



Jamaica Council of Churches

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The JCC expresses outrage and condemns the vicious killings in Four Paths, Clarendon

The Jamaica Council of Churches (JCC) has noted with shock and horror the shooting incident on the night of Sunday August 11, 2024, in Cherry Tree Lane, Four Paths, Clarendon, that claimed the lives of eight persons and the wounding of nine others. We are especially saddened and distressed by the fact that among those killed was an eight-year-old child, women and the elderly. We offer our sincere sympathies to the relatives of the deceased and the members of the community, and extend our prayers for comfort at this time of inestimable grief and loss and for the full recovery of those who have been wounded.

The Council notes that the criminality that was perpetrated in this incident marks a new nature and level of callousness, horror and terror. We condemn this horrible act in the strongest terms and unequivocally affirm the value of human life, which scripture declares, is made in the very image of God. There is no doubt that this incident has further traumatized a community that has seen disruption in the past and apparently, was under the observation of the security forces. It is our hope that avenues will be created by the churches and social service providers to offer the psycho-social and spiritual support that will assist those who have been so viciously victimized.

We call on all persons to refrain from violence of all forms, to pursue peace and the well-being of other persons. We especially call on those who have been victimized and aggrieved to refrain from reprisals and allow the state, through the work of the police and the courts, to address this grievous act of violence.

We offer our prayers and support to the men and women of the security forces who must face the scourge of crime and violence in ways that challenge their training and courage. We pray for their protection and trust that their speedy and professional efforts will bring the perpetrators of this heinous incident to justice.

Further, we encourage and support the government in its continued engagement of all of the avenues that will bring meaningful reductions in crime and violence in our land.

JAMAICA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Bishop the Rev'd Christine Gooden-Benguiche O.D.
President