



TRANSFORMING JAMAICA TO A SAFE, SECURE, INVESTMENT-FRIENDLY, AND JUST SOCIETY BY ADDRESSING CRIME, VIOLENCE & CORRUPTION

Crime and corruption in Jamaica

Jamaica has had nearly five decades of recessions and low growth. Now, as a result of increased fiscal discipline, locked in by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreements signed by consecutive Administrations, Jamaica has at last started to create the preconditions for a strong, growing economy.

The major obstacles remaining are Jamaica's appallingly high levels of violence and corruption, and the inherent issues that underpin inequity in the social construct of the country. These are the problems that have eluded all attempts to find sustainable solutions. Consecutive Administrations have developed several strategies and interventions, but the level of violence has remained one of the worst in the world, and corruption is so deep-rooted that it has resisted all attempts at eradication.

It is against this background that the Private Sector Industry Associations, supported by the Partnership Council, initiated a process of building a national consensus with the Government, the Opposition, Civil Society and Academia and to develop a credible National Consensus Plan to transform Jamaica into a safe, secure and investment-friendly society, where the homicide rate has been reduced from the fourth highest in the world (58/100,000) to something closer to the regional average in the first instance (about 16/100,000), and eventually to world average (about 7/100,000). The target date for the regional goal is 2025.

This Plan rests on three points; agreement on the necessary actions, widespread buy-in across multiple stakeholders with regard to the way forward, and a bipartisan commitment to implement the Plan.

The Consensus is based on several principles:

The key principles are:

- The primary emphasis is on **prevention**, rather than reactive measures and punitive sanctions. This will require winning the **trust and support** of the community in order to deliver a **sustainable and permanent reduction** in the level of crime.
- Efforts are **focused** on dealing with the most serious problems first. Trying to deal with too many problems at the same time risks being ineffective everywhere.
- All efforts are **data-driven, targeted, coordinated and designed to** have the greatest impact on crime. Strategies and tactics cannot be based on mere opinions; they must be based on **clear evidence** of impact.
- Crime is the result of compounded social and governance failures, dysfunctional families, bad role models, failing schools and psychological trauma. It is also a business, with its own risks and rewards. So it is necessary to simultaneously **solve multiple problems** to bring about a permanent reduction in the level of crime. An over-arching strategy is essential to bring all of the components of the plan together, with each element of the plan being delivered by the appropriate combination of government Ministries, Departments and Agencies, private sector champions, the church, unions, NGOs and citizens, working alongside the local communities

Our Commitment to Jamaica

We have agreed a set of initiatives and actions that will be implemented as quickly and decisively as possible. Should further measures be necessary, we will act with equal resolve as we work together to free the nation of the scourge of crime.

The plan is based on the following commitments:

- It is a **bipartisan** approach. The political parties are united in their resolve to deal with the scourge of crime.
- It is a **whole-of-government** approach. Every Ministry and Agency has a part to play, and every Ministry and Agency will make the crime plan a top priority.
- It is a **national** approach. Incorporating all of civil society in support of the singular goal of ensuring a sustainable reduction of crime and violence in Jamaica
- There will be no **tolerance** for violence, criminal gangs and corruption in any form. In so doing, we will ensure that our plans and actions are premised on the principles of universal human rights. We will normalize and reintegrate the troubled communities, remove the community support for criminal gangs, isolate the hard-core criminals, and ensure that the gangs find no safe haven anywhere. We will expose the facilitators who launder money and help to protect organized crime. We will reform policing and the justice system so that every Jamaican can expect efficient and impartial law and justice.

The Priorities

1. ***Elimination of the criminal gangs***
 - We will take all necessary steps to **dismantle the criminal gangs**, seize their criminal assets, and prevent them from recruiting.
2. ***Reintegrating the troubled communities***
 - We will normalize and reintegrate the high-crime communities. We will take all necessary steps to **reduce opportunities for crime and violence** through better city planning and design, urban renewal, hot-spot policing and other spatial interventions. We will replace the culture of criminality with a culture of civic pride.
3. ***Preventing corruption, collusion and money-laundering***
 - We will **wage a relentless war on corruption**. All politicians and public servants will be held to the highest standards, and will be required to resign if found guilty of corruption. We will **sever all connections between the political parties and criminals**. We will ensure state resources are **not diverted to organized crime**. We will **lock down the facilitators** who launder money for criminals. We will ask every business, large or small, **to refuse to pay extortion**.
4. ***Better planning, policing and justice***
 - We will **reform and modernize** policing and justice.

Eliminate the Criminal Gangs

- There are about three hundred gangs in Jamaica, with approximately 50 of them being responsible for most of the serious violence and extortion. The top priority will be to dismantle the most violent and influential criminal gangs permanently.
- There will be sustained and intrusive pressure on every member of those identified gangs, and on every area of each gang's activity.
- We will use the public health model to break the cycle of youth violence and prevent the gangs from recruiting.
- We will encourage peripheral gang members to leave the life of crime with positive and negative sanctions; the positive will include training opportunities and assistance to gain employment, the negative will include sustained and intrusive pressure.
- We will review Proceeds of Crime Legislation and strengthen it where necessary to improve the ability of the Courts to seize relevant gang assets.
- We will invest in education and community development to prevent gang recruitment, including measures to retain children in school and to strengthen the links between education and employment opportunities.
- We will introduce additional legislation to enable monitoring and preventing the use of social media for abusive, criminal or terrorist purposes, including the filming and sharing of rapes, child abuse, murders, torture, dead bodies and accident victims, and strengthen the role of the Broadcasting Commission in discouraging violent and misogynistic lyrics.
- We will encourage the media, artists and social media influencers to promote positive ideas and lyrics.

Reintegrate the Troubled Communities

- We will take all necessary steps to dislodge the criminal gangs from the troubled communities. We will free the people from fear and ensure that the gangs have no safe haven anywhere.
- The goal is to ensure that every citizen can participate in the democratic life of this country; that all elections are free and fair, and that everyone in Jamaica can vote as they wish, without violence or any form of bribery or intimidation.
- We will invest in improving the infrastructure in the troubled communities. We will improve the public buildings, roads, street-lighting, transport networks and communication systems.
- We will ensure that everyone has access to good educational opportunities, primary health-care, policing and justice.
- We will address the contributing risk factors to crime and violence, including entrenched social and economic inequality.
- We will listen to the communities and ensure that their views are respected.
- We will promote social development. Social interventions will be coordinated and based on a clear hierarchy of priorities, and these priorities will be developed with the community.
- We will encourage a culture of zero tolerance for violence, corruption and public disorder.
- We will ensure that every child has a good education. We will reintroduce civics to schools, and promote tolerance, peaceful co-existence, non-violent dispute resolution and respect for human rights.
- We will ensure that Trauma Management services and case workers are accessible to everyone in need, with a particular focus on abused children and the victims of gender-based violence. These activities will be informed by the National Plan of Action for an Integrated Response to Children and Violence.
- We will end the culture of criminality. We will build a Jamaica of peace, prosperity and civic pride, founded on universal human rights and respect for all.

Prevent corruption, collusion and money-laundering

- We agree that no-one in Jamaica is above the law; there will be no immunity/impunity from prosecution for a serious crime or corrupt act, and corruption shall be a criminal offence.
- The political parties will repudiate and reject any links to gangs or other organizations that are known or suspected to be involved in criminality.
- Any Member of Parliament found guilty of involvement or complicity in corruption or of facilitating criminal activity will be immediately sanctioned by their party, and subject to criminal charges if deemed warranted by the Office of the DPP.
- Any Senator found guilty of involvement or complicity in corruption or of facilitating criminal activity will be immediately obliged to resign and may be subject to criminal charges if deemed warranted by the Office of the DPP.
- Any Minister found guilty of involvement or complicity in corruption or of facilitating criminal activity will be immediately obliged to resign as a minister and may be subject to criminal charges if deemed warranted by the Office of the DPP.
- All members of Public Boards will be appointed solely on the basis of merit, relevant experience and qualifications.
- All government contractors and sub-contractors will be closely monitored to ensure that funds do not reach organized criminal networks.
- Any company that is found guilty of corruption, facilitating or knowingly benefiting from organized crime, or acting as a front for organized crime, will be disbarred along with their principals from bidding on future government contracts.
- We will introduce legislation to establish Unexplained Wealth Orders and reverse burden of proof in Jamaica; in cases where people cannot or will not account for significant wealth the Courts will be empowered to conclude that it represents the proceeds of crime and therefore subject to seizure.
- We will introduce additional legislation to ensure that attorneys cannot be paid with the proceeds of crime or any other contaminated source of funds.
- Additional legislation will be introduced to ensure that client-attorney privilege cannot be extended to managing funds or any other activity that could be used to conceal money-laundering.
- Any attorney found guilty of collusion, money-laundering, facilitating organized crime, contaminating evidence, introducing false evidence, or revealing the identity or location of witnesses to the accused should be subject to a professional misconduct process and to criminal charges where applicable.
- Any member of the business community or legal, financial or other associated professions found guilty of money-laundering or in any other way facilitating organized crime shall face criminal charges.
- We will introduce additional legislation to criminalize all acts designed to facilitate corruption, organized crime and money-laundering and, give Courts the power to seize the goods of persons who have facilitated organized crime and money-laundering, as well as goods that have been transferred by them to relatives, partners or cohabitants.

Better policing

- We acknowledge that substantial reforms and restructuring of the JCF is critical to achieving effective policing and will be necessary in order to give the people confidence in the police. We will treat this as a priority action.
- We will focus on reducing the level of homicide and strengthening the rule of law in order to reduce the burden on the police.
- We will invest in better training, oversight and accountability to bring the JCF up to world-class standards of professionalism, efficiency and competence.
- We will support the JCF in developing a stronger and more extensive training program for police officers, with a particular emphasis on policing with the community, and extended mentoring during the probationary period.
- We will ask the police to adopt the 'policing with the community' approach to ensure that the police understand and respect the concerns of the communities. The concerns of the community must be incorporated into the priorities for policing that community.
- We will ensure that the resources required for this transformation are made available to the JCF and are monitored with the appropriate KPI and accountability metrics.
- We will modernize the legislative and administrative framework governing the JCF, including the Jamaica Constabulary Force Act, and the role of the Police Oversight Committee.
- A strong Internal Affairs Division will be established to screen and monitor police officers.
- All officers will be put on contract, renewable subject to satisfactory performance. Any officer found guilty of involvement in or complicity in corruption or of facilitating criminal activity will be removed from their substantive roles and may be subject to criminal charges.
- The JCF will establish a proper system of support for officers, including financial and lifestyle advice for young officers, and counseling for those who may be suffering from post-traumatic stress.
- We will ensure that the JCF has the resources it needs, including additional vehicles, functional uniforms, less-lethal options (e.g. side-handle batons, pepper sprays and Tasers), body cameras for all officers on high-risk assignments, transponders for vehicles, drones and a national network of CCTV cameras.
- We will ensure that the JCF builds the capacity for effective intelligence-led and predictive policing.
- We will support the JCF in ensuring that it has an efficient and effective mobile capability, including streamlined procurement and preventative maintenance of vehicles, as well as a more effective dispatch and vehicle monitoring capability.
- We will support the JCF in rationalizing its building stock and developing more purpose-built stations in the locations where they are most needed.
- We will support the JCF in developing stronger and more extensive training programs for police officers.

JUSTICE

- The Justice System will be reformed and modernized to ensure it is fully aligned with the objectives of this program, and to ensure swift, sure and fair justice for all.
- We will support the improvement of Court Management to eliminate errors and delays, reduce time and cost and allow greater access to affordable justice.
- We will support options such as Restorative Justice, Mediation and Arbitration services to reduce the burden on Courts and improve outcomes.
- We will increase the number of Judges available.
- We will enhance the role and scope of the Justices of the Peace.
- Performance evaluations of the Judiciary will be mandatory.
- We will implement any legislative changes needed to support these reforms.
- We will accelerate the reform of the system of justice. We will invest in Court modernization. There will be electronic management of the chain of custody for evidence; ensuring that all evidence is properly stored and tagged to prevent theft or contamination.
- The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will be strengthened, with additional prosecutors, and prosecutors will work with investigators to ensure that cases are properly prepared.
- We will strengthen forensic capability, and ensure that investigators and prosecutors are able to make effective use of DNA and other forensic evidence in preparing and prosecuting cases.
- We will strengthen the witness protection program. This will include special arrangements to protect the identity of witnesses and intelligence sources that might be at risk, and allow witnesses at risk and confidential human intelligence sources to give evidence by video link.
- The Bail Act will be reviewed and strengthened where necessary
- We will ensure that the primary goal of the Department of Correctional Services is a reduction in reoffending and the reintegration of former offenders. This will require standards to ensure proper housing, nutrition and rehabilitation of offenders by giving them opportunities for rehabilitation, education, training and personal development.
- We will expand the range of Community Service options for offenders.
- We will expand probationary and mentoring support to help released offenders to reintegrate into communities.
- We will move the mentally-ill, those with learning difficulties and traumatized juveniles out of penitentiaries into more appropriate facilities where they can receive psychiatric and pastoral care.

PLEDGE TO THE NATION

- We will ensure that all our plans and actions respect the law, the Constitution, and human rights, and will be based on participation, empowerment, accountability, non-discrimination, and equality. We believe that this is the only way to achieve sustainable solutions and drive the process of transformation.
- We will implement every point in this crime management program for Jamaica with speed and resolve.
- We will reach out to the troubled communities and give them a chance of a better life. We will have a particular focus on community regeneration, and on healing the trauma of victims. We will coordinate government, parenting, school and church initiatives to that end.
- We will ensure that no-one is above the law, and that no-one is denied timely and effective access to justice
- We will deal resolutely with the criminals and their facilitators.
- We will reform our systems of policing, justice and rehabilitation to ensure that they give world-class service to the people of this nation.
- We will ensure that policing is based on respect for human rights
- We are committed to ensuring effective and impartial monitoring and reporting and to be guided by them in completing the agreements of the Consensus.