against women.

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005), *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation-the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005.*

O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later
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Castillo, D. N. (2004). Children's Well-being in Small Island Developing States: The Caribbean Experience.
Available: UNICEF

Legislation on Corporal Punishment in the English-Speaking Eastern Caribbean and Surname. Available: UNICEF.

Jackson, L. M. (?year). Report on Law Reform Initiatives Relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the OECS.
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UNICEF. (2000). An Assessment of the Status of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in the Caribbean, *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.*

UNICEF. (2002).The OECS Family Law and Domestic violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project. *Children in Focus, Vol. 15 No. 2.*
Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org

Children in Focus 2, 2003, UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.
Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org
This issue of Children in Focus looks at child abuse and corporal punishment in the Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados, Suriname and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, and Belize are mentioned.

DOMINICA

	Thompson-Ahye, H. (1999). Youth and crime. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology 1999, 4:169-191.* This article examines international and regional conventions and commitments and child rights. Also investigates current policies and practices in the treatment of children as victims and offenders in selected Caribbean countries. Countries looked at include Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago **Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health.** *World Health Organization, Geneva.*
PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD – DOMINICA** NGOCRC, C/o Christian Children's Fund Inc. – Dominica, P.O. Box 977, Roseau, Dominica Tel: 767 448 8817 / 7230, Fax: 767 449 8006 Email: ccf@cwdom.dm **Welfare Division** c/o Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Information, Government Headquarters, Kennedy Avenue, Roseau, Commonwealth. Tel: 767-448-2401 ext. 3249/3207; Fax: 767-449-8220 **SOCIAL CENTRE** 14 Turkey Lane, P.O. Box 16, Roseau, Commonwealth of Dominica Tel: 767-448-2741, Fax: 767-448-4118 **Ministry of Health, Government Headquarters** Fax: 767-448-6086 **Ministry of Education, Government Headquarters** Tel: 767-448-0644, Fax: 767-448-0644.

GRENADA

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	There have been a number of positive developments in the legislative, advocacy and social service arenas that have followed ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and other human rights instruments related to children and families. Grenada ratified the CRC in November 1990. **Legislative responses:** Since the passing of the CRC in 1990 other developments have occurred. These developments include: - Passage of the Adoption Act in 1994 - Passage of the Child Protection Act in 1998 - Passage of the Domestic Violence Act in 2001 (more a response to CEDAW, but includes provision for protecting children). - GNCRC initiated review of the Grenada legislation to determine its compatibility with the provision of the CRC. - Participation in the OECS Family Law and Domestic Violence Reform Project which is reviewing the adequacy of family-related laws (including laws on violence against children) and the adequacy of the social service support systems in place to support the enforcement of these laws. It must be noted however that the Criminal Code is the legislation covering most of the violence perpetrated against children. This Code has not been recently reviewed although it is widely recognized that the need exists. The government has submitted a request to the Canadian International Development Agency for support in this area, along with a request for support in reforming its juvenile justice processes. **Legal provisions on violence against children:** (a) The Constitution The Constitution addresses the question of violence against children through its protection of basic human rights. These provisions however are not specific to children but refer to all citizens of the State, which includes children. (b) Legislation and Subsidiary Legislation There are three pieces of legislation that address the question of violence against children- The Criminal Code, The Domestic Violence Act and the Child Protection Act. - The Criminal Code provides for "a Code of Offences punishable on Summary Conviction and on Indictment", including assaults and similar offences. - The Domestic Violence Act is specifically designed "to provide protection for victims of domestic violence and for matters connected therewith". It defines domestic violence as "abusive conduct directed towards –

(a)	a member of the person's household; or
(b)	A spouse, child, parent or dependent of the person or of the person's spouse, whether or not living in the same household as the person.

and includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or psychological abuse and financial abuse."

It must be noted that the protection afforded under this act applies to domestic situations only.

-	The Child Protection Act provides for:
(a)	A process for applying and issuing of Protection Orders for children in need of	protection from physical harm, and mental emotional or developmental conditions that could seriously impair the child's development; and
(b)	The placement of such children in children's home or other places of protection deemed appropriate by the court.

Penalties for perpetrators of violence against children:

The penalties for perpetration of violence against children vary with the legislation under which the action is initiated:

-	Criminal Code: The Criminal Code provides penalties for perpetrators of violence against children. These penalties vary with the nature of the crime viz:

(a)	Section 81 (2) provides for the imprisonment of up to six (6) months or a fine of two thousand dollars for aggravated assault of a child whose age does not exceed fourteen (14) years;
(b)	Section 178 provides for imprisonment of fifteen (15) years for "whoever unlawfully and carnally knows any female under thirteen years of age, whether with or without her consent…"
(c)	Section 179 provides for imprisonment of five (5) years for a similar crime if the age of the female is "… of or above thirteen years and under sixteen years of age…"
(d)	Section 183a and 183c provides for imprisonment for fifteen (15) years for incest with children less than thirteen (13) years of age.
(e)	Section 235 provides for treatment of cases of infanticide as manslaughter;
(f)	Section 236 provides for imprisonment of two (2) years for the concealment of the body of a child.

-	Domestic Violence Act: Section 5 of the Domestic Violence Act provides penalties for breach of Protection Orders issued under the Act. Such offenses are punishable on summary conviction "… to a fine of $20,000 and to imprisonment for 12 months."

Gaps in legislation, implementation and enforcement (impunity):

-	Constitutional Laws prohibiting the use of violence against

children are not specific to children but refer to all citizens of the State, which includes children.

- There is no legislative provision which directly addresses the sexual exploitation of children
- There are no specific provisions in the Criminal Code dealing with sale or trafficking of children.
- There is no specific legislation on production, possession and dissemination of child pornography
- There is no legislation or guidelines to protect children form the injurious information and material transmitted through the media, internet, videos, electronic games and the like.
- There is no legislation, regulations or administrative directives requiring reporting of all violence against and abuse of children in all settings to appropriate bodies.
- The government of Grenada does not have a comprehensive, written policy concerning violence against children. Officials at various levels have made public pronouncements indicating Government's support for actions that would deter violence against children, but these have not been translated into a formal written policy.

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**Violence in the home and or family:** **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* **Allen, G. (1996), An Investigation into Child Well-being in selected communities in Grenada and St. Vincent.** *UNICEF CARIBBEAN AREA OFFICE.* **Violence in schools:** **Chevannes, P. (2004). Preliminary Study on Violence in Caribbean Schools.** A preliminary investigation on the situation of school violence in 6 CARICOM countries (Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago) **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* **Violence in communities and the streets:** **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* **General information on violence against children:** **Concluding Observations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, Grenada, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/15/Add.121 (2000).** Available: Human Right Library, University of Minnesota

GRENADA

http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/crc/grenada2000.html

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005), *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation-the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005.*

O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later.
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Barrow, C. (2001). Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Twelve Caribbean Countries.
Available: UNICEF

Castillo, D. N. (2004). Children's Well-being in Small Island Developing States: The Caribbean Experience.
Available: UNICEF

Violence Related Recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the English and French Speaking Caribbean.
Available: UNICEF

Legislation on Corporal Punishment in the English-Speaking Eastern Caribbean and Surname.
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Jackson, L. M. (?year). Report on Law Reform Initiatives Relating to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the OECS.
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UNICEF. (2000). An Assessment of the Status of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in the Caribbean, *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.*

UNICEF. (2002).The OECS Family Law and Domestic violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project. *Children in Focus, Vol. 15 No. 2.*
Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org

Thompson-Ahye, H. (1999). Youth and crime, *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4:169-191.*
This article examines international and regional conventions and commitments and child rights. Also investigates current policies and practices in the treatment of children as victims and offenders in selected Caribbean countries. Countries looked at include Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines,

GRENADA

	St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago **Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health**. *World Health Organization, Geneva.*
PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**GRENADA NATIONAL COALITION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD,** c/o GRENSAVE House P.O. BOX 3594 St. George's, Grenada Tel: 473-440-2448/473-435-0944, Fax: 473-440-5120 Email: gncrc@caribsurf.com **MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT,** Ministerial Complex, Botanical Gardens, St. George's Guyana Tel: 473-440-7952 Contact person: Arlene Daniel (Chief Welfare Officer) **NATIONAL CHILDREN'S HOME (NCH) - *Guyana Office,*** Old Fort Road, St. George's Tel: 473-440-2822/6275 And Main Street, Sauteurs Tel: 473-442-9315 Email: nch@caribsurf.com Contact person: Cecilia Ann John (Director) **LEGAL AID CLINIC AND COUNSELLING CLINIC (L.A.C.C)**, St. John's Street, St. George's, Grenada Tel: 473-440-3788/3785, Fax: 473-440-4595 Contact person: Merle Walker (Domestic Violence Unit Coordinator) **CHILD WELFARE AUTHORITY,** P.O. Box 1962, St. John's Street, St. George's, Grenada Tel: 473-435-0293, Fax: 473-435-0766 Email: childwelfare@caribsurf.com

XChange was developed out of concern about the rising levels of violence perpetrated against children in the Caribbean and it is supported by UNICEF. During the launching of the XChange anti-violence movement in Jamaica, the Inner dance group from Hannah Town, Kingston performs in front of an audience of supporters of the anti-violence movement.

GUYANA

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	In recognition of the conditions and mandate of the international convention on the Rights of the Child there has been heightened activity in the area of public education to raise the level of awareness of children at risk for child abuse and the training of frontline workers to be more effective when dealing with reported cases. Efforts were also made by the Local Convention on the Rights of the Child Commission, established by the Guyana Government in March 1992, to sensitize school children of their rights and responsibilities. These combined efforts resulted in increased reporting of child abuse cases. This necessitated a revisiting of the child protection laws and the entire child protection system in Guyana. This system is currently engaging the attention of the Ministry of Labour, Human Services and Social Security.

The Jurisdiction (Offences) Act, Chapter 83:02 in the Laws of Guyana stipulates conditions and penalties for the ill-treatment and neglect of a child, but the penalties are outdated and do not provide for the removal from an abusive home or for the treatment of the perpetrator. Subsequently, in 1996 the Domestic Violence act was enacted. This Act legislates against all forms of domestic violence and provides for the removal of an abuser from the home when deemed necessary. The Police could make application for a protection order, or a registered social worker could do so on behalf of a minor. There is also provision for counseling of the victim and the perpetrator. The Domestic Violence Act is a major piece of legislation in the context of abuse of children, but its implementation is still not satisfactory. Additionally an Act to be cited as the Children Act 2002 is awaiting review for enactment by Parliament. This is an Act to reform the laws relating to children, to make provision for the regulation of child minding and child care services and the operation of voluntary homes and to repeal certain enactments.

Legal provisions on violence against children

Perpetrators of violence against children are liable for prosecution under the Laws of Guyana as stated above. The Police respond to reports and takes matters to courts. Intervention by social workers is primarily focused on stopping the abuse and protecting the child from harm by educating, counseling and promoting behavior change in the abuser and if possible finding alternative living accommodation for the child. A professional social worker whose name was Gazetted for such a purpose can take a matter to court on behalf of a child under Domestic Violence Act.

The Domestic Violence Act is of major importance in addressing all form of abuse violence to and sexual exploitation of children, which take place in the home and within the family unit. In addition there are a number of Commissions and Committees established to improve the life of a child.

Gaps in legislation, implementation and enforcement

-        There is no charge for rape of a male child in the Laws of Guyana. New Sexual offenses laws are being drafted and will cater for this.
-        There is no special Court to deal with family matters or violence |

against children. There are plans to establish a Family Court in the near future.

\-   There exists no legislation directly dealing with the sexual exploitation of children, such legislation it is reported is being working on.

\-   There exists no legislation or any other measures to prohibit the production, possession and dissemination of child pornography, such legislation it is reported is "currently being addressed."

\-   There exists no legislation or any guidelines to protect children from injurious information and material transmitted through the media, Internet, videos, electronic games etc., such legislation it is reported is "currently being addressed".

\-   There is no legislative compulsory reporting for child abuse or acts of violence against children, but every citizen is expected to speak out when they suspect abuse of a child. Persons are encouraged report to the Police, The Probation and Family Welfare Service or any welfare agency that provides services for children.

\-   The government does not have a comprehensive policy concerning violence against children; it is reportedly being worked on and should be accomplished by 2006.

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS

Violence in schools:

Blum, R. W. & Ireland, M. (2004). Reducing risk, increasing protective factors: findings from the Caribbean Youth Health Survey. J Adolesc Health, 35(6):493-500.

This study identifies the prevalence of health-compromising behaviors, and the risk and protective factors associated with them among youth in the Caribbean, and predicts the likelihood of these outcomes given the presence or absence of the risk and protective factors using the results of a 1997-98 survey of over 15,500 young people in nine Caribbean countries. The four health-compromising behaviors studied included violence involvement, sexual intercourse, tobacco use, and alcohol use.

Violence in work situations:

In 2001, UNICEF sponsored a Multiple Indicator-Cluster (MIC) Survey of Guyana. This survey shed light on the problem of child labour in the country. Overall,[84] twenty-seven percent of children between 5-14 years were economically active. Furthermore, the number of working children nearly doubled in the remote interior regions of the country having a much higher percentage (45% working children) than the rural and urban coasts. Most children in Guyana start work between the ages of 10 and 14 years. However, the survey revealed that most children in Guyana were not involved in the WFCL. Most children worked as vendors, labourers, shop attendants, porters and bus conductors. Children were also involved in the agricultural, mining, manufacturing and fishing sectors. In fact, child labour is mainly involves children in farming/rural communities helping their families at crop time. Female child labourers were also engaged in commercial sexual activity. Studies have shown that just over one out of every ten persons engaged in sexual activity were children.[85] An analysis of the children's working conditions revealed that there were few

regulations and safeguards against abuse and injury. Exposure to sun, rain, chemicals, sharp instruments and heavy machinery were common and 22% of the children stated that they were injured on their job more than once. In terms of remuneration, child labourers usually got paid below minimum wage, in kind or not at all.

Guyana The Situation of Children in the Worst form of Child Labour (2003), *ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean.*
Available:
http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/infsources/child_labour/rapid_assessment/raguy.pdf

General information on violence against children:

Guyana NGO Report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, *NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child – Guyana*
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Examines violent and property crime trends for eight Caribbean countries and presents a case study of Barbados. While murder rates remained relatively stable for Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, they increased markedly in Jamaica and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Since 1980, robbery rates have risen sharply in St. Kitts, Barbados, and Dominica-islands increasingly penetrated by drugs. Rape rates also show significant increases reflecting a uniform rise in violence against women.

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PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD** NGOCRC, C/o Red Thread, 72 Princess & Adelanie Sts., Charlestown, Georgetown, Guyana Email: thread@sdnp.org.gy **HELP AND SHELTER** Homestretch Avenue, Georgetown, Guyana Tel:592-225-4731, Fax: 592-227-8353 Email: hands@networksgy.com **UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)** – Guyana Office Email: registry.gy@undp.org **PROBATION & FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES** c/o MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES & SOCIAL SECURITY, 1 Water & Cornhill Streets, Stabroek, Georgetown, Guyana Tel: 592-225-6212, 7450, 0566 **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD (NCRC)** MINISTRY OF LABOUR, HUMAN SERVICES AND SOCIAL SECURITY, 1 Water & Cornhill Streets, Stabroek, Georgetown, Guyana Tel:592-225-0655, Fax:592-225-1308 Email: khadoo@netsworksgy.com , nrdocgd@sdnp.org.gy **ST. FRANCIS COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS** East Side Line Dam, Rosehall Town, Corentyne, Berbice, Region #6 Tel: 592-337-4090/4091 Email: sfcd@futurenetgy.com Main contact persons: Jennifer Amerally or Alex M. Foster

GUYANA

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Main contact person: Joseph Whitehead

HAITI

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**Violence in the home and or family:**

Etude sur les fondements de la pratique de la domesticité des enfants en Haiti. 2001
Available: UNICEF
Paper reports on the fundamentals of domesticity practice on children in Haiti as well as the fundamentals of abuse to which these children are victims

Violence in work situations:

The economic and political situation in Haiti puts their children at risk for exposure to violence in a number of different settings, including work situations. Although general statistics on child labour in Haiti are lacking, studies have been done that investigate children's involvement in domestic work or restavèk and work by street children including prostitution. Due to the dire economic situation, parents send their children to work in the homes of others, often in conditions akin to slavery.[86] The number of children in domestic servitude is estimated to be 90,000 – 120,000 and of that number 75% are females between the ages of 7 -15 years.[87] Restavèk children are susceptible to verbal, physical and sexual abuse from household owners and their children. They are underfed, overworked and generally mistreated. The domestic tasks they are forced to do are usually above their physical capacity and the punishment for not completing these tasks are severe, such as beatings, rape and other forms of physical abuse.[88] Many of these children run away and begin a life on the streets. The problem of street children is escalating in Haiti. To survive, these children find themselves in various forms of economic activities including polishing shoes, cleaning cars, begging and loading public transport. They also engage in the WFCL such as commercial sex work and activities associated with gangs and the drug trade. These activities expose children to violence in a number of ways. Many of the girls are forced into commercial sex work where they are at the mercy of pimps and clients. They are exposed to physical abuse, as well as, sexual transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS. Young boys are often coerced into carrying and using weapons by ill-intentioned people as a means to earn money.[89]

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Available: http://www.panosinst.org/productions/haitibriefings/h-07-e.php

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HAITI

General information on violence against children:

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Available: http://www.cja.org/cases/ConstantDocs/

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Available: http://www.cja.org/cases/Constant.shtml.

Griffin, T. M. (2004), Haiti Human Rights Investigation: November 11-21, 2004. *Center for the Study of Human Rights, University of Miami School of Law.*

Jackman, D. (2003) A Summary of Lessons on Small Arms Demand and Youth from the workshop Small Arms Demand in the Caribbean: Special focus on Haiti and Youth Issues, June 8-13 2003, Port-au-Prince, Haiti. *Quaker UN Office, Geneva.*
Available: http://www.geneva.quno.info/pdf/HaitiSmallArmsHaiti.pdf

Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005), *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation- the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005*

ET SI ON CONTAIT L'ENFANCE Eléments pour un plan national de protection de l'Enfance en Haïti.
Available: UNICEF
Document presents a global framework for a national childhood protection plan in Haiti

World Bank.(2003). Caribbean Youth Development: Issues and Policy Directions. *The World Bank.*
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This report focuses on the Caribbean youth development. With information from nine Caribbean countries the report looks at youth are at risk of deviating or who have already deviated from healthy behaviour and identify key interventions for these youngsters development.

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PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD-HAITI** NGOCRC, c/o Coalition Haitienne pour la Defense des Droits de l'Enfant (COHADDE), Impasse Baron, No. 8 Turgeau, Port au Prince, Haiti Email: cohadde@hotmail.com **COHADDE (Haitian Coalition for the Defense of the Rights of the Child)**, 23, 3rd Street of Work, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Tel: (509) 245-5014 Contact: Emmanuel Lacroix **Haiti-Plan** Dead end Lily No 3, Stephen Street, Delmas 60, Port-au-Prince, Haiti Tel/ Fax: 509-256-1438/4229; Email: comhti@planinternational-ht.org; Contact: Stephanie Conrad, Nicole Pierre-Louis **Ombudsman Office (Office du Protecteur du Citoyen)**

JAMAICA

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	Details of all legislation and enforcement were not available for this report as the country report was not received in time for inclusion. In 2005, the Early Childhood Act was passed by both houses of Parliament with the aim to provide a comprehensive framework for all aspects of early childhood development, including regulations, policies and standards to govern early childhood institutions. The Early Childhood Act sets out the prescribed eligibility criteria for persons submitting applications for registration of an institution, and requires persons operating such institutions to have a high level of integrity, making special references to the Dangerous Drugs, the Offences Against the Person and the Child Care and Protection Acts. Registered institutions will be issued with a certificate, which must be conspicuously displayed and is valid for a period of five years. Provisions are also included for those institutions, which do not immediately meet the criteria for registration. These institutions will be issued with a permit to operate based on the recommendations of the prescribed authority. All registered institutions will be gazetted and the Act prescribes a maximum penalty of $200,000 for persons who operate unregistered institutions or who are not holders of a valid permit to operate. Further, the Act outlaws corporal punishment in early childhood institutions. Guiding National Plans of Action for an integrated response to children and violence, and for juvenile justice are being prepared.
REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**Violence in the home and or family:** **Save our Childhood,** *CARIMAC Times (2004), CARIMAC Department, University of the West Indies, Mona.* **Jamaican children and their families: A situation assessment and analysis (2002),** *UNICEF Jamaica.* **Fernald, L.C. & Meeks-Gardner, J. (2003). Jamaican Children's Reports of Violence at School & Home.** *Social and Economic Studies, 52:121-40.* **Meeks-Gardner, J. Powell, C. & Grantham-McGregor, S. (2000). A case-control study of family and school determinants of aggression in Jamaican children.** *Kingston, Jamaica, Planning Institute of Jamaica.* **Samms-Vaughan, M. Jackson, M. Ashley, D. & Lambert, M. (2000), Jamaican children's experience of corporal punishment at home and at school.** **PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica.** *PAHO.* **Violence in schools:** **The Story of Four Schools (2005),** *the findings of the CHANGE FROM WITHIN projected initiated at the University of the West Indies, Mona*

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This study identifies the prevalence of health-compromising behaviors, and the risk and protective factors associated with them among youth in the Caribbean, and predicts the likelihood of these outcomes given the presence or absence of the risk and protective factors using the results of a 1997-98 survey of over 15,500 young people in nine Caribbean countries. The four health-compromising behaviors studied included violence involvement, sexual intercourse, tobacco use, and alcohol use.

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Williams, S. (2002). The Mighty Influence of Long Custom and Practice: Sexual exploitation of children for cash and goods in Jamaica in *Christine Barrow Ed., Children's Rights, Caribbean Realities, 330-349.*
Describes the work of the Caribbean Child Development Centre in studying the sexual exploitation of children in the social, cultural and historical context. It addresses critical questions related to the use of children's bodies as commodities in sexual transactions and defines linkages to norms handed down from the legacy of a past slave culture.

PAHO. (1998). Caribbean Adolescent Health Survey: Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica. *PAHO.*

Violence in work situations:

Although there is little evidence that children are working in Jamaica's formal industrial sector, they are often involved in informal activities especially in the areas of fishing, agriculture and tourism.[90] Children are also found working as street vendors, shop assistants, baby sitters and domestic servants. The harsh economic situation in Jamaica often leads children to engage in these activities to support themselves or to help supplement their families' income. Although recent statistics on the number of working children are unavailable, earlier studies have estimated that 22,000 children under age 16 were active in the Jamaican labour market.[91] Like many other Caribbean countries, Jamaica has a growing number of street children who live and work in the streets. These children are particularly vulnerable to being exposed to violence in their work situations. A significant majority of these children (both males and females) earn money through commercial sex work. A 2000

study on child prostitution in Jamaica found that street children engaged in commercial sexual activity were particularly vulnerable to exploitation and abuse because of the lack of family support and protection. However, these children were not the only ones being exposed to violence through commercial sexual activities, girls as young as 10 years were involved in formal prostitution operating from brothels, go-go clubs and massage parlours.[92] Many of these girls were introduced into this type of work by parents and guardians. Some mothers even acted as pimps for their children. Both males and females were benefiting in cash or kind from "Sugar daddies/mommies" who would support the children and their families in exchange for sexual favours. This study also identified another category of sex worker called the "Sacrificial Sex Worker" these children were sexually exploited to "cleanse" men of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (a common myth in Jamaica is that virgins can cure men of STIs), among other abuses.

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Presents the key issues facing the Jamaican child of the 1990's. Uses materials from the Children's Lobby column published in the Jamaican Herald between 1992 and 1994. Addresses abuse, neglect, crime, violence, poverty, child prostitution among other with a view to sensitize professionals and the public. Examines the implications of these issues for social programmes and public policy particularly in relation to the improvement of social services.

De Albuquerque, K. & McElroy, J.L. (1999). A longitudinal study of serious crime in the Caribbean. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4, 32-70*
Examines violent and property crime trends for eight Caribbean countries and presents a case study of Barbados. While murder rates remained relatively stable for Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, they increased markedly in Jamaica and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Since 1980, robbery rates have risen sharply in St. Kitts, Barbados, and Dominica-islands increasingly penetrated by drugs. Rape rates also show significant increases reflecting a uniform rise in violence against women.

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Williams, L. (1999). Violence and Youth in Jamaica: Paradise Lost
International Journal of Adolescent Medicine and Health, 11:283-312.
Presents the background from which violence among youths in Jamaica emanates. Discusses the social and economic realities, youth involvement in violence, causes of modern violence and characteristics of modern society. The paper reviews studies that show that many youth experience violence as children, and suggests that adults are unwittingly setting the stage for continuation and further escalation of violence. Describes programmes such as Peace and Love in Schools, Change from Within, and the Hanover Dispute Resolution Project as initiatives designed to arrest the increase in violence in the Jamaican society.

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JAMAICA

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JAMAICA

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MONSERRAT

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	<u>**General on violence against children:**</u> **Global Initiative to En**d *All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005), Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation- the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005.* **O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later.** Available: UNICEF http://www.unicefflac.org **Barrow, C. (2001). Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Twelve Caribbean Countries.** Available: UNICEF **UNICEF. (2005). The State of the World's Children Report.** **UNICEF & OHCHR.(2004). Compilación de observaciones finales del Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre piases de América Latina y el Caribe (1993-2004)** **UNICEF. (2000). An Assessment of the Status of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in the Caribbean**, *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.* **UNICEF. (2002).The OECS Family Law and Domestic violence Legal and Judicial Reform Project.** *Children in Focus, Vol. 15 No. 2.* Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org **Children in Focus 2, 2003, UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.** Available: *http://www.unicef-cao.org* This issue of Children in Focus looks at child abuse and corporal punishment in the Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados, Suriname and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, and Belize are mentioned. **Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002).** World Report on Violence and Health. *World Health Organization, Geneva.*

A young boy at the launch of the XChange antiviolence movement in Belize City. Belize is one of the seven Caribbean countries where the programme is implemented with the support of UNICEF.

SURINAME

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	**Legislation** In 1993 Suriname unconditionally ratified the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, Suriname has signed some regional accords regarding the rights of the children, specifically the Belize and Lima Accord. In the main, Suriname's legislation has five child protecting measures. These are meant to limit the authority of parents or others when necessary, only in the interest of the child. These child protective measures are: 1. The relieve of care from the parental authority and guardianship 2. Grounds for deprivation of parental rights and guardianship 3. The out-placement 4. Placement under supervision Entrusting the child to the Bureau of Family Affairs. With regard to protective measures mentioned above: these have been evaluated. A Term of Reference has been completed for revising the Civil Code (in which the measures are incorporated). Funding is being sought for executing the revision of the Civil Code. The grounds for deprivation of parental rights are included in the legislation in a limited manner. From the practice it appears that these grounds not always give the possibilities in all cases to demand the necessary deprivation It is mentioned that there are cases occurring in practice where an injury of the authority in the interests of the child is necessary, but that because of the legislative limitations this measure cannot be demanded The placement under supervision and the out-placement are not actively exercised in Suriname. This is because of, amongst others, the lack of the support of a family guardian (when placement under supervision) and the lack of adequate possibilities for shelter for boys and girls 9in case of out-placement). The Ministry of Justice and Police will evaluate the legislation and implementation regarding the guardianship provisions and see in how far the installation of a Board for the Child Protection is necessary. A draft bill has been produced for a Board of Child Protection; this bill has to be discussed with stakeholders The process of bringing into accordance of national legislation with the child convention and other international treaties happens in at lower pace than necessary. Reportedly politics and social factors are the reason for this. Another impeding factor with regard to the adaptation and drafting of laws to be in accordance with the CRC, is the fact that Suriname lacks much expertise in this field. The acceptance of the law to remove the discrimination in the law of succession between legal and natural children, which has been enacted on 18 February 2000, was a positive development. Another positive development is the adjustment in the Civil Code on the rights of children which provides them with the opportunity to have contact with each of their parents after a divorce

SURINAME

From surveys conducted it was found that Surinamese legislation didn't need much adaptation to be in accordance with the Child Convention, but in spite of this some changes were urgently needed in the interest of the child which can ill afford anymore delays. Some such changes include:
-        The Surinamese Labour Law, needing revision, completion and speedy implementation
-        The Education Law
-        The Surinamese Matrimonial Law, needing revision, completion and a speeding implementation. A change has been adopted in the Civil Code in 2003. The marital decisions for Hindoes and Muslims have been abolished. The age for marriage is in general 15 for girls and 17 for boys. Previously, according to the marital decision of the Moslims, girls could marry at the age of 13 and boys at 15.

-        The regulation regarding authority over minor children during the marriage
-        Stipulations on protection regarding HIV – infected and handicapped children
-        The Criminal Law system regarding children
-        Adjusting of the Criminal law and Moral law has been initiated through the   revision of the Penal Code. The revision is completed and has to be approved by the Ministry of Justice and Police and the Parliament
-        The Surinamese Moral Law
-        Evaluation and adaptation of the criminal law regarding abortion

It is of great importance that a special legislation regarding children with handicap and HIV – infected children is implemented.   The Policy on persons with disability" as well as the "National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS" that is at present being implemented have development of legislation as one of their priorities.
These policy priorities are:
-        The installation of a technical committee regarding child legislation
-        The performing of lobbying wit the members of Parliament
-        Speedy discussion and acceptance of the already existing draft legislations
-        Appointment of an Ombudsman for children
-        Organizing trainings in child rights and the interests of the child, for relevant groups in the society.
Since 2001 several training sessions were started, mainly through the Ministry of Social Affairs for community organizations, social workers, penitentiary workers, teachers, children, students of teacher training institutions, students in journalism.

Gaps in legislation

There are no legislative regulations for the mandatory participation in pre-school for children under 7 year (There is no law for preschoolers.)Draft legislation to include children from 4 years on, to participate in mandatory education has been developed and is currently being reviewed

SURINAME

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	for approval
	- A study by the Ministry of Labour, November 1996, shows that there is no uniformity regarding the definition of "child" - There is a lack of sufficient sanctions regarding violence against children within the family, the school and child shelters. - There are no legal regulations especially for the rights on and the security of the health of children with a disability. - The situation of the children in the jail cells does not meet the minimum standards. There are also no facilities for girls in detention on remand.The Ministry of Justice and Police is executing a project for the building of a detention center specifically for juveniles - Criminal Law does not provide a system in which a minor who is being suspected of the commitment of an offence can be referred to, for example, an assisting authority, in order to seek for solutions outside the judicial sphere **Analysis of the legislation** Underlying problems - Increased awareness with regard to the rights of children and the taking account of the interests of children have not sufficiently been put into effect - The legislative authority spends insufficient attention to the legal position of the Surinamese child. **Main problem** The national legislation has not been adapted to the Convention of the Child and other international minimum standards Consequences - The legal protection of children seriously falls short - There are no special or insufficient protective regulations for groups of children who need special legal protection (such as children with a handicap, HIV infected children, children in conflict with Justice, working children) - There are many discrepancies in the legislation - The non-discrimination (principle of equality) is not reflected in sufficient manner insufficiency experienced by children Priorities - The installation of a technical committee (regarding legislation concerning children) - Inventory of parts of the legislation which need revision (in the light of Convention of the Child). In 2001 a thorough inventory regarding parts of legislation needing revision has taken place. - Lobbying to be done with the National Assembly

	- Speedy discussion and acceptance of the already existing draft legislations - Installation of a Children's Ombudsman Bureau - Perform trainings for the total community in child rights, the right attitude towards children and take into account the interests of the child From a brief summary of publications from Suriname, the situational analysis of children could be given (by the children): The main reasons why children are in residential care facilities in Surinam were because of neglect by parents, parents work and cannot take care of them adequately and the delinquent behaviour of children. 10 per cent of the children interviewed said that they were beaten at home, mostly by their mother. They claimed that the worst form of punishment is physical abuse. Teachers (68%) of them thought that corporal punishment was necessary. In a letter from the Ministry of Education, Suriname dated March 29, 1950, it was stated the corporal punishment was forbidden in schools. School teachers were invited to report all incidents of corporal punishment so that appropriate measures against the teachers would be taken.
REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**Violence in schools:** **No nak mi. Deel 2. Verslag van een onderzoek naar staffen op de lagere scholen in Paramaribo (Study of Corporal punishment in primary schools in Paramaribo 1999)**, *Suriname Pedagogical Institute, Paramaribo.* **Violence in work situations:** Children up to the age of 14 years constitute approximately 33% of the country's 445,000 inhabitants. According to one study, two percent of all children between the ages of 4-14 years are considered to be economically active.[93] Children involved in child labour (working more than 15 hours a week) represented 54% of all working children and generally worked in fisheries/shrimp, vending, agriculture, gold digging, construction and boat transport.[94] Some children, especially females, were involved in domestic work and trade. Evidence from studies conducted Suriname suggests that the WFCL, as defined by the ILO, are not found in the country. In one study, none of the children interviewed were involved in commercial sexual activity, the production or sale of illicit drugs, or any form of slavery/bondage.[95] However, there are recent reports of children involved in prostitution and other commercial sexual activity.[96] Overall, the studies reviewed indicated that children do not seem to be exposed to violence in their work situations although there are concerns related to the exposure to sand, dust, mercury vapour and carrying heavy loads. **Suriname The Situation of Children in Mining, Agriculture and other**

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Supplemental Information on the Initial Report of the Government of Suriname on the Convention on the Rights of the Child CRC/C/28/Add. 11, *NGO Committee on the Rights of the Child – Suriname.*
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This report focuses on the Caribbean youth development. With information from nine Caribbean countries the report looks at youth are at risk of deviating or who have already deviated from healthy behaviour and identify key interventions for these youngsters development

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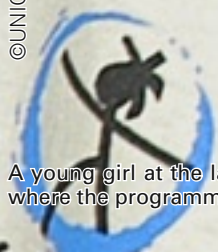Leysweg
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A young girl at the launch of the XChange anti-violence movement in Belize City, Belize. Belize is one of the seven Caribbean countries where the programme is implemented with the support of UNICEF.

ST. KITTS & NEVIS

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	• There is interagency training in child abuse/neglect for police, nurses and social workers. **Gaps** • There still appears to be an existing gap between known and/or reported cases of child abuse and an appropriate response. • Very few of the islands within the OECS or Turks & Caicos have legislated the obligation to report abuse if detected by a doctor, nurse, social worker, teacher or any other person in authority. • Where there are protocols and existing policies, they are not always followed and are often dependent on the discretion of the officer handling the case.
REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	**General information on violence against children:** **De Albuquerque, K. & McElroy, J. L. (1999), A longitudinal study of serious crime in the Caribbean.** *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4, 32-70.* Examines violent and property crime trends for eight Caribbean countries and presents a case study of Barbados. While murder rates remained relatively stable for Barbados, Dominica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, they increased markedly in Jamaica and the US Virgin Islands (USVI). Since 1980, robbery rates have risen sharply in St. Kitts, Barbados, and Dominica-islands increasingly penetrated by drugs. Rape rates also show significant increases reflecting a uniform rise in violence against women. **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005),** *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation-the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005.* **O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later.** Available: UNICEF http://www.uniceflac.org **Castillo, D. N. (2004). Children's Well-being in Small Island Developing States: The Caribbean Experience.** Available: UNICEF **Violence Related Recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child in the English and French Speaking Caribbean.** Available: UNICEF **Legislation on Corporal Punishment in the English-Speaking Eastern Caribbean and Surname.** Available: UNICEF **Jackson, L. M. (?year). Report on Law Reform Initiatives Relating to the**

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Thompson-Ahye, H. (1999). Youth and crime. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology 1999, 4:169-191*
This article examines international and regional conventions and commitments and child rights. Also investigates current policies and practices in the treatment of children as victims and offenders in selected Caribbean countries. Countries looked at include Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago

Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. *World Health Organization, Geneva.*

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ST. LUCIA

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	**Gaps** • There still appears to be an existing gap between known and/or reported cases of child abuse and an appropriate response. • Very few of the islands within the OECS or Turks & Caicos have legislated the obligation to report abuse if detected by a doctor, nurse, social worker, teacher or any other person in authority. • Where there are protocols and existing policies, they are not always followed and are often dependent on the discretion of the officer handling the case.
REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	<u>**Violence in schools:**</u> *Chevannes, Pauletta* (**2004**). **Preliminary Study on Violence in Caribbean Schools.** A preliminary investigation on the situation of school violence in 6 CARICOM countries (Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago) **Blum, R. W. & Ireland, M. (2004). Reducing risk, increasing protective factors: findings from the Caribbean Youth Health Survey.** *J Adolesc Health, 35(6):493-500.* This study identifies the prevalence of health-compromising behaviors, and the risk and protective factors associated with them among youth in the Caribbean, and predicts the likelihood of these outcomes given the presence or absence of the risk and protective factors using the results of a 1997-98 survey of over 15,500 young people in nine Caribbean countries. The four health-compromising behaviors studied included violence involvement, sexual intercourse, tobacco use, and alcohol use. <u>**General information on violence against children:**</u> **Jackman, D. (2003). A Summary of Lessons on Small Arms Demand and Youth from the workshop Small Arms Demand in the Caribbean: Special focus on Haiti and Youth Issues, June 8-13 2003, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.** Quaker UN Office, Geneva. Available: http://www.geneva.quno.info/pdf/HaitiSmallArmsHaiti.pdf **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005),** *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation- the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005.* **World Bank.(2003). Caribbean Youth Development: Issues and Policy Directions.** *The World Bank.* Available: http://wbln0018.worldbank.org/ This report focuses on the Caribbean youth development. With information from nine Caribbean countries the report looks at youth are at risk of deviating or who have already deviated from healthy behaviour and identify key interventions for these youngsters development

ST. LUCIA

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Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. *World Health Organization, Geneva.*

PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**FAMILY COURT** c/o The Division of Human Services and Family Affairs, Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, Chaussee Rd., Castries, St. Lucia Tel: 758-453-6966; Fax: 758-452-5655; Email: health@candw.lc, humanserv@candw.lc Contact: Clementia Eugene (Ms.)

ST. LUCIA

CHILD WITNESS PROGRAM
c/o The Division of Human Services and Family Affairs, Ministry of Health, Human Services, Family Affairs and Gender Relations, Chaussee Rd., Castries, St. Lucia

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	• Social Services along with the Commission on the Rights of the Child, conduct public education programmes on the rights of the child. **Gaps** • There still appears to be an existing gap between known and/or reported cases of child abuse and an appropriate response. • Very few of the islands within the OECS or Turks & Caicos have legislated the obligation to report abuse if detected by a doctor, nurse, social worker, teacher or any other person in authority. • Where there are protocols and existing policies, they are not always followed and are often dependent on the discretion of the officer handling the case.
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Children in Focus 2, 2003, UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.
Available: http://www.unicef-cao.org
This issue of Children in Focus looks at child abuse and corporal punishment in the Caribbean. Trinidad, Barbados, Suriname and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, and Belize are mentioned.

Thompson-Ahye, H. (1999). Youth and crime, *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4:169-191.*
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ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NGO COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD – ST. VINCENT & the GRENADINES** NGOCRC, C/o SVG Human Rights Association, P.O. Box 614, Kingstown, St. Vincent & the Grenadines Tel: 00 784 456 2656, Fax: 00 784 456 2056 Email: svghuman@mail.caribsurf.com **BYE SAVE COMMUNITY PROGRAMME** Byera Village Tel: 284-456-1290; Fax: 284-457-2697 Contact person: Deltash Da Santos

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

REPORTS, STUDIES AND PUBLICATIONS	<u>**Violence in schools:**</u> **Chevannes, Pauletta (2004). Preliminary Study on Violence in Caribbean Schools.** A preliminary investigation on the situation of school violence in 6 CARICOM countries (Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago) <u>**Violence in work situations:**</u> According to the UNICEF-sponsored MIC Survey of Trinidad and Tobago it was estimated that approximately 1.2% of children aged 5-14 years were engaged in paid work and 0.3% were involved in unpaid work for someone other than a household member.[97] Most of the children were involved in light domestic tasks such as cooking and babysitting. However, there were some children who were involved in the WFCL specifically scavenging, agriculture, domestic and commercial sexual activity. The study revealed that children involved in these activities were exposed to harsh and dangerous situations. For example, the children in scavenging were at risk for illness and physical injury, while the children in domestic work faced physical and sexual abuse. In Tobago, children were exposed to harm and violence through trafficking of children, commercial sexual activity, slavery/bondage and illicit activities. One study[98] revealed that through the informal tourist sector both girls and boys were sent to Europe as sex workers. There was also evidence of children being involved with sugar daddies and mommies in exchange for financial support. It was also reported that children were involved in selling drugs and working as lookouts for the police, which clearly puts them at risk for exposure to violence. **Tobago The Situation of Children in the Worst Forms of Child Labour in a Tourism Economy: A Rapid Assessment (2003)**, *ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean.* Available: http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/infsources/child_labour/rapid_assessment/ratobago.pdf **Trinidad The Situation of Children in Landfill Sites and other Worst Forms of Child Labour: A Rapid Assessment (2003)**, *ILO Subregional Office for the Caribbean.* Available: http://www.ilocarib.org.tt/infsources/child_labour/rapid_assessment/ratrinidad.pdf <u>**General information on violence against children:**</u> **NGO Report on the Situation of Children in Trinidad and Tobago**, *National Child Rights Coalition - Trinidad and Tobago.* Available: http://www.crin.org/docs/resources/treaties/crc.16/TrinidadTobago_NGO_Report.pdf

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De Albuquerque, K. & McElroy, J. L. (1999). A longitudinal study of serious crime in the Caribbean. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4, 32-70.*
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Bissessar, A. M. (2000), Policy transfer and implementation failure: a review of the policy of domestic violence in Trinidad and Tobago. *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 5:57-80*
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Brown, D. A.V. & Hunte, M. (2003) Listening to the 'youth-man': Structure, meaning and identity in the explanation of male juvenile deliquency among poor youth in Trinidad and Tobago. *IDEAZ: Inter-disciplinary Social Science and Humanities Journal, 2:11-21.*
Abstract: This article is part of a wider study of achievers and delinquents who emerged from situations of deprivation in central Trinidad. In spite of the influences of family and community that supposedly forced these youths into lives of crime, some have achieved socially approved status. In this paper, we argue that it is important to listen to young people's interpretation of the structures that frame the world in which they live. In so doing, our attention is directed to the insights into contexts and the

sense that is made of it and therefore how it is acted upon. Consistent with this thrust, we listen to the views of a young male from central Trinidad and Tobago who violated the law in our attempt to understand his reaction to his social situation.

Thompson-Ahye, H. (1999). Youth and crime, *Caribbean Journal of Criminology & Social Psychology, 4:169-191*
This article examines international and regional conventions and commitments and child rights. Also investigates current policies and practices in the treatment of children as victims and offenders in selected Caribbean countries. Countries looked at include Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago.

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Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health. *World Health Organization, Geneva.*

PARTNERS AND RESOURCES	**NATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS COALITION – TRINIDAD & TOBAGO** C/o YMCA, Benbow Rd., off Wrightson Rd., Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago Tel: 00 868 627 8764, Fax: 00 868 625 9622 Email: ttcrc@cablenet.net
NATIONAL ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS	University of the West Indies, St Augustine

TURKS AND CAICOS

LEGISLATION AND ENFORCEMENT	**Gaps** • There still appears to be an existing gap between known and/or reported cases of child abuse and an appropriate response. • Very few of the islands within the OECS or Turks & Caicos have legislated the obligation to report abuse if detected by a doctor, nurse, social worker, teacher or any other person in authority. • Where there are protocols and existing policies, they are not always followed and are often dependent on the discretion of the officer handling the case.
	General information on violence against children: **Global Initiative to End All Corporal Punishment of Children: Caribbean Special Report (2005),** *Report for the Caribbean Regional Consultation- the UN Secretary General's study on Violence against Children, Trinidad March 10-11, 2005.* **O'Donnell, D. (2004). The Convention on the Rights of the Child and Law Reform in the Caribbean: fifteen years later.** Available: UNICEF http://www.uniceflac.org **Barrow, C. (2001). Situational Analysis of Children and Women in Twelve Caribbean Countries.** Available: UNICEF **UNICEF. (2005). The State of the World's Children Report** **Stoby, E. T. (2002). Social Delivery Services in The OECS & Turks and Caicos Islands.** **UNICEF & OHCHR. (2004). Compilación de observaciones finales del Comité de los Derechos del Niño sobre países de América Latina y el Caribe (1993-2004).** **UNICEF. (2000). An Assessment of the Status of Children and Adolescents with Disabilities in the Caribbean**, *UNICEF Caribbean Area Office.* **Krug, E.G., Dahlberg L. L. & Mercy J. A. (Eds.). (2002). World Report on Violence and Health**. *World Health Organization, Geneva.*

Adolescents learn computer skills and search for information in the Youth Information Centre in Portmore, supported by UNICEF.

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APPENDIX
DECLARATION OF THE CHILDREN
AND YOUTH OF THE CARIBBEAN

DECLARATION OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF THE CARIBBEAN

We the youths and children of the Caribbean realize that we are by-products of our society and that given the proper encouragement and nourishment we have the potential to blossom into strong, beautiful and productive human beings – persons who can be true credits to their societies.

Violence is a harsh and daily reality for Caribbean youths, but it is not a reality which we will accept. Standing alone, either as a young person victimized by the proliferation of violence or as individual nations reeling from its pandemics, our voices are not heard; but, in standing together as a unified Caribbean, as a unified body of young people, our voices can be, must be, will be heard. In bringing to light the many issues of children facing violence, we realize that our plight is part of a larger worldwide struggle for the realization of human rights. Our cry is not to be treated specially but rather, humanely in accordance with the core values of human dignity that are the cornerstones of the United Nations Declaration. As global citizens we demand to be acknowledged as first- and not second-class human beings.

We accept that in order for change to occur we must first agree that there are solid grounds for change. We must then diligently work to see this transformation through. Within our society persists the phenomena of the "visibly invisible"; every day we are cognizant of the challenges which face us: abuse, homelessness and exploitation of young people. Yet, society diverts their eyes and shuts its heart, feeling that intervening is inappropriate or that they are powerless to do so. Society can do better! Every day we are exploited and used as proxies for the deviance and perversion of adults whose real duty is to shelter and positively influence us.

Caribbean youths need mentorship, not dictatorship; education, not degradation; more encouragement, not more punishment.

In staking our claim we call on all members of society to join us as we strive to regain our world by enforcing the following recommendations:

Recommendations for violence against children in schools

There should be an end to corporal punishment. Instead, the use of non-violent disciplinary measures should be encouraged.

Mentoring and teacher training programmes which include studies in psychology, communication skills and conflict resolution should be introduced into our schools as an ongoing process.

Young people should be educated about their rights and responsibilities so that they can understand the positive and negative implications of their behaviour.

Recommendations for violence against children in institutions

The judicial system needs to be reformed so that we do not feel threatened and intimidated when reporting instances of abuse against us.

Legislation should be created and enforced to protect young people from adults who expose

them to sexual or other exploitation.

Recommendations for violence against children in the home and family

Parents and guardians must be educated in non-violent means of communicating with and disciplining their children.

Family-support institutions need to be revisited, revamped and restructured, ensuring that these institutions' core objectives meet the goals of more adequately equipping our parents to become better guardians and role models.

Recommendations for violence against children in work situations

By propagating the rights of the child, society can confront traditional 'apprenticeship' practices and complacent attitudes towards child labour which deprive children of their right to education and play.

Inter-governmental organizations with responsibilities for children's and human rights should establish and enforce clearly defined international laws towards eliminating child labour, pressing national governments to enact these laws within their own countries.

Recommendations for violence against children in communities & streets

Young people should be provided with, as alternatives to the pull of violence and destructive forces within our communities, outlets that focus our minds and energies towards more positive and productive activities.

Investigation and research, with greater focus on utilizing the intimate knowledge of local peoples, should focus more on unearthing the hidden forms of child labour that result from illegal adoption, trafficking in persons, etc.

As youth leaders it is our responsibility to change the status quo, transforming the role of youth from that of victims to stewards of our peers, our brothers and our sisters. Indeed all stakeholders need to invest their energies and resources towards achieving this ideal.

Finally, we the young people of the Caribbean call on CARICOM, regional and governmental bodies to facilitate a follow up to this consultation which will ensure that our views and expectations are well represented.

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