



**PRESS RELEASE
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Monday, September 7, 2026



Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Peace (MNSP), the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn (4th left), is joined by the Commissioner of Corrections Brigadier (Ret'd) Radgh Mason, (4th right), Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Mrs. Karen Clarke-Davis (3rd right), Chief Technical, Crime Prevention Rehabilitation and Inspectorate Policy (MNSP), Ms. Shauna Trowers and Heads of Corrections and Prison Services from across the region at the 14th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Heads of Corrections and Prison Service at the AC Hotel in Kingston on Monday, September 7.

Corrections Integral to Building Safer Communities – Minister Cuthbert-Flynn

The Government of Jamaica firmly believes that corrections is not the final stage of the justice process, but a central component of national security.

This is the conviction of the Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security and Peace, the Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, who officially opened the 14th Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Heads of Corrections and Prison Services (ACHCPS), on Monday, September 7, at the AC Hotel in Kingston.

The Conference is being held from September 7 – 11, 2026, under the theme **“One Caribbean, One Vision: Leading Together for a Safer Caribbean Corrections”**.

The Minister underscored that corrections must not only be measured by arrests and convictions, but by whether societies are protected, justice is upheld, reoffending is reduced and citizens are prepared to return as responsible members of the community.



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“Corrections is where another critical phase of public safety begins. Secure institutions and meaningful rehabilitation are not contradictory. They are complimentary pillars of modern justice,” Minister Cuthbert-Flynn said.

She highlighted Jamaica’s unified national security vision, aligned with Vision 2030, integrates policing, prosecution, courts, correction and reintegration.

This whole-of-government approach has contributed to significant reductions in major crimes, including some of the lowest murder rates observed in Jamaica in two decades.

“Public safety means more than the absence of crime,” The state minister said, **“It means citizens can live and work without fear, victims can access justice and offenders are held accountable while their dignity and rights are protected.”**

The State Minister outlined investments in humane custody, healthcare, vocational training and family engagement, noting innovations such as the region’s first infant nursery for incarcerated mothers at South Camp Adult Correctional Centre.

She also pointed out that Jamaica is continuing the modernising thrust of its correctional infrastructure through a \$2.5 billion E-Corrections Strategy, new CCTV systems and plans for a new, modern maximum-security facility.

Justice reform, according to Minister Cuthbert-Flynn, remains a cornerstone of the Government’s agenda. She noted that through the Criminal Justice (Reform) Act, community service and probation are being expanded, and that the Child Diversion Act ensures that young people who make mistakes are redirected away from the formal court proceedings and toward education, mentorship and accountability.

“The Child Diversion Act is about giving our youth a second chance. We must break cycles of punishment and stigma by creating pathways to rehabilitation and opportunity,” Minister Cuthbert-Flynn explained.

She stated that the Criminal Records (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act, allows qualified individuals to have their records expunged, ensuring that a court sentence does not become a lifelong barrier to employment and stability.

“Justice Reform is not only about laws, it is about lives, and by investing in rehabilitation and child diversion, we are investing in Jamaica’s future,” the State Minister said.

Meanwhile, Acting Permanent Secretary in the Ministry, Karen Clarke-Davis, stated that Corrections go far beyond holding an offender client within a four-wall structure. She said it speaks to transforming the mindset of offenders through targeted rehabilitation efforts; it speaks to the tangible results of an effective national security strategy.

“We envision a Caribbean where correctional facilities are not dead ends, but turning points. We envision institutions that replace criminal influences with vocational skills, transform aggression into discipline, and turn ex-offenders into productive taxpayers,



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mentors and providers. This is what the power of second chance does,” Ms. Clarke-Davis said.

Consequently, the Jamaican government promulgated the National Correctional Services Policy (NCSP); a bold, evidence-based Corrections roadmap, built on human rights, modern infrastructure, staff and inmate welfare and structured rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.

The Annual Conference of the Association of Caribbean Heads of Corrections and Prison Services brings together heads of correctional facilities and prisons, law enforcement officials, and correctional administrators to share best practices, research and development to foster safer, more rehabilitative environments for offenders.

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