



**PRESS RELEASE
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Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, Deputy Superintendent of Police for the St. James Division Angela McIntosh-Gayle, Managing Director of the Ace Institute Mrs. Larkin Wynter-Nedrick and other patrons at the Paint for Mental Health Workshop hosted at the Altamont West Hotel in St. James on October 10.

Do more to identify mental illness in perpetrators of crime – Minister Cuthbert-Flynn

Minister of State in the Ministry of National Security, Hon. Juliet Cuthbert-Flynn, is advocating for better ways to identify perpetrators of criminal offences who suffer from mental illnesses.

Speaking at the Paint for Mental Health Workshop in recognition of World Mental Health Day, Minister Cuthbert Flynn emphasized that individuals who struggle with undiagnosed mental issues require special institutions where assistance, treatment and guidance concerning their mental health status will be taken care of.

“All too often individuals with mental illnesses are not afforded the understanding and support they need within our justice system”, a strident Minister of State added as she stressed the point that the justice system should and could do more to help persons with mental health challenges.

Turning to the issue of jungle justice, this should be eliminated, The Minister added with resolve.



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“Jungle justice perpetuates a cycle of suffering and injustice generally for both the individual with mental illness and society as a whole and is a cycle that as a country we need to eliminate,” the Minister said.

In addition, she noted that nationally, collective action is needed urgently to prevent a decline in the mental health of students.

“Creating a supportive environment both at school and at home can make a significant difference for these students. It is our duty to make sure all our young people are healthy in body and in mind,” she said.

The workshop is an art event and a platform for change under the ACE Institute, founded to tackle mental health awareness. The event provided an opportunity for individuals to come together and learn.

Minister Cuthbert-Flynn noted that mental health issues affect everyone directly or indirectly, pointing out that compassion, empathy and a fair legal system are vital to creating a just and society.

The Paint for Mental Health Workshop included art students from the Herbert Morrison Technical High School and other patrons as the Ace Institute seeks to raise mental health awareness while commemorating World Mental Health Day. The event was held at the Accredited Certification Expedited Institute (ACE) at the Altamont West Hotel in Montego Bay, St James on Tuesday, October 10.

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