

## THE VICTIM'S CONCERNS

## ARE OUR CONCERNS

For further information

Contact:

The Victim Support Unit

Ministry of Justice

47E Old Hope Road

Kingston 5.

Telephone:

946-0663/9287

Fax:

927-8416

REMEMBER:

ANYONE CAN BECOME A

VICTIM

ASSIST SOMEONE TODAY!

### VSU PARISH OFFICES

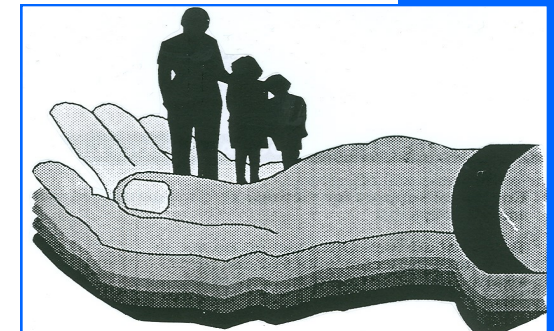
<b>Kingston &amp; St. Andrew</b> 47E Old Hope Road.	946-0663 946-9287
<b>St. Catherine</b> 10 Hanover St., Spanish Town	749-2359 749-0719
<b>Clarendon</b> Resident Magistrate Court Building, May Pen	902-1613 902-1623
<b>Manchester-</b> The RADA Building Caledonia Road, Mandeville,	625-4112 625-4113
<b>St. Elizabeth</b> 80 Main Street Santa Cruz	966-3481
<b>Westmoreland</b> Rose Street Upstairs Family Court Savanna-La-Mar	918-1741 918-0157
<b>Hanover</b> Uptown Shopping Centre Mosley Drive, Lucea, Hanover	956-3143
<b>St. James</b> 37 Overton Plaza Montego Bay, St. James	940-4967
<b>Trelawny</b> 19 Victoria Street, Falmouth Trelawny	617-5522
<b>St. Ann</b> 61 Main Street, St. Ann's Bay	972-9489
<b>St. Mary</b> R M Court House Main Street, Port Maria,	994-9125
<b>Portland</b> Shop #317 West Palm Court Port Antonio P.O.	993-4542
<b>St. Thomas</b> 15 Church Street	734-5638 734-5650



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

*"BALANCING RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES"*

**THE VICTIM  
SUPPORT  
UNIT**



Tel: 946-0663  
946-9287

## THE VICTIM SUPPORT UNIT

### MISSION OBJECTIVE

The Victim Support Unit of Jamaica, operated by the Ministry of Justice is intended to assist persons against whom certain offences have been committed. Victim Support Unit is committed to the best interests of victims of crime by actively supporting them, identifying their needs and advocating their rights.

### STRUCTURE

The Unit is headed by a Senior Coordinator, supported by a Coordinator, thirteen Parish Coordinators and several Social Workers.

The Victim Support Unit is also assisted by groups of volunteers selected from various districts within the parishes.

### COMMUNITY FOCUS

Parish Officers conduct the work with the assistance of volunteers selected from within communities. In this way the Unit offers the citizens the opportunity to become more involved in the Justice System.

### WHAT DOES THE UNIT OFFER?

Services offered by the Unit are free, confidential, and of the highest quality. These include:

#### 1. EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

- Mediation & Counselling
- Support during & after case disposition

#### 2. CRISIS INTERVENTION

These services should be provided ideally, on a twenty-four hour basis and should for the most part be available across the island, especially in cases where the victim may require attention:

- Telephone counselling
- On-the-scene-response
- Home visits; or
- 'Walk-in' service.

#### 3. TECHNICAL SERVICES

- Advocacy (Referrals)
- Training for professional and allied personnel working on victims' issues

## VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE

Much of the function of the Victim Support Unit is violence prevention, which includes:

- Sensitization of society of the social and psychological impact of crime
- Providing information to crime victims about their rights
- Promotion of crime prevention tips
- Operational strengthening of networking among victim support organizations.

### WHO BENEFITS FROM THE VSU?

Persons who fall within the following categories can benefit from the VSU:

- Persons against whom criminal offences have been committed, e.g. rape, wounding, etc..
- Victims of arson
- Victims of serious domestic and community disputes
- Victims of human rights abuses
- Family members of a murdered victim
- Children used by older persons to commit crimes

### THE WORK OF THE VOLUNTEER

In order to promote social solidarity, the programme offers the opportunity for those that are strong to help those that are vulnerable and/or victimized. In this pursuit we seek well-thinking persons within communities to serve as volunteers.

Volunteers:

- Counsel victims
- Mediate
- Assist victims accessing help for medical purposes if necessary
- Explain elements of the criminal justice system to the victim
- Inform victims of agencies that are available to help them in different ways
- Refer victims to the Victim Support Unit in their parish

### CHARACTERISTICS OF A VOLUNTEER

A volunteer should be:

- Accessible to the victims in the place in which they are serving
- Capable of high levels of confidentiality
- Non-judgmental
- Compassionate and patient
- Willing to be trained
- Willing to serve

## REGISTRATION FORM

I am offering to become a volunteer of the Victim Support Unit

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Special skills/specialized training \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Area of interest: (Please tick)

- Counselling  Promotion
- Mediation  Fundraising
- Court Attendance  Networking
- Client Servicing  Home Visits
- Office Manning/Administration
- Hospital Visits
- Other, Please specify \_\_\_\_\_