



Jamaica Family Planning Association

14 King Street
P.O. Box 92
St. Ann's Bay
Jamaica, West Indies

Telephone: (876) 972-2515/0260
Fax: (876) 972-2224
E-mail: famplan@cwjamaica.com

July 28, 2008

Hon. Ruddyard Spencer OD MP

Minister of Health and Environment
Ministry of Health
Oceana Complex, 2-4 King Street, Kingston
922-8862
allens@moh.gov.jm

Dear Hon. Spencer OD MP,

I am using this opportunity to introduce the *HIV Prevention Advocacy Project* and to request a meeting with you and other relevant stakeholders of your organisation in order to discuss ways in which we can collaborate to improve young people's access to sexual and reproductive health services in Jamaica. Addressing the issue of HIV prevention requires a multi-sectoral approach and the involvement of wide cross-section of leaders—as such we are inviting you and 50 other national leaders to support us in our efforts to improve services under four HIV prevention components: legal and policy provision, accessibility of services, availability of services, and participation and rights.

In 2006, the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) and partners published the Report Card on HIV Prevention for girls and young women in Jamaica, which made recommendations for improvements under the four prevention components. Two years subsequent to the publication of the Report Card young people and other stakeholders re-examined its findings, relevance, and recommendations—concluding that although some changes occurred over the period, there were significant barriers to HIV prevention services. They articulated 28 specific goals, accompanied by strategies and expected outcomes, which seek to ensure the provision of HIV prevention services to youth on a national scale.

We intend to create a working group of national leaders who are committed to: advocacy on the issue and implementing the recommendations agreed upon in the national youth symposium and stakeholders meeting convened in May 2008. We are conscious of the power of a strong network, collaboration, inclusiveness, and partnership; and therefore ask that we meet in order to advance discussions about how we can work together on the issue. As host of this initiative, the Jamaica Family Planning Association (FAMPLAN) is committed to utilizing the experiences honed in over 50 years of service to the country. FAMPLAN has acquired a wealth of information in service to young people on sexual and reproductive health (SRH) and HIV prevention and sees this initiative as an opportunity to nationalize best practices and harness the expertise and skills of other stakeholders strategically.

In this package, I attached for your perusal and reference the Report Card and the recommendations emerging from the consultations held this year. I anticipate furthering this conversation and obtaining your support in advancing national advocacy for the improvement of HIV prevention services to young Jamaicans. I can be contacted via telephone at: 450-0580 or 949-0335; or via email at: eloraconsulting@yahoo.com. I am looking forward to your timely and favourable response.

Sincerely yours,

St. Rachel Ustanny, M.Sc., B.Sc. (Hons.)
Advocacy Specialist (Consultant)
HIV Prevention Advocacy Project