



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Minister of National Security Condemns Violence Against Children

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang strongly condemns all forms of violence and abuse against the nation's children.

He said that while children are being coerced by gangs from an early age, it would be usual that they seek and receive protection from the adults in their lives but noted that in those places where they should be protected (at home and in the church), they are being traumatized, assaulted and victimized.

Minister Chang said the government is utterly opposed to the inhumane treatment of the nation's children and is resolute in stamping out the unwanted practice of violence against them.

“This government has been explicit and abundantly clear that we have a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of violence, whether it be criminal or otherwise, especially when committed on the elderly and the young,” said Minister Chang, adding that **“attacks on our children are particularly abhorrent.”**

Minister Chang stated, however, that he is encouraged by the work being done by various Commissions and Agencies such as the Child Protection and Family Services Agency (CPFSA), to identify the impact of early exposure to violence on future life choices.

“The results of this work should provide some guidance on how to assist these children in their recovery from these acts of violence,” said Minister Chang.

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