



**PRESS RELEASE
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Modern Legislative Framework Underway – Dr. Chang

Over 50 private sector organisations have contributed to the formation of a National Consensus on Crime, which was signed by Prime Minister, the Most Hon. Andrew Holness, Opposition leader, Dr. Peter Phillips and others earlier today.

According to Minister of National Security, the Hon. Dr. Horace Chang, the consensus seeks to build national solidarity on policies and legislations surrounding crime fighting. He reiterated the Government's commitment to investing in the security forces and ensuring the formation of sustainable solutions that reduce crime.

“There are a number of legislations that we are working on; the National Security Act, the Intelligence Act, Firearms Act and Police Act, which are critical to the success of this Consensus. In fact, as we complete the investment in our security forces, we have to be more aggressive in ensuring that a modern legislative framework exists for national security”, the Minister added.

Dr. Chang highlighted the priority areas of the Consensus, which include the elimination of criminal gangs, reintegrating troubled communities, preventing corruption, collusion and money laundering, better planning, policing and justice.

Meanwhile, Professor Elizabeth Ward, a member of the National Consensus Working Group, emphasised that **“the Consensus represents a bipartisan approach which uses the best available evidence that are culturally and socially acceptable in Jamaica, to reduce the level of crime – not just in the short term but in the long term”**.

Professor Ward is one of many scholars who form the National Consensus Working Group, which is chaired by President of the Jamaica Chamber of Commerce, Lloyd Distant. Other members are Professors Anthony Harriot, Alvin Wint, Anthony Clayton, Minister of National Security, Dr. Horace Chang and Opposition Spokesman on National Security, Fitz Jackson.

The National Consensus on Crime focuses on transforming Jamaica to a safe, secure, investment-friendly and just society by addressing crime, violence and corruption.

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